

THE CHAMBER.

GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 | 7:30 – 9:30 am

Attending: John Wilson, Moira Hauk, Christina Clarke, Brianna Green, Rose Arsenault, Captain (Navy) Sam Sader, Carmen Charette, Bruce Williams, Pedro Marquez, Ian Batey, Kris Wirk, Paul van Koll, Dan Dagg, Judith Ethier, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).
Regrets: Tom Plumb

1. Agenda/Minutes

Motion to approve agenda as is.

Moved by Pedro Marquez

Seconded by Ian Batey

Carried

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting.

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Ian Batey

Carried

2. Chair's Remarks

This meeting marks seven months as the new chair and 5 months into the COVID crisis for our members and the world at large. The Chamber's CEOs and team have been pillars of resilience through the pandemic and a strong consistent voice helping business through the crisis. The community has demonstrated the #InitTogetherYYJ spirit that will carry the region through this crisis. It will take hard work, both in this year and in next year, to ride out this calamity. Advocacy and connections will be key to maintaining a strong chamber and a robust community. As part of the issues faced, one of The Chamber key priorities of Safe communities became a focal point. More is needed to improve the conditions, both for the homeless and the businesses impacted by increased crime, vandalism and general business disruption.

Board Nominations will close on July 30th at noon. We have 10 nominees for 6 positions which demonstrates the vibrancy of the board and The Chamber.

3. Finance & Audit Committee

Review of June financials and revised forecasts projecting the results of COVID-19 were presented to the board. Forecasts remain tricky due to limited data to make solid predictions.

Insurance provider has been changed to Canadian Chamber. This has resulted in a significant savings for the year.

Measures have been put in place to ensure the financial viability of The Chamber long-term, including utilizing various federal programs available to affected businesses. The portfolio is in excellent shape. The approved withdrawals from the account have been deferred for now until needs are more urgent.

Motion to approve the financials as presented.

Moved by Pedro Marquez

Seconded by Paul van Koll

Carried

4. Committee Reports

Executive & Governance Committee's draft minutes were reviewed. Best practices for committees and board members include a signed conflict of interest, code of conduct and confidentiality. We will be implementing a code of conduct for all committee and board members will need to sign each year.

Motion to go in camera

Moved by Kris Wirk

Seconded by Dan Dagg

Carried

Motion to leave in camera

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Ian Batey

Carried

4. CEO's Remarks

CEO reported that his work to onboard Chamber Champions is proceeding well with 8 business leaders opting in. The program will assist in offsetting some of the dues shortfalls and providing additional insights into some key businesses. Annual auction is doing well in terms of getting items for the November virtual auction.

The Chamber will be running a series of all-candidates meetings prior to the Provincial election to ensure that questions relating to the community and business are asked and answered. The Board was reminded that The Chamber is non-partisan and as per the Non-Partisan Policy two board members temporarily resigned from the board for the duration of the campaign.

Review of the coming AGM and the changes in the voting structure based on its transformation into a virtual event. The AGM will feature four local mayors as guest speakers (Victoria, Colwood, Saanich and View Royal).

There has been ongoing work behind the scenes on public safety and homelessness working with stakeholders to develop pilot projects that can help provide more complete solutions. This includes connecting members with city officials/police officials on the homelessness issue as challenges occur from housing without other needed supports.

5. Committee Reports

Executive & Governance Committee's draft minutes were reviewed. Reports were made on external appointees and a recommendation was made to appoint the vice-chair to review and oversee the external appointee list quarterly. The Business Awards broadcast on CHEK provided extraordinary exposure for our finalists as well as The Chamber. With over 50,000 viewers of the broadcast and several thousand more through social media, the results reflected well on The Chamber.

Public Policy & Advocacy Committee has been working throughout the summer with spirited discussions. Key issues include public safety and the challenges of the downtown. COVID programs and how to best assist our members. Review of board focused priorities for 2021 to be provided to the Board by November.

Prodigy Group has had two members leave the committee. They have been able to recruit two new members to provide a renewed focus on communications and mingles. This includes a recent initiative to push a specific COVID communication out – fun yet informative aimed at the Prodigy Group demographic – around modeling positive behaviour and safety. The October Mingle will experiment with a new format. A question was posed to the board as part of the planning for the November retreat, are there areas that the Board would like the Prodigy Group to focus on such as mentorship, leadership and fostering new entrepreneurs.

Ambassador Committee new committee member has already been onboarded and one pending. Good participation and doing well.

Motion to accept the Executive, Policy, Prodigy & Ambassador Reports as presented.

Moved by Tom Plumb
Seconded by Dan Dagg
Carried

6. Next Meeting – Friday, November 27, 2020 - 7:30 – 3:30pm

Motion to adjourn

Moved by Pedro Marquez
Seconded by Christina Clarke
Carried

Secretary

Chair