THE CHAMBER.

GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Board Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2025

Attended: Christina Clarke, James Gatsi, Kris Wirk, Rose Arsenault, Jessica Stigant, Captain (Navy) Kevin Whiteside, Josue Dubon, Frumsa Ibrahim, Elizabeth Brown, Corey Gillon, Mary Lou Newbold, Spencer Walker, Ashka Wirk, Bruce Williams, Ashley McCartie (staff), Julia Banks (staff).

We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory we are meeting today and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of point 5 a iii, media presence during the transition as presented.
MOVED by James Gatsi SECONDED by Jessica Stigant CARRIED

Motion to approve the minutes from the May Board Meeting as presented.
MOVED by Mary Lou Newbold SECONDED by Ashka Wirk CARRIED

1. Chair Report
   a. New CEO contract is in place and new CEO has started to join us for meetings

2. CEO Report
   a. Stakeholder engagement
      i. CEO met with incoming CEO and CHEK regarding future plans for Chamber Chats. CEO met with Island Savings to discuss plan for Chamber Chats moving forward to secure their sponsorship. Chamber Chats will continue internally but it won't continue to be aired on CHEK, looking to reallocate the Island Savings sponsorship to a different program that aligns with their interests.
      ii. CEO took a test run on a new hydrofoil electric commuter ferry from the west shore to downtown Victoria operated by FRS Clipper and Greenline.
      iii. CEO is attending the SIPP AGM today and the DVBA AGM. The DBVA AGM was very volatile with many people passionately sharing their opinions about the state of downtown.
      iv. Nina Krieger, MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake and Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film has requested to meet with the CEO.
      v. Met with MP Will Greaves and provided a list of advocacy issues for him to take to Ottawa. He attended the monthly City partners committee meeting so that he heard a variety of perspectives. Had a unified voice asking for the Federal Government to invest in the region.
      vi. Mexican Consulate meetings are going well. Next meeting is regarding increasing direct connectivity between BC and Mexico via air travel.
   b. BCCE Conference Highlights- revenue challenges and memberships dropping, offices closing and going virtual for smaller chambers. Change management came up and DEI and alternate sources of revenue
   c. Chamber will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, July 16th to invite members to see our new office. We will highlight the work of our Committees, rental opportunities and have our staff on hand to chat. It will be held at two timeframes to allow a greater number of people to join us, 3:00 – 4:30pm and 5:00 – 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be available.
   d. Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation call today to find out who has been awarded the Belleville Terminal construction project.
   e. Met with Curtis Campbell from RBC to confirm their status as a Champion.

f. Signage for the office goes in this Thursday
g. Looking at a way to create a non-profit membership program that would support non-profits with annual revenue of $250,000 or less per year.

3. Committee Reports
   a. Executive & Governance (minutes attached)
      i. Reviewed the Board Election Info Session Slides and suggested adding an At large position description to the slide deck. Discussed the slide that notes The Chamber does not suggest a recommended slate.

Action Item: Strategy to review bylaws to see if there is any mention of slates being allowed or prohibited. Change the wording to "No current recommended slate".

      ii. Discussed the proposed CEO HR Committee Purpose Statement. The development of this statement has come out of the process of hiring a CEO. The composition of the committee will be decided when the Terms of Reference have been created. The intent of this committee is to be a support for the CEO around policies, CEO compensation, staffing challenges, succession planning, etc. We need to ensure the committee is right-sized for the organization. Board will have final sign-off on the Terms of Reference in November.

Motion to approve the formation of a CEO HR Committee with the adoption of the CEO HR Committee Purpose Statement as presented
MOVED by James Gatsi Gatsi SECONDED by Christina Clarke CARRIED

      iii. Chair brought up the media presence during this transition. We receive a lot of media requests each week and we need to ensure we have confident and qualified speakers. Our policy has been to restrict speaking on behalf of the Chamber ot the Chair and CEO. We want to be able to speak effectively and accept the opportunity to share our stance on specific advocacy priorities. Media has a prominent role in shaping dialogue and reaching government. Key messages are prepared by Chamber staff.

Action Item: Strategy to check the policy about speaking and add an update to the policy for a motion at the September meeting. Suggested wording is to add "or alternate Board member as approved by the CEO or Chair" if not already reflected in the policy.

Action Item: Communications Manager to organize a media training session with the Board.
   b. Treasurer
      i. Discussed the proposed 2025/2026 membership rates. Rate increase begins in September. Operations Manager prepared an overview to outline how the options will impact the overall budget in 2026. Incremental increases will have a minimal impact on our membership.

Motion to approve option 3 with an increase of CPI at 2.4% for the proposed membership rates for 2025-2026 as presented
MOVED by Spencer Walker SECONDED by James Gatsi CARRIED

c. All other committees to present in the Mid-Year Review portion of the meeting

Motion to move in camera		
MOVED by Christina Clarke	SECONDED by Spencer Walker	CARRIED
Motion to move out of camera		
MOVED by Rose Arsenault	SECONDED by Spencer Walker	CARRIED
Motion to adjourn		
MOVED by Josue Dubon	SECONDED by James Gatsi	CARRIED

Mid-Year Review 9:00am – 12:00pm

Secretary **Chair**