



GREATER VICTORIA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

Chamber offices | 7:30 – 9:30 am

Attending: Al Hasham, Dan Dagg, Lise Gyorkos, Carmen Charette, John Wilson, Catherine Holt, Gary Kinar, Mark Mawhinney, Natasha Reger, Mark Smith, Kris Wirk, Captain (Navy) Steve Waddell, and Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).  
Regrets: Frank Bourree, Shaun Cerisano, Patricia Jelinski, Peggy Kulmala (staff)

### 1. Agenda/Minutes

Motion to approve Agenda  
**Moved by Carmen Charette**  
**Seconded by Mark Mawhinney**  
**Carried**

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting  
**Moved by Mark Smith**  
**Seconded by John Wilson**  
**Carried**

### 2. Financial Report

Motion to approve financials presented to the Board  
**Moved by Kris Wirk**  
**Seconded by Carmen Charette**  
**Carried**

Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee reported strong financial performance first four months of 2017. Good start. Discussion around revenue for Business Matters and strategies for moving forward.

Motion to approve annual dues increase as presented by staff and amalgamation of first two dues tier into a single "5 and under employees".

**Moved by Kris Wirk**  
**Seconded by Mark Mawhinney**  
**Carried**

### 3. Chair's remarks

Lots of events since last meeting, all successful. Of note: Chamber Business Awards, Cruise Ship launch, Chamber AGM, Candidate Response Session and BC Chamber AGM Host event. BC Chamber AGM was overall a great success with The Chamber finale being the perfect end note.

BC Chamber AGM

Our Chamber policies were all passed and include: Encouraging tax credit for energy efficient renovations; Support for funding Ogden Point Master Plan; Improving Belleville Terminal; Improving urban transportation (regional transportation authority); Closing the gap between

residential and commercial property tax rates; Safe communities: supporting policing; Safe communities: mental health and addiction policy; Modernization of regional governance; and, Supporting labour needs of today and tomorrow.

Efforts on policy above are helping to better position Victoria as a home port, an opportunity worth millions to the community.

#### Mid-year Review Agenda

The agenda for the June Board meeting and Mid-Year review was reviewed. The agenda will be finalized by end of week.

#### List of Prospective Members

Going forward the board will receive a monthly list of future members that would benefit from Chamber membership in order to leverage connections. The appropriate sales person will contact those board members to discuss strategies and opportunities.

#### 4. Governance

Review of the non-partisan Organization policy. The policy was updated in order to provide a level playing field for both the board and executive committee. This policy is an adjunct to the Chamber bylaws.

Motion for Board to adopt the policy with the recommended change under the section Conduct to remove the term “attempt to” in the final sentence of the first paragraph.

**Moved by Dan Dagg**

**Seconded by Lise Gykros**

**Carried**

Review of the Board Election schedule by the Board. The Governance Committee will meet to recommend the optimum number of board members for the 2018 Board and the number of eligible positions.

#### 5. Policy and Government Affairs committee report

Policy and Government Affairs committee is now bringing in experts in key areas as speakers at sessions. Last meeting Jason Johnson, city manager of the City of Victoria answered a broad selection of questions from the committee. Budget process has been greatly refined under his tenure from a more “bucket” approach to budgeting. Johnson St Bridge was a good learning opportunity and has assisted in better developing full lifespan budgets for major infrastructure projects like the Crystal Pool centre. There has been a movement in the overall attitude of city staff shifting from barriers to assistance and service.

The Board discussed reigniting the regional governance/amalgamation prospect as a new provincial government takes the helm. There is an opportunity for the new government, who has a clear Greater Victoria base, to take leadership on the portfolio and demonstrate responsiveness to voters who gave clear direction to political leaders during the last municipal election.

6. Prodigy Group Report

The committee is gelling well now. New committee members have filled some of the skills gaps and have brought a great new energy. Professional development seminars are on hold for this year. Mingle attendance is up. Focus on redeveloping the website and this year's TP the Town promotion. Mentorship program is being reinvigorated.

7. Ambassador report

Great committee this year. Ambassadors are getting more engaged with the Prodigy Group. Speakers are being invited to each meeting in order to provide an overview of what's available for members and the resources at hand. Ambassadors will be getting more engaged with the mentorship program. Pilot project beginning to utilize spare tickets for Ambassadors to expose them to events. Discussions are underway on how to highlight the Ambassadors better to the membership and to try to integrate Ambassadors with the sales team to provide a better communication stream and expand opportunities.

**Action Item:** Recognize Ambassadors at lunches

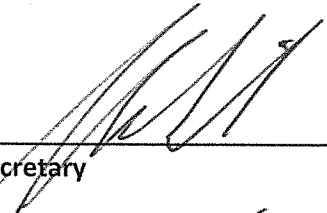
8. Next Meeting - Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to Noon.

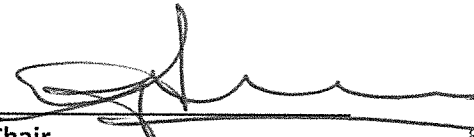
**Motion to adjourn**

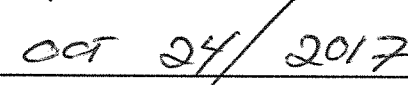
**Moved by Mark Smith**

**Seconded by Carmen Charette**

**Carried**

  
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Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

  
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Date

