

# Agenda – Chamber Board Meeting – May 31, 2022 | 7:30 – 9am | Hybrid

**Invited:** John Wilson, Moira Hauk, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Ann Squires-Ferguson, Pedro Marquez, James Gatsi, Rose Arseneault, Jessica Stignant, Judith Ethier, Paul van Koll, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

**Regrets:** Dan Dagg, Kris Wirk, Captain (Navy) Jeff Hutchinson

*The Greater Victoria Chamber acknowledges that our members, live and do business on the Traditional Territory of the Lək̓wungen speaking peoples. It recognizes the First Nations governments across this region — Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, the WSÁNEĆ Nations of Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout and Tseycum on the Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands, to the west Beecher Bay, T'Sou-ke, Pacheedaht, the Malahat and Penelekut Nations.*

## 1. Approval of the agenda and minutes:

### **Motion to approve agenda as is.**

Moved by James Gatsi

Seconded by Jessica Stignant

Carried

### **Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting.**

Moved by Judith Ethier

Seconded by Rose Arseneault

Carried

## 2. Chair

Sports are an important part of a healthy, happy community. Return of the HarbourCats games in town, come on out to the ballgame. It has been an exciting time in the region. The recent Royal BC Museum announcement of the 8-year shut down and \$800 million price tag has generated a lot of questions and conversations. Transparency has been an issue; The Chamber will be meeting with the CEO of RBCM and the premier to garner better info and provide advice based on feedback from our members. Business Awards evening was extraordinary. Very proud to be part of the energy and success of the awards. The Family Business Association (FBA) is in talks with the Chair & CEO on future opportunities. Labour shortages remain a hardship Canada-wide resulting in businesses closing early or otherwise shifting or reducing services. Taxis remain an issue including insufficient coverage at the airport, BC Ferries and GVHA in addition to challenges related to late-night workers requiring transportation.

- a. A reminder was provided to the Board on the Respectful communication and reminder on Chamber Spokesperson Policy due to a recent incident with another organization. Reinforcing that it is important to communicate in a way that respects all members of the community. And a reminder that only the Board and Chair are authorized to speak on behalf of The Chamber
- b. With the upcoming Municipal Elections, the Board was reminded of the Non-partisan policy reminder and the need for a leave of absence if required.

## 3. CEO

- a. School district meetings are ongoing in order to engage grades 11&12 with workplace experience. Lynx Air will now be offering low-cost flights out of YYJ and the Chair & CEO met with them. CEO has met with the Chinese Commerce Society in order to provide better engagement. Recent live events in May have been very successful with great energy attracting new people, including younger and more diverse business people.
- b. Work on our Indigenous reconciliation package has been eye opening revealing the racism still existing within our community.
- c. 160th Project is beginning with a deep dive into the archives. Lots of exciting stories over the years.
- d. DVBA boundary extension is significant, growing their levy and expanding their reach.
- e. Taxi Issues are impacting late night staff and/or clients. There are insufficient drivers and some of those still working have not been representing the profession in a positive light. The Chamber will be working to connect Taxi ownership with non-traditional workforce options.

- f. The Chamber needs to lead the reimagining of business, how it is delivered and expectations around service until we can get past these workforce challenges. Workers no longer are bound by their physical location when determining the businesses where they work
- g. Island Health event scheduled for the Fall to talk about the impact of the pandemic and what the next steps might be in our community.
- h. Port Angeles invitation to take part in their 4th of July parade. Local stakeholders are already working on a plan.
- i. Picnic in the Park has become Picnics & Patios Campaign in conjunction with a series of stakeholders June 7 – 29th.

4. Committee Reports

Executive & Governance Committee

- a. Annual Board Election Schedule (attached)

**Motion to accept the proposed Annual Board Election Schedule as presented**

Moved by Pedro Marquez

Seconded by Rose Arsenaault

Carried

- b. Board Vacancy – appointment

Due to a board resignation at the end of the first quarter (business and personal issues) a board position is vacant. This leaves a gap in the current board’s skills sets and insights on the larger construction and development sector.

**Motion to appoint Fallon Lindsay to the Greater Victoria Chamber Board for the year concluding December 31, 2022.**

Moved by Pedro Marquez

Seconded by Rose Arsenaault

Carried

Finance & Audit Committee

- a. Review of financials (attached)

**Motion to accept the April Financials as presented**

Moved by Christina Clarke

Seconded by James Gatsi

Carried

- b. Review of KPIs

Key performance measures are on track with the exception of events. This is due to COVID cancellations in the first quarter. Board discussions around adding a new KPI in 2023 around diversity – how to measure, what to measure, goals. Item deferred for additional discussion at June Board Meeting.

- c. Review of Obama event

The March 2020 Michelle Obama event was unable to proceed due to COVID. After over two years hoping to reschedule, the event was cancelled by the promoter. It was wrapped up successfully with refunds from the promoter and to the Chamber ticket holders. A review of the overall project showed that The Chamber’s cost, excluding staff hours, was negligible and the benefits from exposure and opportunity far outweighed any risks.

- d. Annual Review of Membership Rates

Membership dues are tied to CPI. The decision was made to hold the rates to an annual average rather than most recent inflation numbers in order to avoid contributing to inflationary pressures.

**Motion to increase Chamber Membership Dues by 2% starting in September.**

Moved by Judith Ethier

Seconded by Jessica Stigant

Carried

Additional Committee Reports – Deferred to June

**Motion to adjourn.**

Moved by Richard Michaels

Seconded by Jessica Stigant

Carried

Secretary

Chair