

# Minutes –

## Chamber Board Meeting –

May 30, 2023 | 7:30 – 9:30am | Hybrid

# THE CHAMBER.

GREATER VICTORIA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Invited:** Kris Wirk Moira Hauk, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Ann Squires-Ferguson, James Gatsi, Rose Arsenault, Jessica Stigant, Fallon Lindsay, Judith Ethier, Captain (Navy) Jeff Hutchinson, Josue Dubon, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

**Regrets:** Pedro Marquez, Bruce Williams, John Wilson

*The Greater Victoria Chamber acknowledges that our members live and do business on the Traditional Territory of the Lakwungen speaking peoples. It also recognizes the First Nations governments across this region.*

### 1. Motion to approve the agenda.

Addition of a request from Canadian Chamber for a letter of support to the CEO report

MOVED by Fallon Lindsay

SECONDED by James Gatsi

CARRIED

### 2. Motion to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting.

MOVED by Richard Michaels

SECONDED by Fallon Lindsay

CARRIED

### 3. Chair's Remarks

- a. The Chamber has continued to maintain pressure on support for Downtown revitalization and visitors with an Op Ed sent to the TC cosigned by various stakeholders. In response the City has launched a million dollar #OurDwtn program
- b. Family Business Association has voted to join The Chamber and transitions are in progress with a goal to finalize in the early summer.
- c. Business Awards were well received, and the gala was well done. An impressive group of finalists and winners.
- d. On the occasion of our 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary congratulatory letter from the Prime Minister & Premier were received
- e. Although some engagement with stakeholders has slowed down in the CEO's absence, recent wins include two events with the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Jobs and sharing opportunities around the pending Wet Lab development with members.

### 4. Committee Reports

#### a. Executive & Governance Committee

External appointments were reviewed for the year and requests by external boards for pending extensions for those appointments will be accepted. The election schedule for 2023 to select the 2024 Board was discussed.

#### **Motion to accept the election schedule presented for the 2024 Board**

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by James Gatsi

CARRIED

Discussion around the merger with FBA and how best to support and strengthen our commitment to family businesses in our region. A new committee to guide those efforts that includes family businesses only – including both FBA members and Chamber members that are family businesses.

#### **Motion to develop a new Committee called the Family Business Committee**

MOVED by Ann Squires-Ferguson

SECONDED by Jessica Stigant

CARRIED

#### **Motion to move In Camera**

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by Moira Hauk

CARRIED

#### **Motion to leave In Camera**

5. MOVED by James Gatsi

SECONDED by Christina Clarke

CARRIED

b. Finance & Audit

Financial report as of first quarter, show financials to be on track overall. Events down in revenue a little but lower expense offset that. Discussions around Events and looking to provide mocktails consistently.

**Motion to accept the Financials as presented.**

MOVED by Moira Hauk

SECONDED by Richard Michaels

CARRIED

Annual review of membership dues. The increase as always is tied to CPI and after holding it last year, due to many cost increases, the increase is 7%. Discussion around providing some analysis around reducing the category numbers (e.g. 10 and under employees) and having that prepped for the June retreat.

**Motion to accept the annual Membership Dues increase as presented, as of September 2023.**

MOVED by James Gatsi

SECONDED by Christina Clarke

CARRIED

c. Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Report on April & May meetings with guest speakers, Stephen Tapp, Chief Economist with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Michael Mulligan, Victoria defense lawyer to discuss challenges around bail, release on own recognizance as it relates to safe communities.

d. Ambassador Committee – all is going well

e. Emerge Committee – The committee is now full with a number of very talented individuals. Events for Emerge are reviewing how to diversify - looking at mini connectors and finding strategies for closer organic conversations.

f. IDEA Committee – two new committee members have joined and the committee have finalized strategies and tactics around outreach. Upcoming outreach includes the Uptown Multicultural Festival in July and Indigenous Business Directory launch June 7.

**Motion to accept Board Committee Reports as presented.**

MOVED by Rose Arsenault

SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson

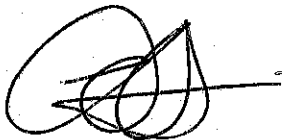
CARRIED

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

MOVED by Fallon Lindsay


SECONDED by James Gatsi

CARRIED



Secretary

James Gatsi

  
Kris Wink

Chair

Guest Speaker for the May Board Meeting – Geoff Dickson, Airport Authority