

Minutes –

Chamber Board Meeting – June 30, 2022 | 7:30 – 9am | Hybrid

Invited: John Wilson, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Ann Squires-Ferguson, Pedro Marquez, James Gatsi, Rose Arseneault, Jessica Stigant, Kris Wirk, Captain (Navy) Jeff Hutchinson, Judith Ethier, Paul van Koll, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

Regrets: Dan Dagg, Moira Hauk

The Greater Victoria Chamber acknowledges that our members, live and do business on the Traditional Territory of the Lkwungen speaking peoples. It recognizes the [First Nations governments across this region](#) – Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, the W̱SÁNEĆ 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 Christina Clarke

Seconded by Pedro Marquez

Carried

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting.

Moved by Judith Ethier

Seconded by Jessica Stigant

Carried

2. Chair's Remarks:

An official welcome to The Chamber board was given to Fallon Lindsay. The last few months have been busy with events, advocacy and the return of a busy summer of tourism. The hard work and commitment of the board to The Chamber was acknowledged. The Board was reminded about the upcoming Board Election and request for nominations. Key skill sets for the board were reviewed.

3. CEO's Remarks:

CEO was privileged to throw out the first pitch at the recent HarbourCats game that included a Chamber membership event. Plans were put in place to educate potential municipal candidates on the job with a follow-up session in the fall to educate the voters. There have been many discussions in the last few weeks with the Royal BC Museum and local stakeholders regarding next steps after the announcement about closing and rebuilding the museum. Chamber CEO will help the incoming museum CEO to connect with Chambers around BC to enact some of their plans around regional exhibits.

Meetings with taxi and ride hailing companies have not been fruitful. Despite several meetings there was no acknowledgement on well-known challenges in the region around insufficient cabs for everything from the airport to late night workers and residents choosing a taxi over unsafely driving home. Working with the airport, BC Ferries, DGV and GVHA on this issue to find better solutions. Discussion followed about recent road reconfigurations such as Government and Wharf that have impacted tourists and taxi drivers trying to navigate from ports/hangers to hotels.

Permits approved at the municipal level could be streamlined, hoped for provincial legislation will speed this along as long as the development meets the OCP requirements. A recent tour of Seaspan for Chamber Champions and key members was a success. Upcoming tours might include CFB Esquimalt, the inner workings of the Airport and Ocean Networks Canada.

Picnics and Patios – a support program for local restaurants – was highly successful and done in conjunction with BCRFA, DGV, DVBA, and the city of Victoria. Work on the 160th anniversary project in 2023 is proceeding.

In addition to various other efforts on behalf of our members, our chamber joined forces with the Surrey Board of Trade to advocate on behalf of chambers to remove some of the cumbersome work of the new lobbyist registry relating to chambers. A letter was received from Minister Eby that he would review.

4. Committee Reports

Financials are on track operationally although there are some revenue shortfalls in Events related to events cancelled earlier in the year due to COVID. Investment returns are currently negative due to volatile markets.

Motion to accept the May Financials as presented

Moved by Judith Ethier

Seconded by Ann Squires-Ferguson

Carried

As part of the 2023 celebrations, in addition to the history project that is ongoing, The Chamber is planning to celebrate the future of chamber in our community and support the employers who are sore need of a skilled workforce.

To assist the next generation of Chamber members, The Chamber's legacy program for the 160th is an Award program designed to help students reach their potential by helping to finance the first year. Awards will be \$2000 per student for the first year of study and will focus on students who are dependents of a Chamber member and/or self-identify as belonging to an under-represented/marginalized group and who show economic need.

Motion to approve a \$160,000 expenditure on creating the Greater Victoria Chamber 1863 Impact Award at all three post-secondary Institutions to assist in the education of future generations of employers and employees.

Moved by Jessica Stigant

Seconded by Kris Wirk

Carried

Additional Committee Reports – Deferred to September

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by Judith Ethier

Seconded by Fallon Lindsay

Carried

Secretary

Chair