Minutes –



Chamber Board Meeting –

GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dec 1, 2023 | 7:30 - 8:30am | Brentwood Bay Resort

Invited: Kris Wirk, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Rose Arsenault, Captain (Navy) Kevin Whiteside, Ann Squires-Ferguson, James Gatsi, Frumsa Ibrahim, Judith Ethier, Jessica Stigant, Pedro Marquez, John Wilson, Josue Dubon, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).
Regrets: Moira Hauk

We are gathered in the ancestral lands of the WSÁNEĆ Nations known to us as {WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin), SJÁUTW,(Tsawout)and WSIKEM (Tseycum)} who have been the stewards of these lands for thousands of years.

Motion to approve the agenda.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez SECONDED by Rose Arsenault CARRIED

Motion to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting.

MOVED by Judith Ethier SECONDED by Jeff Hutchinson CARRIED

1) Chair

A welcome was offered to new 2024 Board members - 2024 Emerge Chair Frumsa Ibrahim; Dean Clarke, Family Business representative as well as Capt. Kevin Whiteside, Base Commander and representative of CFB Esquimalt. In October the Board Executive met with the Port Angeles Chamber. A reminder of Board Attendance expectations asking that the board make themselves available for all meetings, various events and miss no more than two Board meetings. It was an informative exchange of ideas and demonstrated the advantages of a stronger working relationship. CEO will be the keynote speaker at one of their upcoming events.

Save our Streets (SOS) is a new movement in BC looking to deal with safety for frontline staff and issues with theft. There are several stakeholders provincewide including BCRFA, DVBA, Surrey Board of Trade, etc. including the Greater Victoria Chamber. The Chamber CEO has been asked to be a spokesperson in addition to being a supportive stakeholder for the movement.

2) Executive & Governance Committee

The Chair of the Governance Committee reviewed the process behind the Nomination Committee and encouraged Board members to talk about their journey as a Board member. Discussion around the appointment of a new Board member to replace the loss of the 2023 Treasurer. The CEO and Executive put forward a recommendation of a highly qualified candidate to the Board.

Motion to appoint Deborah Huelscher to The Chamber Board for a one-year appointment ending in December 31, 2024

MOVED by Ann Squires Ferguson SECONDED by Jessica Stigant CARRIED

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Nomination Committee as presented with the amendment to appoint Deborah Huelscher to the Executive in the role of Treasurer and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee and Rose Arsenault to the Emerge Committee.

MOVED by Richard Michaels SECONDED by Pedro Marquez CARRIED

Motion to approve the Terms of Reference for the Ambassador, Emerge, Executive & Governance Committee, Finance & Audit, and IDEA for 2024.

MOVED by Rose Arsenault SECONDED by Pedro Marquez CARRIED

2024 external board appointments have been completed with the exception of the Film Commission which is still pending. Discussions ensued about the importance of Board appointees understanding that they have a responsibility to report back to The Chamber Board as our liaison.

Action items: Look at an onboarding for these appointments. Assign a Board member to liaise with those Board Appointees. Staff to create a 1 or two pager outlining the role of an appointee to an external organization.

Review of the nominees for The Chamber Member of the Year and discussion about the invaluable contributions they each brought to The Chamber membership and Board. An anonymous vote was held to determine the successful Member.

Motion to accept the 2024 Chamber Member of the Year as James Gatsi.

MOVED by Rose Arsenault SECONDED by Josue Dubon CARRIED

Discussion ensued on the list of finalists for the 2024 Chamber Award of Distinction candidates. The list was cut down to four candidates who will then go forward to independent judging for the final choice.

Motion to proceed with the following candidates for 2024 Chamber Award of Distinction:

Alan Lowe, Erinn Pinkerton, Julian Daly, Charlayne Thornton-Joe.

MOVED by Richard Michaels SECONDED by Jessica Stigant CARRIED

3) CEO

A recap was provided on the decision to leave the BC Chamber. To date although there has been outreach from the Board chair and membership manager, but not the CEO. None of the issues identified in the previous letters and conversations started in 2018, have been addressed to date. Action item: CEO to send a new letter indicating our ongoing decision and goals for the BC Chamber to meet before we reconsider membership.

Work is starting on developing a New Canadian International New Business Support Program. One sponsor has been identified and a Board member has agreed to also be a sponsor for the program. An impressive review of the work that Bruce has been doing with various Stakeholders and members to engage and further the needs of the community.

Committee Reports

a) Finance & Audit Committee have reviewed the finances as of the end of October. The Committee reports that the finances look to be on track and tied closely to the budget. Request by the Board to have the opportunity to attend the next Finance & Audit Committee in January when our Financial Advisor will present.

Motion to approve the financials presented to the Board.

SECONDED by Ann Squires Ferguson MOVED by Judith Ethier **CARRIED**

Review of the 2024 budget including a discussion around the increases YOY.

Motion to approve the 2024 Budget as presented

MOVED by Judith Ethier SECONDED by Pedro Marquez **CARRIED**

- b) Family Business Committee review of the overall merger that occurred in the spring. Discussion ensued on issues with successfully onboarding all of the FBA businesses and actions needed to shore up the support needed to retain and grow the FBATs and members from FBA. A fall survey of FBAT members was conducted (50% answered) as well as 3 informational interviews. This was shared with the board.
- c) Ambassadors and Emerge updates to be reviewed in Board Planning Session
- d) IDEA update. Moving the IDE programs forward needs to be an ongoing target, it is a marathon not a sprint. Excited about the work that The Chamber is doing around the New Canadians Business initiative to better support inclusion and stronger sense of community. IDEA work at the Kulea Colourful Business event was well received and encourage even more board members attend next year.
- e) Review of the great speakers at the Public Policy & Advocacy Committee recent meetings and the importance of educating the committee on a wide variety of topics from experts. Request from the Board to be included as optional attendees for these meetings.

Motion to accept Board Committee Reports as presented and recess until 11:30am.

MOVED by James Gatsi SECONDED by Kris Wirk **CARRIED**

Motion to return to the board meeting

MOVED by Christina Clarke SECONDED by James Gatsi **CARRIED**

Review of the advocacy priorities both at the high level and down to the detailed vision of key topics. Discussions about ongoing challenges with productivity, water issues for the future, etc. The Board approved the final review of the key themes.

Motion to approve the Advocacy Priority key themes as presented.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez SECONDED by Jessica Stigant **CARRIED**

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED by Rose Arsenault SECONDED by Kevin Whiteside **CARRIED**

Secretary