

Minutes – Chamber Board Meeting –

January 31, 2023 | 7:30 – 9am | Hybrid



GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Regrets:

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.

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

MOVED by Ann Squires-Ferguson SECONDED by Judith Ethier CARRIED

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

MOVED by Rose Arsenault SECONDED by Jessica Stigant CARRIED

3. Chair Remarks

- a. Welcome to our first board meeting of 2023. As the incoming chair, reviewed with the board the role of the board as operational vs working, the policy around the Board spokespeople (CEO & Chair) and how The Chamber will do its best to support and amplify the good works the Board and their business. Reminder that discussion and debate at the Board table is an important part of the role of the board but upon reaching a final consensus, the board is publicly unified in that position. And of course, confidentiality rules about the discussions in our board meetings. Review of the new Board KPI for membership growth. Kudos to The Chamber staff for the excellent Mingler event at the Union Club.
- b. Board speakers tentatively scheduled for 2023: March: DGV, May: Airport, Sept. GVHA

4. CEO

There has been a great deal of Engagement with stakeholders so far in January. There was an island meeting between tourism stakeholders and staff at the Ministry of Tourism. We are working with the province to support our Indigenous Economic Reconciliation Program. Ongoing work with stakeholders around concerns about repeat offenders, their negative impact on all members of the community and next steps on what needs to happen to mitigate the problem. Working to connect EDC and local businesses hoping to expand into US. Developing a Know Your Navy campaign, hope to roll that out in the spring. CEO will attend the Throne Speech.

Municipally, attended a recent Patio bylaw meeting with the city, to support a managed extension. Currently it expires in March. CEO has met with all the new mayors and is seeing more synergy and conversations in regions such as the West Shore municipalities. RBCM consultation has begun, indications are that the museum is looking to evolve and will not return as the museum currently there.

The Chamber is refurbishing its 100+ year old exterior sign. Should be back in place before the 160th Celebration on the 9th. The Celebration is currently sold out with over 300 attendees. Very pleased to announce several new Champions since the last Board Meeting: Berwick Retirement Communities, H2 Accelerator, Megson FitzPatrick Insurance /Acera Insurance and ColdStar Solutions.

The Canadian Chamber requested support for a letter to ask for a better crafted legislation around banning federal replacement workers.

Motion to move In Camera

MOVED by Richard Michaels SECONDED by Judith Ethier CARRIED

Motion to leave In Camera

MOVED by Judith Ethier SECONDED by Christina Clarke CARRIED

5. Committee Reports

a. Executive & Governance Committee

Motion to appoint Alex Jones from the Songhees Nation to Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society

MOVED by Christina Clarke SECONDED by Rose Arsenault CARRIED

Motion to appoint Moira Hauk to take on a role in the Alliance to End Homelessness Steering Committee

MOVED by Ann Squires-Ferguson SECONDED by Richard Michaels CARRIED

Committee Terms of Reference – Executive & Governance

Motion to approve Committee Terms of Reference as presented for the Executive & Governance Committee

MOVED by Judith Ethier SECONDED by Jessica Stigant CARRIED

b. Finance & Audit Committee

Final numbers for the year reflected a deficit. The deficit was primarily driven by a non-operational one-time expense when setting up the Greater Victoria 1863 Impact Award to assist students with their first year of study at UVic, Camosun and Royal Roads and ongoing investment market stability challenges. The Finance & Audit Committee keeps in close contact with the portfolio’s investment advisor. The Annual Audit has begun and a report will be provided to the Finance & Audit Committee and Board in March.

Motion to accept the Financials as presented.

MOVED by Moira Hauk SECONDED by Judith Ethier CARRIED

KPIs for 2023 were reviewed with the request to ensure that ongoing KPIs include a metric for diversity. As a initial benchmark a survey question will be added to the Annual Membership Survey around diversity.

c. Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Review of the purpose and role of the committee which is to be pipeline to gathering the best information before developing policy position and advocacy actions. The January meeting included a guest speaker from Indigenous Prosperity Centre. Board has requested the opportunity, as applicable to join virtual meetings when there are speakers of interest.

d. Ambassador Committee

Things are going well and additional ambassadors were onboarded in 2023. Reiterated the committee’s purpose of welcoming and helping new members connect. The committee is excited about the 160th.

e. Emerge Committee

The rebranding of the Committee and reimagining of its purpose is going well. Part of the feedback during surveys indicated the importance of smaller events to make sure it remains an inclusive connection tool. The committee has deliberately reduced the number of events for the year to ensure all are done well. The Committee is looking for opportunities to do community support projects similar to their work with non-profits in the past. Discussions ensued with a recommendation to make it manageable. Focus on existing programs that Emerge can easily support or take part in, rather than creating new programs. There was discussion around prioritizing sustainability which is a Chamber priority and working with strong Chamber member partners. Suggestions around a beach clean-up or clothing drive.

f. IDEA Committee

Strategic planning continues around increased engagement and support to achieve The Chamber’s vision of being the most diverse and influential business association in the region. Discussions around opportunities to connect and support with the Multi-cultural Fest in Uptown, Victoria’s Chinese Canadian Museum event in May and Black History Month in February. Developing a strategic plan for the year to grow more diverse businesses in The Chamber. The goal is 50 - 80 converted members.

Motion to accept Board Committee Reports as presented.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson CARRIED

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED by Jeff Hutchinson SECONDED by Fallon Lindsay CARRIED

Secretary

Chair