

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board Meeting
07:00 hours – 27 September 2011

Present: David Marshall (Chair), George Fuller, Al Hasham, Darlene Hollstein, John Wilson, Pauline Rafferty, Rob Bennett, Gerry Brimacombe, John Espley, Ray Kolla, Kimberley Hughes, Dan Dagg, Capt(N) Craig Barnes, Janell Karst, Mike Black, Bruce Carter (CEO), Sasha Angus (staff), Ellen Henry (staff)

Regrets: Bea Bate, Rose Arsenault

Leave: Regan McGrath

1) Motion to approve the meeting agenda

Moved by Ray Kolla
Seconded by Rob Bennett
Carried

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

Moved by Ray Kolla
Seconded by Rob Bennett
Carried

3) Chair's Remarks

- The Chair highlighted the recent presentation to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission regarding the proposed LRT project, including the Chamber's call for a private equity standard third party review, the need for a referendum on the local portion, the formation of a regional transit authority and the need for measures to address transportation needs in the interim.
- The Chair reported on recent meetings with Mayor Frank Leonard, Mayor Dean Fortin and Tourism Victoria where the proposed municipal auditor general was discussed. The Union of BC Municipalities will be debating the subject on Sept 27th and the province has committed to enacting legislation to create the office in the fall session of 2011.

4) Strategic Plan Approval

The strategic plan was presented including the feedback that was incorporated by the working group. Discussion centered on the plan and its adoption for the incoming board members to begin work on in 2012.

Motion to approve the strategic plan.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty
Seconded by Mike Black
Carried

5) Finance and Audit Committee

a) 2012 Budget Brief

The Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee provided a brief on the draft budget for 2012. Discussion centered on the use of reserve funds and potential opportunities for revenue generation to address project costs associated with the 150th anniversary celebrations and the rebranding initiative that will be undertaken. The final draft of the 2012 budget will be presented to the board at the October 2011 meeting for their approval.

6) Governors Meeting

Discussion centered on recent conversations held at the Chamber's annual Governor's luncheon. The topic of a Business Hall of Fame was discussed and its relationship to the Chamber's annual Lifetime Achievement award. The matter has been referred to staff for further consideration.

7) Chamber Election Update

The list of nominated candidates for the Chamber board was circulated to the board. There are 10 candidates who have been nominated for 6 seats on the board. The election of new board members will occur over the coming weeks.

8) Nominating Committee

A nomination committee will be struck to review and recommend individuals to be officers of the board. Board members interested in serving on the executive are encouraged to contact the Chair of the nominating committee. Discussion centered on the role and activities of the nominating committee.

Motion to appoint the enclosed individuals to the nominating committee:

David Marshall, Chair
Mike Black, Member
Janell Karst, Member
John Juricic, Member
Pauline Rafferty, Member

Moved by Rob Bennett
Seconded by Dan Dagg
Carried

9) Victoria Economic Development (statement)

It is anticipated that the City of Victoria's economic development plan will be presented to City Council on October 13th. The Chamber and GVDA have been a part of the process to develop the plan as part of the City's advisory committee. Discussion centered on the importance and continued role of the GVDA in supporting regional economic development while working with the City of Victoria to further the region's economic prospects. A statement on behalf of the Chamber will be drafted and shared with City staff for submission to Council when the economic development plan is presented.

10) Expansion of Floatplane terminal

The Chamber attended the City of Victoria Council meeting on September 22nd, 2011 and spoke in favour of the rezoning for the proposed floatplane terminal. The next step will be a negotiation between the proponent and the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, after which a development permit must be granted before construction of the new terminal proceeds.

11) Policy and Public Affairs

- a) Increasing the Rental Inventory through Fair Tax Retreatment

Motion to approve the policy as presented.

Moved by Pauline Rafferty

Seconded by Dan Dagg

Carried

Discussion centered on the policy in the context of a larger discussion about the need to ensure an affordable housing stock for the region's workforce. It was suggested that the Policy and Public Affairs committee review and suggest areas of future policy development that are aligned with the Chamber's strategic plan for discussion at the October board meeting. It was asked that potential topics be forwarded to the Chair of the committee for consideration.

12) Economic Development

Discussion centered on the appointment of Michael Weston, CEO of Cube Global Storage, as the incoming Chair of the Greater Victoria Development Agency for 2012. The board endorsed Mr. Weston as a strong business leader with a history of community service.

13) Governance Committee

The updated board skills matrix was shared with the board for their information. Discussion centered on the transition to the new governance committee members as a number of the current members will be stepping down from the committee.

14) Prodigy Group

Discussion centered on the recent election of Jesse Szczepanowski as Chair and Lori Munoz as Vice Chair for 2012. Fundraising efforts were also discussed with the goal of \$2,000 being eclipsed by roughly three times. A formal presentation to the community partners will be made later this year. In addition, Prodigy Group members will be speaking to Grade 5 and 6 classes about business during small business week in October.

15) Staff Report

The Chair recognized the CEO's election as the Vice Chair of the Canadian Chamber Executives organization for 2012. The CEO will assume the Chair of the organization in 2013 and will join the board of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce during that time. The Chair also recognized the Chamber for being reaccredited with distinction at the recent Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM in St. Johns, NFL.

The CEO provided a reminder that the Premier will be addressing the Chamber membership on October 5th, 2011. Ticket sales for the event have been strong and the event is close to selling out. In addition, the CEO will be meeting with his counterparts at the Westshore and Peninsula Chambers to discuss items of mutual concern.

The issue of the municipal auditor general will be discussed at a forum being held at the Union of BC Municipalities AGM in Vancouver. The BC Chamber of Commerce has agreed to attend and represent the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce at that session, representing significant support and cost savings to Victoria.

16) Other Discussion

Capt(N) Barnes outlined some of the details for the trip to Vancouver aboard HMCS Regina. Family and friends are invited to participate with a reminder that the minimum allowable age is 9 years old. Capt(N) Barnes outlined some federal government initiatives regarding budget deficit reduction that will be taking place in the coming months, but which are unlikely to have a significant impact on naval activities in the region.

Motion to Adjourn by Rob Bennett

Next Meeting October 25th at 7:00 AM at the Chamber offices.

Secretary

Chair

Date