

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:00 hours – 23 June 2009

Present: John Juricic (Chair), Margaret Lucas, David Rand, Richard Gordon, David Vinnels, Rose Arseneault, Ray Kolla, Captain Marcel Halle, Roger Skillings, Pauline Rafferty, John Espley, David Nicholson, Dave Marshall, George Fuller, Mike Black, Gerry Brimacombe, Annie Wong Harrison, Bruce Carter (CEO), Shannon Renault (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

1. **Motion to approve the meeting agenda with addition of appointment of Treasurer**
Moved by George Fuller
Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe
Carried

2. **Approval of May 09 Minutes**
Motion to approve the minutes of May 2009 Board of Directors meeting
Moved by David Nicholson
Seconded by David Rand
Carried

3. **Chair's Remarks**
 - The Chair commented on the work to date of the chamber in 2009 and stated he believes we are developing a stronger board evidenced by the growth of committees.
 - Chair addressed the current status of GVDA and noted that the governance of GVDA and its relationship to the GVCC needs to be re-examined

4. **Committee Reports**
 - a) Economic Development
 - The need to raise substantial funds to enable leveraged funding from senior governments was noted. The past year has shown it is difficult for GVDA board members to raise funds themselves.
 - A discussion was introduced regarding the potential with GVDA for a professional fundraiser. There was some concern expressed by board members regarding the idea.
 - GVDA chair also reported on municipal funding from Saanich, Victoria and Esquimalt and reported on the process of presenting to councils
 - A discussion followed regarding the relationship between raising government funds and the advocacy voice of the chamber.
 - A second discussion point was the link between fundraising and governance with GVDA
 - One director made the point that there may be other options available for GVDA funding that also need to be explored.
 - The conversation ended with a suggestion that a special meeting be called in September for a more focused discussion on GVDA and funding options.

 - b) Finance and Audit
 - i) **Motion to approve May financial statements**
Moved by Pauline Rafferty
Seconded by David Nicholson
Carried

- ii) CEO made a presentation on chamber operations and budget to date for 2009.
- At half way point in the year, finance and audit is comfortable with finances to date given the fiscal environment of 2009

iii) Recommendations

Motion to Proceed with 2009 staff increment as originally proposed in the budget

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by David Nicholson

Carried

Motion to proceed with contribution of \$5000 to other organization as set out in budget.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by David Nicholson

Carried

iv) Membership Fee Increases

The CEO continued the presentation and introduced the question of the yearly membership dues increase. The presentation was based on CPI increase of .09 and it was recommended that a small increase of 1.5% is warranted.

Motion to increase membership fees by 1.5% as of September 2009

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by David Nicholson

- A discussion followed regarding the advantages and disadvantages of applying the annual increase to membership fees during the recession.

The question was called. Vote was carried

v) Signing Authority

The treasurer introduced a governance item regarding cheque signing authority at the Chamber.

Motion to remove the office manager from cheque signing authority at the Chamber and add cheque signing authority to the economic development officer and the manager of policy development and communications.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by Mike Black

Carried

vi) Appointment of Treasurer

- The current treasurer recommended that the treasurer of the chamber should preferably be an accountant.
- Pauline Rafferty, the current treasurer, tendered her resignation as treasurer of the GVCC board of directors.

Motion to appoint Ray Kolla, to the position of treasurer of the GVCC board of directors effective immediately.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by David Rand

Ray Kolla accepted the nomination.

Carried

- It was suggested that going forward in the next term, the treasurer should also be the chair of the finance and audit committee.

c) Policy and Public Affairs

- The committee chair outlined the work plan of the committee going forward to the fall

