

Invited: John Wilson, Kris Wirk, Christina Clarke, Deb Huelscher, Ann Squires-Ferguson, Rose Arsenault, Jessica Stigant, Judith Ethier, Captain (Navy) Kevin Whiteside, Dean Clarke, Josue Dubon, Richard Michaels, Frumsa Ibrahim, Bruce Williams, Ashley McCartie (staff), Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff)

Regrets: James Gatsi, Pedro Marquez

We gathered in the ancestral lands of the Lakwungen speaking peoples who have been the stewards of these lands for thousands of years.

Motion to approve the agenda.

MOVED by Ann Squires-Ferguson

SECONDED by Judith Ethier

CARRIED

Motion to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting minutes.

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by Rose Arsenault

CARRIED

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Chamber Board meeting of 2024 including the Board's new treasurer. He highlighted wins for The Chamber in 2023 including: receiving the awards from the Canadian Chamber for our DEI work and Top Chamber Executive for CEO; financial results were in the black without undue membership increases, building up good results going into 2024; and the strong return of events in 2023.

Motion to appoint Josue Dubon and Kevin Whiteside, the Base Commander of CFB Esquimalt, to the 2024 Chamber Board as directors and appoint the CEO of the Chamber and the Emerge Committee chair as non-voting members of the 2024 Board.

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by Jessica Stigant

CARRIED

The work done to replace the retiring Managing Director was done thoroughly. Hiring internally to fill the role showed a positive investment in current staff.

Discussion regarding a letter of response to the BC Chamber on membership.

Motion to approve the BC Chamber membership response letter as presented

MOVED by Rose Arsenault

SECONDED by Dean Clarke

CARRIED

In order to maintain Chamber Board meetings at current timelines, discussion was made to update the agenda to have committees reporting every other meeting unless there is a pressing issue or win that should be brought forward to the Board. Committee chairs will be responsible to emailing Board chair 2 weeks prior to add the agenda item or request the agenda addition in the meeting. Executive and Finance and Audit will be presented each meeting.

CEO indicated that discussions are underway with partner Destination Greater Victoria regarding FlowerCount and its ongoing viability. The CEO has been proactively working with Stakeholders and enhancing Greater Victoria's business opportunities. The Chamber was very involved with Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada with 8.5 million people tuned in to the broadcast and 20,000 downtown partaking in the event. The New to Canada program is ¾ of the way to fully funded to increase opportunities for immigrants starting businesses to build their network. The Chamber will be hosting a small roundtable with the U.S. Consul General to better facilitate trade between our members and the U.S.

Chamber priorities are being moved forward. The CEO is attending an Energy Summit with FortisBC, staff are attending DEI hiring sessions and through our advocacy efforts we had success in assisting local members to get more affordable workforce housing approved. CEO continues to meet with provincial government to review membership priorities. In addition, we're working on job force challenges by creating more digital assets and outreach to support Co-op programs and through different assets driving higher exposure for Chamber Champions.

2024 Business Plan and KPIs for the Board were presented.

Motion to approve the 2024 KPI's and Business Plan as presented.

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by Judith Ethier

CARRIED

Committee Reports

Executive & Governance Committee

In order to improve External Board liaison relations and clarify their responsibilities to the Board, there was a request for volunteers for Board liaisons with each appointee. In addition, a policy was developed on External Board Appointments to be shared with any new appointee.

Motion to approve the Appointment to an External Board – Policy for All Appointees as presented.

MOVED by Christina Clarke SECONDED by Dean Clarke CARRIED

The final two 2024 Terms of Reference for Committees were reviewed and discussed.

Motion to approve the Terms of Reference for Public Policy & Advocacy and Family Business Committees as presented

MOVED by Christina Clarke SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson CARRIED

Finance & Audit

The Financial Statements for 2023 were presented to the Board showing an Operating Budget net positive result of \$38,400. Due to membership gains and return to events in 2023. KPIs were reviewed for 2023, results were overall very positive with exceptions in social media gains due to volatility in that arena and strategic decisions to reduce events in the fall.

Motion to approve the 2023 year-end financials as presented.

MOVED by Deborah Huelscher SECONDED by Jessica Stigant CARRIED

Discussion around the recommendations of the Financial Advisor and Finance & Audit Committee regarding our investment policy statement.

Motion to approve the updated Investment Policy Statement as of January 2024.

MOVED by Judith Ethier SECONDED by Deborah Huelscher CARRIED

Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Looking at another year with excellent speakers that guide effective advocacy work. Committee has identified key skills matrix missing and are actively recruiting to create a better depth of knowledge and diversity.

Emerge Committee

Mentorship and philanthropy sub committees are working to improve and grow these initiatives, including a focus on non-profit organizations as event hosts. Increasing social media presence in 2024, looking for Board support.

IDEA Committee

Recap of award winning 2023, introductions of new members, lots of interest in IDEA committee, working on plans to engage underrepresented businesses so that The Chamber is representative of our diverse community.

Family Business Committee

Meeting with FBATs to better engage and determine their challenges and resolution. Focus is maintaining, growing and supporting current family business members.


Ambassador Committee

Engagement at events is going well and committee is engaged.


Motion to go in camera. MOVED by Jessica Stigant SECONDED by John Wilson CARRIED

Motion to move out of in camera. MOVED by Rose Arsenault SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson CARRIED

Motion to adjourn the meeting. MOVED by Josue Dubon SECONDED by Dean Clarke CARRIED



Secretary *James Gaton*



Chair *Kris*

Presentation to the Board from South Island Prosperity Partnership