

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:00 hours – 24 May 2011

Present: David Marshall (Chair), John Espley (Vice Chair), Rose Arsenault, Captain Craig Baines, Rob Bennett, Dan Dagg, George Fuller, Al Hasham, Darlene Hollstein, Kimberley Hughes, Ray Kolla, Regan McGrath, Pauline Rafferty, John Wilson, Bea Bate, Mike Back, Gerry Brimacombe, Janell Karst
Bruce Carter (CEO), Sasha Angus (staff)

Regrets: Mel Couvelier

1) Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by Pauline Rafferty
Seconded by Gerry Brimacombe
Carried

2) Motion to approve consent agenda, including amended minutes of April 26, 2011 Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Ray Kolla
Seconded by Darlene Hollstein
Carried

3) Chair's Remarks

- The Chair commented on the recent arrival of the Disney Wonder cruise ship and the ship's return in the fall. Opportunities surrounding the cruise ship industry, home porting, shipbuilding and repair and the importance of the runway expansion in growing this sector were highlighted
- The Chair highlighted the meeting on June 17th with the CEO of Seaspan Marine as another example of the opportunities and the importance of the shipbuilding and repair industry to the region.
- The Chair referenced the federal advocacy briefing note and the need increased federal advocacy given the results of the federal election, in particular where regional infrastructure priorities such as the runway extension are concerned
- The Chair highlighted the rapid transit issue and the ongoing concerns about the ridership models and sensitivity analysis surrounding the ridership projections
- Annual MLA and MP meetings are underway and the Chair reminded everyone of the luncheon with Finance Minister Kevin Falcon on June 23rd.
- The Chair, Vice Chair and staff will be attending the BC Chamber AGM in Prince George from May 29 – 31, the Chamber has submitted 7 policies for approval

4) Committee and TF Business

a) Governance

i) External appointments

Coalition to End Homelessness

The board extended it's thanks to John Espley who has served as the Chamber's representative on the Coalition to End Homelessness.

Motion to appoint Gerry Brimacombe as the Chamber representative to the Coalition to End Homelessness.

Moved by John Espley

Seconded by Rob Bennett

Carried

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority

Motion to reappoint David Rand for one year to the board of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA).

Moved by Gerry Brimacombe

Seconded by John Espley

Discussion

Discussion centred on the request for continuity in Chamber representation by the GVHA. An opportunity for a board briefing with the new GVHA CEO is being pursued.

Carried

Bylaw Change – Electronic Voting

Motion to amend Chamber bylaws to allow for electronic voting and meeting attendance through teleconference.

Moved by Gerry Brimacombe

Seconded by John Espley

Discussion

It was discussed that current bylaw prohibit the use of electronic voting and board meeting attendance via teleconference. The new proposed bylaw will provide a new mechanism for addressing issues that may require a decision between regularly scheduled board meetings, or where board members would otherwise be unable to participate in person.

Carried

Motion to Adjourn by John Espley

Next Meeting June 28th at 7:30 AM at the Delta Ocean Pointe.

Secretary

Chair

Date

Roundtable Discussion

Municipal elections

Discussion centred on the municipal and potential provincial elections in the fall of 2011. Key principles surrounding Chamber priorities of affordability, accountability and good governance were discussed as potential themes for Chamber efforts surrounding the municipal elections. Concerns were raised about the delay of large projects such as sewage treatment and the affordability of other infrastructure projects such as LRT and the proposed Oakbay High School project.

Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

The HST was raised as a key concern for Chamber members and the communication of the Chamber's position on the HST. Discussion centred on education and working with regional and provincial partners, such as the BC Chamber and Smart Tax Alliance to communicate the benefits of the HST with the membership and general public.

Branding Task Force

Preliminary findings from the branding task force focus group meetings were discussed. Issues raised by participants included employee retention and recruitment, assistance with entering new markets, the cost of rent/taxes and the softness of the region's economy. Further discussion of the findings was planned for the June 28th mid-year board retreat.

Other Areas of Discussion

Other discussion centred on communicating the positive attributes of the region's economy and business climate. The Chamber's support of the Greater Victoria Development Agency was recognized as a platform for marketing and promoting the region's strengths and highlighting the region's industry sectors.