

Attended: Ann Squires-Ferguson, Christina Clarke, Dean Clarke, Deb Huelscher, Frumsa Ibrahim, James Gatsi, Jessica Stigant, John Wilson, Josue Dubon, Judith Ethier, Captain (Navy) Kevin Whiteside, Kris Wirk, Pedro Marquez, Rose Arsenault, Richard Michaels, Bruce Williams, Julia Banks (staff).

Regrets: Judith Ethier

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

Motion to approve the agenda.

MOVED by James Gatsi

SECONDED by Christina Clarke

CARRIED

Motion to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting.

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by Deb Huelscher

CARRIED

The Chair opened a discussion brought forward by the Public Policy & Advocacy Committee regarding the challenges faced by the private sector in securing immigrant employees due to competition from the public sector. The Board pointed out the government's fast-track program for immigrants working in the public sector, which expedites the residency process, creates an imbalance favoring the public sector over the private sector.

Motion to draft a letter to the Government seeking support for the private sector.

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by Rose Arsenault

CARRIED

Motion to go in camera.

MOVED by John Wilson

SECONDED by Pedro Marquez

CARRIED

Motion to move out of in camera.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez

SECONDED by Kris Work

CARRIED

The CEO provided the board with an update on the office move. The current lease was discussed, highlighting efforts to sublease the existing space. The CEO emphasized the need for a smaller, centrally located office space to better reflect the identity of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. The board engaged in discussion regarding the formation of a moving committee tasked with overseeing the logistics, budget, and finances related to the office move.

Motion to appoint Richard Michaels, Dean Clarke, and Josue Dubon to the moving committee.

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by Rose Arsenault

CARRIED

The CEO provided the board with an update on the annual Flower Count. The CEO outlined the evolution of the campaign, noting the gradual involvement of partners over the years, with Destination Greater Victoria progressively taking on a more significant role. It was highlighted that efforts are underway to formalize this partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to officially transfer ownership and management of the Flower Count to Destination Greater Victoria.

The CEO updated the board on upcoming events and recent engagements with Ministers and stakeholders. The Chamber recently hosted Minister Eng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade, and Economic Development, for a small round table discussion. The Chamber had presence at the Black Entrepreneurs dinner and at recent immigration and newcomer events. A video message regarding tax-related matters was sent to municipal councils and

efforts to address challenges related to international student visas, in collaboration with educational institutions, are underway.

Committee Reports

Executive & Governance Committee

The board discussed implementing a buddy system for external board appointees, where each appointee will be paired with a board member who will provide support and guidance, ensuring their smooth integration into board activities. The board was tasked with reviewing the list of appointees to identify any connections they may have.

The board discussed the adoption of a policy requiring criminal record checks for senior staff, board members, and committee members to ensure the integrity and safety of the Chamber.

Motion to adopt a Criminal Record Check policy.

MOVED by Christina Clarke SECONDED by Ann Squires Ferguson CARRIED

Finance & Audit Committee

The 2023 Audited Financials were presented to the Board. It was noted that the numbers were consistent with the previous year, with an increase in investments. Additionally, it was highlighted that there is no net debt following the repayment of CEBA.

Motion to accept the Financials as presented.

MOVED by Richard Michaels SECONDED by Deb Huelscher CARRIED

Motion to accept the 2023 Annual Audited Financial Statements as presented.

MOVED by Deb Huelscher SECONDED by Josue Dubon CARRIED

Public Policy & Advocacy Committee


The committee reported that it is actively recruiting individuals to ensure a more comprehensive representation of voices and expertise. They are increasing the committee to 20 people to increase diversity and bring in a broader range of experiences, sectors, and perspectives.

Family Business Committee

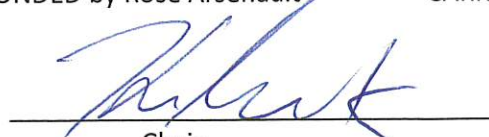
The committee shared updates regarding the current Family Business Advisory Teams (FBATs) and recruitment to expand the teams. The committee suggested that efforts should be made to educate other committees so they can help spread awareness and engage more members in the initiative. The board discussed refreshing the syllabus or content provided by FBA.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED by Jessica Stigant SECONDED by Rose Arsenault CARRIED



Secretary



Chair

Presentation to the Board from Victoria Airport Authority.