

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:00 hours – 28 July 2009

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

Regrets: David Rand, Captain Marcel Halle, Annie Wong Harrison,

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM

1. Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by Roger Skillings

Seconded by Ray Kolla

Carried

2. Approval of May 09 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of June 2009 Board of Directors meeting

Moved by David Marshall

Seconded by Ray Kolla

Carried

3. Chair's Remarks

- The Chair commented that issues are emerging quickly and the Chamber is being asked to respond, issues such as the Bar Watch program and the HST. He asked the Policy and Public Affairs committee to come up with a method of interacting with members on the issue of the HST
- The Chair reported that meetings with MLAs to date have been positive
- The Chair indicated that as a chamber we do not need to push further on the development issue that was highlighted with the Richmond Road proposal as it is now in the hands of the developer to decide his business course of action

4. Committee Reports

a) Economic Development

- The committee chair reported that UVic has committed \$10 thousand per year for three years to the GVDA
- The committee is working on finding a date in September for follow up on the economic summit
- The committee is having discussions regarding short and long term sustainable funding options

b) Finance and Audit

- The committee chair indicated that the committee has approved the June 2009 financial statements

Motion to approve the June 2009 financial statements

Moved by Ray Kolla

Seconded by Dave Marshall

Carried

- The committee met with Colliers regarding the commercial property market. the company is doing research into cost comparisons of different options
- A discussion followed regarding financing options for the GVCC

c) Policy and Public Affairs

- Committee chair reviewed work of the committee of the last month.
- He presented the policy recommendations to the board regarding seven policies that have been on the chamber books for some time. The recommendations were to delete seven policies.

Motion to delete seven policies from the GVCC policy book. (The policies listed were Access to Capital for Small Cap Firms, BC Ferries and Essential Service, BC Ferries Governance Structure, In favour of 2010 Winter Olympics, Police Amalgamation for the Capital Region, Power Supply for Vancouver Island, and Public Private Partnership (P3) Innovation).

Moved by David Marshall

Seconded by David Nicholson

- A discussion followed regarding the specific of the policies.
- There was some concern that not having stated positions on some issues may be a hole in the policy book
- It was stated that it may be important to retain the policy supporting the Olympics and also that our policy should state support for the Para Olympic games as well.
- It was also suggested that we should perhaps have a different policy about the importance of essential service levels

A friendly amendment was made to delete six of the suggested policies, retaining the policy “In Favour of the 2010 Olympics.”

Carried

- The policy will be amended to include reference to the Paralympics to make it more inclusive.
- A discussion followed as to whether there is more work to be done to promote business opportunities associated with the Olympics and Paralympics to our members.

d) Governance

- No report at this time
- CEO brought up request to staff to look at technical changes and committed to doing so.

e) Membership

- Committee chair gave a brief time line for membership drive.

f) Prodigy Group

- Committee chair outlined the mentor program
- Chair presented a sponsorship package proposal to the board. The package outlined sponsorship opportunities for Prodigy Group to present to members to raise funds for Prodigy Group functions.

Motion to approve the Prodigy Group sponsorship proposal as presented.

Moved by David Vinnels

Seconded by David Nicholson

Carried

- A discussion followed and it was pointed out that sponsorship is only open to chamber members.
- It was suggested that selling sponsorship to non-members at a higher rate may result in signing new chamber members.

Motion to amend the approved sponsorship proposal by adding \$450 to the non-member sponsorship cost. The additional cost would constitute a member purchase.

Moved by Bruce Carter

Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe

Carried

- The committee chair continued and discussed the community event the Prodigy Group will be hosting in partnership with the Y.
- The committee chair introduced discussion on a website for the Prodigy Group. A request was made to explore and price out an independent URL. The CEO indicated that request could not be operationalized and would have to be approved by the board of directors.
- Given time constraints at this meeting, the Chair asked that this item be tabled until the August meeting and that the Prodigy Group be put to the top of the Committee Reports section of the agenda to allow time for this discussion.

5. Presentation by Royal BC Museum

Motion to go in camera.

Moved by David Nicholson

Seconded by Dave Marshall

Carried

Motion to come out of in camera.

Moved by David Nicholson

Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe

Carried

6. Task Force Reports

Task force reports were attached to minutes. No presentations were made or questions received.

7. Staff Report

- Concerns about membership numbers. There is also a concern about membership for tourism, media and marketing sectors going forward to next year.
- Sponsorships for the Business Services show are a bit slow. The CEO reported that there are still more sales booth sales needed in order for the show to go ahead.
- CEO reported on conditions in the media industry and on the chamber's position and media comments on the Barwatch Program.
- The chamber was taken by surprise with the announcement on HST. It was noted that the BC Chamber has been advocating for a change to HST for about three years.

- A discussion followed that the Chamber should provide a forum for business members to vent and also to ask questions about how HST will impact their business and how to prepare for the transition.
- Margaret Lucas has been appointed to represent business on the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Blue Bridge
- CEO introduced a discussion about the possibility of Victoria putting in a bid to host the Juno awards. A point was made that fundamental values/principles need to be established regarding the economic development opportunities under which proposals such as the Junos could be supported.

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 AM

Moved by David Nicholson

Next board meeting will be August 25th at 7:30 AM at the chamber office.

Secretary

Chair

Date