

# Minutes

## Chamber Board Meeting

March 29, 2022 | 7:30 – 9am | In Person

# THE CHAMBER.

GREATER VICTORIA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Virtual:** John Wilson, Dan Dagg, Kris Wirk Moira Hauk, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Ann Squires-Ferguson, James Gatsi, Rose Arsenault, Jessica Stigant, Tom Plumb, Judith Ethier, Captain (Navy) Jeff Hutchinson, Paul van Koll, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

**Regrets:** Pedro Marquez

*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 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 James Gatsi

Seconded by Jeff Hutchinson

Carried

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

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Moira Hauk

Carried

2. Chair

a. Restarting and 2022

March was a good restart with a return to virtual and live events. It is good to see a lot of new and old faces coming out and connecting. Overall, there is a sense of excitement for the times ahead. On the national front, it is important to keep an eye on the proposed Pharmacare program. Programs like this are often funded on the back of business and right now many businesses do not have those additional resources.

b. IDEA Committee Terms of Reference

**Motion to approve Terms of Reference for the IDEA Committee as presented.**

Moved by Richard Michaels

Seconded by Ann Squires-Ferguson

Carried

c. Policy – CEO Bonus Process (revisions to the 2009 policy)

**Motion to approve updated CEO Bonus Process as presented.**

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Kris Wirk

Carried

3. CEO

a. Engagement with stakeholders & upcoming events

Meetings with members are now taking place in person and virtually. Facilitated a valuable connection between two members that may have the ability to positively impact the community as a whole. FlowerCount concluded with just under 28 billion blooms. CEO was present at the ceremony where the city of Victoria provided official support for the land transfer to the local First Nations from the province. Esquimalt's new Gorge Pavilion will be a new jewel in the area's meeting spaces. Recent meetings with potential new members have been fruitful.

Cruise will be returning to Greater Victoria in a week's time, and we look forward to the return of more international visitors. The board raised the question about vaccination passports being required going forward after the PHO no longer requires it or vaccination to attend events. Discussions about what others are doing in the region, some are following the PHO strictly and others have policies at a higher level reminiscent of rules prior to February 2022. As current events (now until May) went online prior to vaccination rules being voided, this remains a mandatory element for attendance. Discussions about liabilities/controversy of requiring a higher level of care than the current PHO orders, it can make The Chamber a lightning rod for controversy. Ideally best practices will create a common set of practices, The Chamber can provide leadership around this. Staff to provide the board their recommendation on how to manage events post-May.

b. Senate appointments (deadline April 20, 2022)

CEO has reached out to a local indigenous leader to see if they would be interested in the role.

c. Business Plan for 2022

**Motion to approve Business Plan for 2022 as presented.**

Moved by Richard Michaels

Seconded by Jessica Stigant

Carried

4. Committee Reports

a. Finance & Audit

i. KPIs for 2022

KPIs are on track to date for 2022

ii. Annual Audit 2021 – approval

Grant Thornton provided a thorough overview of the 2021 budget and in their report to the Finance & Audit Committee indicated that there were no issues of a material nature revealed by the audit.

**Motion to approve 2021 Annual Audited Financial Statements as presented.**

Moved by Moira Hauk

Seconded by Ann Squires-Ferguson

Carried

iii. Financials

Operation revenue and expenses were on track as of the end of February. There may be slightly lower revenue numbers for events, but that will be offset by lower expenses. Investment portfolio has seen a bit of a drop due to current market conditions. Discussion at the table around ethical investing, a recent meeting with our investment advisor confirmed that there are no Russian investments in our portfolio and RBC's existing mandate to prioritize ethical companies and or best practices in various sectors.

**Motion to approve February Financials as presented.**

Moved by Judith Ethier

Seconded by James Gatsi

Carried

b. Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

In 2022, the committee has met twice hearing key speakers. A meeting on immigration and credentialing provided valuable insight on to determine how we can best support bringing in new workers. The committee also met with Port Alberni to talk about what's needed to build an expanded supply port for the island. Future meetings will look at The Chamber's role, as a nonpartisan participant, in the upcoming municipal elections and how to focus attention on issues that matter to local businesses. The committee is looking to present a new public-facing advocacy visual to the Board in June.

c. IDEA Committee

The first meeting was in February and the committee is made up of an active, diverse group of members who provided great feedback and enhancements for the Terms of Reference. Excited to start to dig in and provide ways to increase our diversity, inclusivity, and equity in The Chamber and foster opportunities for marginalized businesses. Connections and support are being seen as key for those businesspeople being able to utilize/access/benefit from the programs and funding and procurement processes that are available.

d. 160<sup>th</sup> Committee

The committee is early in the planning stages. Plans to meet with the three postsecondary institutions on setting up a bursary next year. Discussion on interacting with the elementary schools by developing a time capsule talking about the future of The Chamber. Efforts are in progress to hire a student to work on a history project to expand on the last 60 years (last publication was on the first 100 years). CEO to talk with the local indigenous leaders on how best to manage the celebration in a respectful manner. First event of 2023 will be an extra special mixer February 9<sup>th</sup>.

e. Ambassador Committee

Working more closely with the Prodigy Group on the mentorship program, providing follow-up support. April will be the first in person Ambassador meeting since 2020. Ambassadors have finessed a new program to support the membership team at the mixers and mingles to welcome and support new and future members.

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

g. Prodigy Committee

Prodigy Group is working towards a new brand with a goal launch in 2023. One of the members of Prodigy feels strongly about providing support to the citizens of the Ukraine and is looking for opportunities to help. There are potentially 2 million refugees who need a new home and job. Discussions around supports needed to welcome those refugees and get them hired.

5. Presentation Victoria Airport Authority

6. Next Board meeting, May 31<sup>st</sup>, to include presentation from GVHA and Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society.

**Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Tom Plumb

Carried

Secretary

Chair