- A comment was made that it may be useful to have a two year term for this particular committee as well as developing a staggered agenda for committee membership. This would keep knowledge of ongoing issues alive in the committee.
 - One member noted that being involved with influencing policy development rather than simply approving or disapproving the finished policy at the board table is interesting and informative.
- d) Advocacy Aggressiveness
- A question was posed to the board as to what role they are comfortable taking in the advocacy forum. The detailed question was whether the board is comfortable with its current tone or would the board want the organization to be a more aggressive advocacy voice.
 - A discussion followed where a number of points were raised:
 - it is believed that the membership expects the chamber to be fairly aggressive on issue.
 - the tension between the interests of the chamber and the needs of the GVDA were noted
 - it was noted that if we are going to take a particularly strong stance on issues that we need to make sure that we know where the membership stands on the issue
- e) Governance
Election Schedule
- A discussion was brought forward regarding the number of board members and the schedule for the coming elections.
- Motion to elect 7 members to a 2 year term in the Chamber election as outlined in the election schedule presented**
Moved by David Rand
Seconded by Pauline Rafferty
Carried
- f) Membership
- i) Findings and Recommendation
- The membership committee reported to the Board on the results of their member survey. The committee made three suggestions:
 - a. Hold a membership drive during small business month
 - b. Have a blog in order to find out hot topics from members
 - c. Work on getting new referrals from members at new member breakfast meetings
 - A discussion followed as to what recommendations should be pursued and how they would be implemented
 - General approval was given to the first and third recommendation while the second recommendation regarding the blog was met with caution due to the resources needed to make it successful
- g) Prodigy Group
- The committee chair reported that the mentor/mentorship program and commented on his experience in working with both the Prodigy Group and the GVCC Board of Directors as an excellent professional development experience.

5. Task Force Reports

- John Espley noted that the work of Victoria Regional Rapid Transit commission is progressing but the work of the committee appears to be without public consultation. He indicated the committee is concerned about the nature and scope of public input and suggested the Chamber assist in drafting a letter in this regard. John indicated he would send a draft to the chamber as a starting point.
- John Espley is now the representative for the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

6. Staff Report

- CEO reported on the inquiries regarding a building purchase partnership; Tourism Victoria is still interested but ViaTec is not. The United Way of Greater Victoria may also be interested.
- Volleyball event on June 30th still has room for more volunteer participation
- The CEO will be on holidays from July 1-17. Manager of Policy Development and Communication will be Acting CEO during that time frame.
- CEO and Chair had a meeting with a variety of stakeholders about Belleville Street Terminal. It has been decided that the Chair of three organizations will meet with the Mayor of Victoria and the Premier to talk about the terminal's redevelopment potential and opportunities.
- CEO reported that the chamber is having some challenges with media outlets as they go through a difficult time in their own business cycles.

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 AM

Moved by David Rand

Next board meeting will be July 28th at 7:30 AM at the chamber office.

Secretary

Chair

Date

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Mid Year Planning Meeting
07:00 hours – 23 June 2009

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Regrets: Pauline Rafferty

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30The Chair opened up the planning session with a discussion of where we are going as a board, what our future focus will be
- It was noted that social networking is important for the Chamber to explore and determine the best way to integrate a social networking strategy into the business plan without stretching the resource requirements. The Chamber's LinkedIn site now has 90 members.
- The group brainstormed an 18th month list of calendar items that may impact on the actions of the Chamber.

Calendar List of Events/Issues

- October 30, Torch relay
- May 4, 2010 Navy March Freedom of the City, Unveiling statue
- June 10-13, Fleet review
- Fall 2010, Naval ball
- October 2-4, 2009, Canadian Chamber
- August 3, PCC musical extravaganza
- Maybe a federal election?
- Infrastructure investments: Blue Bridge, McTavish, Rapid Transit, Sewage Treatment...?
- Feb 12-28, 2010 Olympic
- March 12-21, 2010 Paralympics
- Songhees Treaty Process
- Belleville Street Terminal
- Victoria International Marina
- November 19, 2009 New exhibit at RBCM, also June 2009 exhibit
- Government structure review of Esquimalt Graving Docks
- Uptown completion
- completion of Victoria police department audit
- potential resignation of both provincial Liberal and NDP leaders
- evolution of local business organizations
- public sector contract negotiations
- recession part 2? – cutbacks
- municipal shenanigans
- pandemics
- right wing local politicians municipally forming a group – pressure on chamber to take a political stance
- growing pressure on amalgamation due to financial problems
- media re-configuration (convergence in both print and broadcast)
- auto industry consolidation

SUGGESTED ACTION: Hold a forecasting summit with other stakeholders and municipal politicians

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM