

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:00 hours – 27 April 2010

Present: David Marshall, John Juricic, Rose Arsenault, Rob Bennett, Mike Black, Gerry Brimacombe, Mel Couvelier, Dan Dagg, John Espley, Al Hasham, Ray Kolla, Regan McGrath, Pauline Rafferty, Roger Skillings, David Vinnels, Annie Wong Harrison
Bruce Carter (CEO), Shannon Renault (staff)

Regrets: George Fuller (Chair), Captain Marcel Halle,

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 AM. The meeting was chaired by executive vice chair, David Marshall

1. Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by Ray Kolla

Seconded by Mike Black

Carried

2. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 2010 Board of Directors meeting, with minor amendments as noted.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by Rose Arsenault

Carried

3. Chair's Remarks

- The acting chair noted that the executive has been quite active in the last weeks with issues arising and that the committees have also been very active with the work of the chamber.
- The executive met to consider a request from the chair, George Fuller, for a leave of absence. They identified that although this is a decision for the board of directors, there was no need to call an emergency meeting. It was noted that though we have a clear succession order on the board, the chamber bylaws will need to be updated to deal specifically with such a circumstance.

4. In Camera Session – Discussion of Leave

Motion to move in camera

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by Ray Kolla

Carried

Motion to leave in camera session

Moved by Regan McGrath

Seconded by Mike Black

Motion to approve George Fuller's request for a leave of absence and invite his request to return when he is prepared to resume his duties.

Moved by Roger Skillings

Seconded by Pauline Rafferty

5. Committee/Task Force Reports

a) Governance

- The chair of the governance committee introduced amended and proposed amendments to bylaw changes
- A discussion was brought up on the proposed order of executive members to succeed a chair should he/she be unable to perform his/her duties

Motion that amendments be forwarded to the membership for approval.

Moved by Gerry Brimacombe

Seconded by Roger Skillings

Carried

- Work is moving forward on interviewing past chairs regarding length of terms, a recommendation will be brought forward at the next board meeting
- The governance committee will also recommend a process for identifying skills gaps. That process is likely to be carried out by a board recruitment committee and led by the vice-chair as outlined in the Governance Committee report.
- A discussion was held on the terms of reference for recruitment committee as presented

Motion that a board recruitment committee be struck for the fall as outlined in the April governance committee status report.

Moved by Gerry Brimacombe

Seconded by Ray Kolla

- A comment was made that a point needs to be added to the TOR regarding reminding members of their voting powers.
- A suggestion was made that the TORs be revised as per discussion and the motion be brought back to the board at the next board meeting. Board members were invited to send comments to governance chair via email.

Previous motion withdrawn by Gerry Brimacombe.

- Discussion continued regarding the election of the board and the timing of the annual board planning retreat.
- comment was made that a point needs to be added to the TOR regarding reminding members of their voting powers.

b) Policy and Public Affairs

- The chair of the Policy and Public Affairs committee referenced the status report which outlines the work of the committee over the last month and then presented two decision items for the board.
- Policy titled HST Mitigation for RITCs for the Tourism Industry
 - This policy proposed focussed mitigation efforts for large tourism operators as they are impacted by the HST

Motion to approve the policy as presented.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by Mel Couvelier

Carried

- The chair outlined the proposal of the PPA committee for the chamber to commission a consumption study for municipalities in the Capital Region. The goal would be to have the study completed in the fall to inform discussions and

work plans of the board in the November 2010 planning retreat. The committee would also be seeking partners to commission the study.

Motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$20,000 to conduct a property tax study where the results will be available to the board not later than October 31, 2010.

Policy committee will work to enlist financial partners to reduce the chamber cost.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by Dan Dagg

Carried

c) Finance and Audit

- The chair of the Finance and Audit Committee led a discussion on the financial statements

Motion to accept the financial statements to March 31, 2010 as presented.

Moved by Ray Koll

Seconded by Roger Skillings

Carried

- Going forward, the finance and audit committee will meet with investment advisors to review the chamber's investment strategy and look at the capital expenditure plan
- d) GVDA
- The chair of the GVDA will be bringing forth recommendations on governance of the committee in the coming months.
- e) Membership
- The chair of the Membership Committee requested time allocation at the mid-year retreat regarding membership
 - Comments were made that the concerns about membership are focussed on retention rather than recruitment
 - Comments were also made about the high value of the program/events presented by staff
- f) Prodigy Group
- The chair of the Prodigy Group highlighted success of the Amazing Race and raising over \$1600 for Community MicroLending
 - The next mingle is focussed on mentorship

ACTION Shannon to ensure that board of directors is on the Prodigy Group distribution list.

6. Marina – Property Rights

- The CEO led a discussion on the background of the proposed marina at Lime Bay and the larger issue of property rights.
- Considerable discussion followed on the approach chamber staff should take on the issue of property rights and development

Motion to accept the recommendation of chamber's position in respect of property rights and development issues as presented.

Moved by Ray Koll

Seconded by Annie Wong Harrison

Carried

7. Mid Year Planning

- May need to move date of mid-year retreat, a discussion and email will follow

8. Presentation – BC Transit

- Erinn Pinkerton from BC Transit was introduced by John Espley
- Erinn, who is responsible for leading the regional rapid transit project, made a presentation to the board.
- The goal of BC Transit is to double ridership and that requires a better strategy than simply more buses.
- It was acknowledged that there is a parallel study being led by the Ministry of Transportation on the viability of a commuter rail service on the E&N line. Erinn noted that the commuter rail service would not eliminate the need for rapid transit as it serves only one load of passengers during the peak morning and afternoon time, but the demands throughout the day and the region also need to be addressed.
- The goal of BC Transit concerning time frames is for approval of the finalized project by January 2011 and then they would move to financing the implementation.
- Items remaining for decision include route selection, budget finalization, implementation date, and hub plans for Uptown
- In response to a question, Erinn noted that the next best time of engagement for the chamber is in the evaluation of street choices and business impacts

9. Staff Report

- Commented on the public and chamber involvement on HST.
- The chair reminded the board of the process that the Victoria chamber board went through before issuing a comment of support on HST as a good economic policy for the province and of our chamber's actions to seek specific mitigation measures

Motion to adjourn at 9:12 AM

Moved by Mike Black

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

Secretary

Chair

Date