

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:30 hours – 27 July 2010

Present: David Marshall, John Juricic, Rose Arsenault, Rob Bennett, Mike Black, Gerry Brimacombe, Mel Couvelier, Dan Dagg, George Fuller, Al Hasham, Pauline Rafferty, David Vinnels, Annie Wong Harrison
Bruce Carter (CEO), Shannon Renault (staff)

Regrets: Captain Craig Baines, Ray Kolla, John Espley, Regan McGrath, Roger Skillings

1. Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by Rob Bennett

Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe

Carried

2. Motion to approve the minutes of the June 2010 board meeting with minor amendment of adding Dan Dagg as present at June meeting.

Moved by Dan Dagg

Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe

Carried

3. Chair's Remarks

- The acting chair commented on the continuing MLA meetings and noted the plans of the NDP to gather input to establish a policy platform during the fall and their invitation for the chamber to participate in those consultations and that we will need to decide whether and/or how to participate
- Debriefed on other meetings including with the Minister of Transportation regarding major transportation infrastructure projects in our region and the chamber priorities.

4. Chair Appointment

- The chairing of the meeting was temporary handed over to the chair of the governance committee
- Acting chair left the room and a discussion followed on chamber succession planning

Motion to install David Marshall as chair of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

Moved by Gerry Brimacombe

Seconded by Mike Black

Carried

Dave Marshall returned to the room and took over chairing the meeting.

5. Executive Appointment

Motion that George Fuller be appointed to the Executive Committee effective immediately.

Moved by David Marshall

Seconded by Rob Bennett

Carried unanimously

6. Interim Vice Chair

- The Chair noted that the need for an interim executive vice chair was discussed at executive/recruitment committee meeting. A concern was noted that appointing an executive vice chair this late in the year may undermine the nomination process.
- The decision was therefore made not to appoint an executive vice chair for the remainder of 2010.

7. Appointment of Base Commander

Motion to appoint Base Commander Craig Baines to the Greater Victoria Chamber Board of Directors effective immediately.

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Pauline Rafferty

Carried

8. In Camera Session

Motion to go to an in camera session.

Moved by John Juricic

Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe

Carried

Motion to come out of in camera session.

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Mike Black

Carried

9. Report of Recruitment Committee

Discussions of the recruitment committee were presented with three recommendations:

- That five (5) seats be declared “available” in this year’s election
- That we specifically establish interest from the legal, major retail and accounting sectors – with preference given to qualified women from these sectors – and use the appointment process to fill gaps should the normal nomination and voting process not yield the appropriate skill sets
- That a “slate” not be recommended to the membership

Motion to accept recommendations of recruitment committee as noted.

Moved by David Marshall

Seconded by Mel Couvelier

Carried

10. Chamber Election

- The dates have been established for the fall board retreat – those dates are November 19 and 20.
- Location of the board retreat is yet to be announced
- A board meeting has been set for December 7th

11. Committee/Task Force

- Prodigy Group report attached. No additional comments were given.
- GVDA report attached. No additional comments were given.
- Finance and Audit
 - Now have received four responses for audit services
 - Evaluation will be done by treasurer and go to Finance and Audit Committee at their next meeting. The recommendation from the committee will come to the board for the August meeting.

- The committee also reported on their discussions for membership fee increases. It was noted that the chamber usually set increases at the cost of living increase. This year however the increase in the cost of living was low, at .06%. In light of the low increase and the state of the economy the Finance and Audit committee has recommended that there be no increase to membership dues for the coming year.
 - d) Membership Committee – committee is in abeyance, no report
 - e) Governance Committee report attached. No additional comments were given.
 - f) Policy and Public Affairs
 - a. Oil and Gas Policy
 - Discussion on policy items were outlined for the board of directors
- Motion to remove the oil and gas policy from GVCC policy book and refer it to the BC Chamber with a request for them to undertake leadership on the issue, with the possible outcome of a Provincial Royal Commission on energy including all forms of energy generation.**
- Moved by** Pauline Rafferty
Seconded by Mel Couvelier
- A discussion followed on why the commission was recommended.
- Carried**
- Staff was requested to draft a letter to the BC Chamber in effect of the motion.
- b. Anti Harassment Policy
 - The PPA committee presented the motion in their committee report, which is a shortened board policy and noted that the submission they reviewed was to be considered operational procedures.

Motion to accept the policy as worded below.

GVCC values the dignity of all employees and is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and respectful work environment for staff and customers. Every employee is entitled to employment free from harassment. All managers, supervisors and employees are expected to treat each other respectfully. Any concerns should be raised with the CEO or alternatively with the Board Chair.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty
Seconded by Mel Couvelier

- A discussion followed where it was noted that previous policy was approved by the board and questioned why there would now be a high level policy as well as operational procedures
- The PPA responded by saying that they would prefer that the board stay at a high level on policy issues and that operational policies should stay in the realm of the staff
- The CEO noted that he was uncertain that a high level policy approved by the board and followed by procedures not approved by the board meets requirements of due diligence.
- The committee noted that their expectation would be that the operational procedures would be vetted through legal advice to assure it meets best practices and legal requirements.
- One director expressed concerns over the procedural details but that the board policy was supportable
- Chair drew a distinction between what were termed the board policy and the operational procedures and called the question on the policy statement
- It was noted that the anti-harassment policy should include provisions for concern for members as well and that extended that would be an aspect of being completed comfortable that the board had exercised due diligence with the

shortened policy. The discussion proceeded as to whether members should be included in the policy statement and to what extent.

- The amended policy was read back to the board

GVCC values the dignity of all employees and members and is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and respectful environment for staff and customers. Every employee and member is entitled to an environment free from harassment. All managers, supervisors and employees are expected to treat others respectfully. Any concerns should be raised with the CEO of the Chamber or alternatively with the Board Chair.

- It was further suggested that the behaviour of members should also be added into the policy

Motion to amend the policy as presented by including “members” after the phrase “All manager, supervisors and employees...”

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe

Defeated

- The Chair called the question on the amended motion

CARRIED

Motion to remove the standing detailed anti-harassment policy from the chamber's policy book.

Moved by Mel Couvelier

Seconded by Rob Bennett

Carried

12. Staff Report

- The second annual development guide from GVDA will have a better financial return than last year, with a small profit going to GVDA
- Staff will be holding a half day planning retreat in early September
- Staff will identify a lawyer to talk with about City's process and potential liability.
- Chamber will hold a forum in partnership with the DVBA on the questions related to the Blue Bridge. It was noted that the Chamber is likely to take a concrete position on the options for the bridge. CEO presented possible questions for the forum.
- A discussion followed on how the chamber's position will be agreed to given the tight time frames for the City's decision on the issue and the desire to weigh in on behalf of the Chamber.
- The Chair noted that there were three options on how to determine the Board's position
 - Convene a board meeting after the forum
 - Delegate authority for position determination to the PPA, as members of the committee will be in attendance at the forum
 - Allow all board members in attendance at the forum to meet afterwards and determine a position on behalf of the board
- A discussion followed on the merits of each and on taking a position at all, with the Chair recommending the third option. The board expressed support for the third option.
- A question was raised on the previous point of seeking advice on the marina issue. While a fuller discussion was tabled until the next meeting, it was confirmed that the focus of the Chamber is on the process and the issue of property rights and any potential liability to the City as concerns those two issues.

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 AM
Moved by Rob Bennett

Next board meeting will be August 24th at 7:30 AM at the chamber office.

Secretary

Chair

Date