

# Minutes –

## Chamber Board Meeting –

### September 27, 2022 | 7:30 – 9:30am

# THE CHAMBER.

GREATER VICTORIA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Invited:** John Wilson, Christina Clarke, Ann Squires-Ferguson, Dan Dagg, Kris Wirk, Fallon Lindsay, Pedro Marquez, James Gatsi, Rose Arsenault, Jessica Stigant, Captain (Navy) Jeff Hutchinson, Paul van Koll, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

**Regrets:** Moira Hauk, Judith Ethier, Richard Michaels,

*The Greater Victoria Chamber acknowledges that our members, live and do business on the Traditional Territory of the Lək̓wungen speaking peoples. It also recognizes the [First Nations governments across this region](#).*

1. Motion to approve the agenda.

MOVED by Jessica

SECONDED by Dan Dagg

CARRIED

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

MOVED by Pedro

SECONDED by Rose

CARRIED

3. **Chair Report** - The fall is going well. The 5 Chamber event was well done and a successful demonstration of working together. Events so far have borne out that people want to get together again. The inaugural Business Hall of Fame will happen next week and will be one of the largest gala's ever done by The Chamber and includes a broadcast component.

Review of relationship with BC Chamber over the last 5 years and current relationship. Given the lack of changes/communication the recommendation is to change annual review to when there are changes.

**Motion to recommend to the Board that membership in the BC Chamber is no longer reviewed annually but as needed.**

MOVED by Kris Wirk

SECONDED by Christina Clarke

CARRIED

Business Awards Nominations discussions around nominations for Chamber Member of the Year and the Award of Distinction. The decision was made to continue with the Board nominating and electing The Chamber Member of the Year and in the case of The Chamber Award of Distinction the Board will be part of the overall nominating but will only review and approve – or decline the nominees – before passing it along to the Award Judges and Champions for the final decision.

4. **CEO Report** – Updates on the Belleville Terminal project and the support required for the much-needed renovation. The Chamber has been advocating for this project for at least 20 years and remains a staunch supporter of improving the first point of contact for many of our international visitors.

The Chamber CEO and Board took part in a formal ceremony acknowledging and apologizing for the misbegotten plan to segregate Chinese students in the 1930s. The school board that attempted to put this into effect were thwarted by a Chinese student strike. And the rule was overthrown as were several other recommendations that sought to mitigate the success of the Chinese community in the region.

One of the associations in the region is strategically examining a long-term partnership with The Chamber. Work is ongoing. Support was provided for the successful BC 55+ Games in the city. Work is ongoing to attract a wet lab to the region in order to better support medication-security for the nation and region.

Saanich Peninsula Chamber is working on an initiative to advocate for workforce housing. They will be looking for support later as the project rolls out.

Canadian Chamber AGM will be taking place in October and will include a review of 62 policy resolutions from Chambers around the Country, followed by a meeting with Federal Politicians to help actualize those

solutions. There was additional discussion around a joint meeting of the Boards with the Port Angeles Chamber. The meeting could help to foster better engagement both around the two countries and local indigenous nations.

**5. Committee Reports**

**a. Executive & Governance Committee (covered above, minutes attached)**

Reminder provided on the Board's Non-partisan Policy for elections. It is important that no board member should be supporting a candidate publicly or be an active part of their campaign. Executive and staff must resign in order to engage with a campaign or politician and Board must take a sabbatical from the board.

Chamber election for the 2023/2024 Board is on track and scheduled to end Oct 6<sup>th</sup> at noon. As per the Chamber bylaws, discussion ensued on the Board Nomination Committee.

**Motion to appoint the past-chair, chair and vice-chair of the current Board as the Nomination Committee for 2023 Board Appointments to committees and Executive.**

MOVED by Kris Wirk

SECONDED by James Gatsi

CARRIED

**b. Finance & Audit**

August Financials were presented to the Board. Financials remain positive even without government COVID dollars this year. There were some shortfalls in events as COVID issues resulted in several larger events being cancelled or virtual. Operationally The Chamber is on sound footing. Long-term items such as the investment portfolio also show some shortfalls as the markets experience some volatility.

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

MOVED by Rose Arsenault

SECONDED by Pedro Marquez

CARRIED

**c. Public Policy & Advocacy Committee – March, September**

Work is ongoing with key advocacy issues. Most recently the committee talked with real estate board and the issues that we're facing around adding affordable workforce housing.

**d. Ambassador Committee – May, September**

Ambassadors continue to do a great job onsite at events welcoming members and connecting them to The Chamber. They've recently onboarded one new ambassador but need more.

**e. Prodigy Committee – May, September**

As per the June Mid-Year Board Meeting request. The Prodigy Group has begun a rebranding exercise. RFP was successful and a new brand should be unveiled in late November. Recently, two new members were added to the committee but more needed. Live events have been facing a challenge as there seems to be a serious gap between registration and attendance

a. 160th Committee – May, June

b. IDEA Committee – March, June

**Motion to adjourn.**

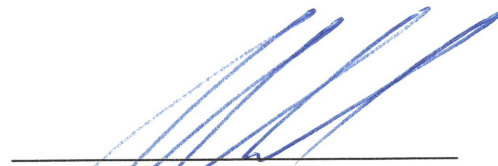
MOVED by Dan Dagg

SECONDED by James Gatsi

CARRIED

**Guest Presentation: Destination Greater Victoria**

  
Secretary

  
Chair