

Attending: Al Hasham, Dan Dagg, John Wilson, Christina Clarke, Danielle Fullwood, Moira Hauk, Ian Batey, Rahim Khudabux, Carmen Charette, Catherine Holt, Lise Gyorkos, Paul van Koll, Kris Wirk, Captain (Navy) Jason Boyd, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

Regrets: Pedro Marquez

1. Agenda/Minutes

Motion to approve agenda

Moved by Carmen Charette

Seconded by Lise Gyorkos

Carried

Move item 2d to be addressed after 5b

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting

Moved by Ian Batey

Seconded by Jason Boyd

Carried

2. Chair's Remarks

Welcome to the new and returning Board members to another exciting year. The chair and CEO made a presentation to the new Victoria Council during their pre-budget public consultations. The presentation was on behalf of businesses and a request was made that business property taxes not be raised, and if increases were needed to reduce the gap between residential and business tax rates. The Stakeholder meeting hosted by the city of Victoria began a look at identifying advocacy priorities to present to an all candidates meeting for the upcoming Federal election campaign. A recent city mobility study uncovered that approximately 80% of traffic appears to be between Victoria and Saanich. Strategically this information provides a foundation for a cooperative transportation plan between Saanich and Victoria.

Motion to approve the appointment of the Base Commander to The Chamber Board for 2019.

Moved by Christina Clarke

Seconded by Rahim Khudabux

Carried

Motion to approve the appointment of the Prodigy Group Chair to The Chamber Board for 2019.

Moved by Al Hasham

Seconded by Kris Wirk

Carried

Motion to approve the Terms of Reference for all of the Committee in 2019 with amendments.

Moved by John Wilson

Seconded by Carmen Charette

Carried

In order to harmonize all committees, all terms of reference will be updated to:

- The Committee is not authorized to speak publicly on behalf of The Chamber
- Committee members will be recruited and appointed as per board policy.
- Committee members will serve for a term of two years with the option to be renewed for a second two year term at the discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair.

3. Finance & Audit Committee

The financials were presented to the Board. Efforts in 2018 resulted in a positive income for operations. Outstanding work in events and overall financial management was credited.

Motion to accept the financials as presented.

Moved by Kris Wirk

Seconded by Moira Hauk

Carried

4. CEO remarks

Pleased to announce progress in a diverse and inclusive membership. In the last month, both Saanich and the Malahat Nation joined The Chamber. Current membership now includes 2 municipalities and 2 First Nations as members. The new Mission and Vision & Goals for The Chamber were reviewed.

Our Vision: Working together to build good business and great community
Our Mission: The Chamber is the region's most diverse and influential business association.

Business plan goals for 2019 were reviewed alongside 2018 yearend KPIs. In discussions on goals for Connections focus was placed on mixer and mingle maximizing potential for quality conversations. Two changes were made to the Services Goals in order to focus on key priorities around member benefits.

Motion to approve the Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 and Business Plan for 2019

Moved by Carmen Charette
Seconded by Rahim Khudabux
Carried

Update on the Business Awards. This year has produced a significant number of nominations for Business Awards. Judges have been picked with a focus on experience, diversity and breadth of business knowledge. The calibre of the panel is striking including the CEO from BC Ferries. Discussion around presenting long-standing staff member Linda Kitchen with a lifetime membership to The Chamber that would be presented at the Business Awards.

Motion to approve lifetime membership for Linda Kitchen

Moved by: Ian Batey
Seconded by Al Hasham
Carried

Along with the Awards planned for May, there is a strong lineup of speakers planned for February and March. Three federal ministers including the Minister of Finance, Premier of BC, CEO of BC Ferries and the launch of both the BC Privacy Commissioners digital tools for business and SIPP's Prosperity Index. We are still awaiting confirmation of our annual lunch with the Finance Minister post BC budget.

There was discussion around The Chamber's membership in the BC Chamber related to the ROI on the membership and the concern that BC Chamber's advocacy issues and focus are not sufficiently aligned with the needs of our membership. The partnership between BC Chamber and the Provincial Jobs Ministry through MindReader is also a concern. When BC Chamber replied to an official letter on our concerns, there was no response to the key concerns that had been put forward in our letter. Discussions continued around focusing on the Canadian Chamber and fostering better island-chamber connections. The past-Chair recused himself from discussions as he is the elected island representative on BC Chamber's board.

Motion to not renew the BC Chamber membership.

Moved by John Wilson
Seconded by Christina Clarke
Carried

There will be challenges in developing a strong island coalition of chambers. Discussions reviewed what if any impact there might be on our advocacy voice if The Chamber is not a member of the BC Chamber. The messaging around the decision to renew should be clear that this isn't as much about the cost of the BC Chamber as it is about the ROI and lack of advocacy leadership on key issues. Communication of this year's non-renewal will be respectful, professional and leave the door open to future engagement.

5. Committee Reports

Motion to accept the Policy Group, Prodigy Group and Ambassador Committee Reports

Moved by Rahim Khudabux
Seconded by Moira Hauk
Carried

6. Speaker Presentation – VicPD Chief Del Manak

- 59,000 calls for service (160 calls of service every day)
- Increase in occupational stress injuries & PTSD for staff
- 65% of liquor seats in VicPD territory
- 14 protests increased to 28 protests 2017 vs 2018
- No permanent police added since 2010
- Crime is up 8.9% 2013-2017 | Violent crime up 11.8%

7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Motion to adjourn

Moved by Christina Clarke
Seconded by Lise Gyorkos
Carried

Secretary

Chair

Date: 03/26/19.