

Minutes –



GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Board Meeting –

June 27, 2023 | 7:30 – 9:30am | Simcoe Rm, Coast Hotel

Invited: Kris Wirk, Moira Hauk, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Ann Squires-Ferguson, James Gatsi, Rosè Arsenault, Jessica Stigant, John Wilson, Josue Dubon, Pedro Marquez, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

Regrets: Fallon Lindsay, Judith Ethier, Captain (Navy) Jeff Hutchinson

The Greater Victoria Chamber acknowledges that our members live and do business in the Traditional Territory of the Lakwungen speaking peoples. It also recognizes the First Nations governments across this region.

1. Motion to approve the agenda.

Addition of an item to Governance related to the Emerge Committee Terms of Reference

MOVED by Richard Michaels SECONDED by Jessica Stigant CARRIED

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

MOVED by Rose Arsenault SECONDED by Pedro Marquez CARRIED

3. Chair's Remarks

- a. The Chamber will be hosting a meeting with the Port Angeles Chamber in October. It will be a meeting between the Executives of each organization. The Chamber is also working with the Clipper to schedule a meeting with the Seattle Chamber.
- b. Family Business Association has voted to join The Chamber and transitions are in progress with a goal to wrap up the merger by end of June. The new Family Business Committee will begin in Fall of 2023.

4. CEO's Remarks

Belleville Terminal announcement will happen later this week with funding from the Federal government as well as Provincial. South Island Chamber meetings and collaborations continue to be useful for business intelligence and positive collaborations. Work being done to connect two members – VIHA and Saunders Family Foundation on a community support project.

More work needs to be done to provide reliable, affordable, safe air travel for the region. Currently there are significant challenges related to delays and missed flights here on the island and beyond. There are currently 40 Indigenous Members participating in our Indigenous Economic Reconciliation Program. The Chamber has also worked collaboratively with GVHA, SIPP, CRD, City of Victoria and others to launch the South Island Business Directory to assist businesses to find Indigenous suppliers.

5. Committee Reports

a. Executive & Governance Committee

Discussion around the merger with FBA and how best to support and strengthen our commitment to family businesses in our region. Family Business representative to be appointed to the Board for a term of just over one year to provide continued guidance and support.

Motion to appoint Dean Clarke as the Family Business Representative to the 2024 Chamber Board starting in September 2023.

MOVED by Kris Wirk SECONDED by John Wilson CARRIED

A request was made by the Executive of the Emerge Committee to amend their Terms of Reference from 15 to 20 members. This is needed to accommodate the new initiatives being undertaken and work required by the volunteer committee.

Motion to increase the number of Emerge Committee members in the 2023 approved Terms of Reference from 15 to 20 members.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez

SECONDED by Moira Hauk

CARRIED

b. Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

At the June meeting the committee met with Transport Canada on regional transportation. Review of several policies to support at the Canadian Chamber AGM in October, notably the policy for CEBA & Airport Autonomy.

Motion for Greater Victoria Chamber to support the policy on Airport Autonomy at the Canadian Chamber AGM.

MOVED by Christina Clarke

SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson

CARRIED

The CEBA repayment sparked fruitful discussions around providing friendly repayment terms and long amortization for repayment. Other possible tools that could be used such as means testing to ensure businesses aren't bankrupted by trying to repay this. December is a challenging month for repayment for highest at-risk businesses like travel, hospitality, and retail.

Motion for Greater Victoria Chamber to support the policy on CEBA repayment at the Canadian Chamber AGM with a focus on means testing and long-term amortized repayment plan with a goal of retaining businesses.

MOVED by James Gatsi

SECONDED by Rose Arsenault


CARRIED

Motion to accept Board Committee Reports as presented and adjourn the meeting.

MOVED by Jessica Stigant

SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson

CARRIED



Secretary

James Gatsi



Chair

Kals Wick

Mid-Year Review for remainder of the Meeting