

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:00 hours – 22 March 2011

- Present:** David Marshall (Chair), John Espley (Vice Chair), Rose Arsenault, Rob Bennett, Gerry Brimacombe, Mel Couvelier, Dan Dagg, George Fuller, Al Hasham, Janell Karst, Ray Kolla, Regan McGrath, Pauline Rafferty, John Wilson
Bruce Carter (CEO), Shannon Renault (staff)
- Regrets:** Captain Craig Baines, Bea Bate, Mike Black, Darlene Hollstein, Kimberley Hughes
- Guest:** Mayor Chris Causton, Chair of Victoria Regional Transit Commission
-

1. Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by Ray Kolla

Seconded by John Espley

Carried

2. Motion to approve consent agenda, including minutes of February 22, 2011 Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Rob Bennett

Seconded by Pauline Rafferty

Carried

3. Chair's Remarks

- The Chair reported on a number of meetings in the community on chamber issues, particularly with the mayor of Saanich and Victoria regarding concerns about transit, tourism, and the inner harbour. This led to a board discussion on the nature of the problems cited.

4. Action Items

- a) Political Engagement Policy
 - Staff reported that the policy has been completed and that the PPA has requested it come to the committee in April prior to being brought to the April board meeting.

Motion to go in camera.

Moved by Gerry Brimacombe

Seconded by Pauline Rafferty

Carried

Motion to come out of in camera session.

Moved by Ray Kolla

Seconded by Al Hasham

Carried

The Chair thanked the Manager of Policy Development and Communications for her service prior to her leaving the chamber for a new employment opportunity.

5. Committee /Task Force Reports

Policy and Public Affairs

- The committee chair drew attention to a portion of the status report that suggested the chamber should form a government affairs committee. PPA notes that they wish to discuss this at the mid-year retreat in June.
- The committee reviewed the policies that are in progress for the BC Chamber AGM. They will be brought forward in draft to the next board meeting.
- A discussion was introduced on contract laws changes being proposed through the Attorney General's office. The proposal has been forwarded to Bea Bate for review who is taking the document to a colleague who specializes in this area.

Finance and Audit

- The Chair presented the financial reports.

Motion that the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2011 be accepted and moved to the general membership at the AGM.

Moved by Ray Kolla

Seconded by John Espley

Carried

Governance

- Presented revised skills matrix and explained new method of quantifying skills.

Executive Committee

- One director questioned the status of property tax work at the DVBA and how the chamber is interacting. The Manager of Policy related recent discussions with the DVBA on this issue and the offer to make a presentation to their board if requested.

6. Guest Speaker

The Chair welcomed Mayor Chris Causton in his role as Chair of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission

- Chair of the Board introduced chamber concerns regarding the property tax increases for transit
- Chris Causton provided the board with background information on the work of the commission and noted that BC Transit has been charged with fast-tracking rapid bus/transit through the direction of the former Premier Campbell
- Noted that the provincial government pays more to transit in BC than in any other CA province.
- Funding comes through 4 streams: fares, property taxes, gas tax (3.5 cents, 9 cents in Vancouver. This rate is set by government and was changed one year ago), and provincial government transfers – paying 33% of the operating cost
- There is a three year plan to raise fares incrementally but a challenge is that a large portion of riders have pre-paid fares and expect good service
- Problem – property tax seems to be the only lever available to Transit; not allowed to go into deficit
- A question and answer period followed
- The Chair thanked Chris for his presentation. Chris Causton left at 9 AM

The following board discussion proposed a brain-storming meeting in May as well as addressing some issues that might be brought up at the June mid-year retreat. It was noted that having a brainstorming type of board meeting in May may require that some decisions that might otherwise be taken by the board be left to the executive instead

Motion to adjourn at 9:06

Moved by Rob Bennett

It was quickly noted that there was one more order of business.

Motion to appoint John Juricic to the BC Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Moved by Rob Bennett

Seconded by Ray Kolla

Carried by all still in attendance

Secretary

Chair

Date