

Minutes –



GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Board Meeting –

June 29, 2021 | 7:30 – 9am | CFB Esquimalt & Virtual

Attendees: John Wilson, Kris Wirk, Molra Hauk, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Ian Batey, Rose Arsenault, Judith Ethler, Captain (Navy) Sam Sader, Pedro Marquez, Dan Dagg, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

Virtual Attendees: Raul Caballero, Tom Plumb, Ann Squires-Ferguson

The Greater Victoria Chamber acknowledges that our members, live and do business on the Traditional Territory of the Lakwungen 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 Judith Ethier

Seconded by Ann Squires-Ferguson

Carried

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting.

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Sam Sader

Carried

2. Chair

Best wishes to Capt Sam Sader and our Events Manager Christine Lewis as they move on to new opportunities. Board Elections coming up with the info session on July 8th. There are four positions to be filled for the 2022 board. The Chair was pleased to see The Chamber leading the way with live meetings in the fall, exciting days ahead as the Premier looks at moving to the next stage of recovery. The Chamber leadership has been consistent throughout the pandemic and the wisdom of the board and committees has made a difference and I'm proud of the work that we've done.

3. CEO

Meetings with Mayor of Port Angeles and Mayor of Victoria have taken place to talk about a welcoming event with a business contingent sailing across as the border reopens. Westjet is about to ramp up and start up a low-cost airline connecting our area and targeted locations in Canada.

Picnics and Patios contest has been an overwhelming success for our members and a great support to the local restaurants. Chambers in BC are starting mergers for efficiency. Chamber Chat is going well with high viewership and engaging topics. The Chamber has been part of discussions with healthcare members about a combined campaign on mental wellbeing.

Auction donations have been going well. Members have again started pointing to a lack of available workforce as a barrier to our restart and economic growth. As well concerns have been voiced about what's needed from our leadership to lead our country, province, cities out of these economic challenges.

4. Committee Reports

a. Executive & Governance Committee (covered above, minutes attached)

Motion to approve the Bylaw changes to extend the term of the chair in a year of extraordinary circumstance.

Moved by Kris Wirk

Seconded by Dan Dagg

Review of the proposed change, including the unanimous support of the board. Discussion about why the wording doesn't include the executive because their term isn't enshrined as a length.

Carried

b. Finance & Audit

- i. Financials presented as of May continue to show a solid rebounding in 2022 due to two key areas, The Chamber Champions and government COVID-support programs.

Motion to approve the May Financials as presented.

Moved by Moira Hauk

Seconded by Pedro Marquez

Carried

Motion to move \$300,000 into short term GICs

Moved by Moira Hauk

Seconded by Judith Ethier

Carried

c. Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

- i. The committee has returned to the previous format of doing meetings with guest speakers. In June the committee met with Ian Tostenson from BCRFA about the challenges in the food and restaurant sector.
- ii. The committee is supporting a policy being brought forward at the Canadian Chamber on Affordable Housing
- iii. Will begin working on a policy to provide access to capital for Indigenous Community

d. Ambassador Committee

Will be meeting next in September

e. Prodigy Committee

Will lead the way this fall with the first live event since 2020. The Committee has identified an opportunity to assist the labour market as this fall Canada is becoming the second most attractive destination of international students.

Motion to accept Board Committee Reports as presented.

Moved by Ian Batey

Seconded by Dan Dagg

Carried

5. Next Meeting – September 29, 2021

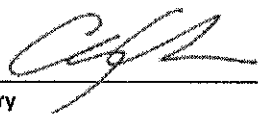
Motion to adjourn

Moved by Tom Plumb

Seconded by Christina Clarke

Carried

Secretary



Chair

