

Minutes –



GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Board Meeting –

May 27, 2021 | 7:30 – 9am | Virtual

Attended: John Wilson, Kris Wirk, Moira Hauk, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Ann Squires-Ferguson, Raul Caballero, Judith Ethier, Captain (Navy) Sam Sader, Pedro Marquez, Dan Dagg, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

Regrets: Rose Arseneault, Tom Plumb, Ian Batey

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 Sam Sader

Seconded by Ann Squires-Ferguson

Carried

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting.

Moved by Pedro Marquez

Seconded by Judith Ethier

Carried

2. Chair

It is encouraging to see the end of the circuit breaker and a plan being put in place for Restart. Looking forward to a return to safely planned live events as well as hybrid. The Chamber has been nimble in providing services during the pandemic. The pandemic has underscored the importance of chambers and how important our voice is in impacting change and policy changes at all levels of government. Chamber advocacy work must continue as we move past this dark period in order to help the country as a whole bounce forward from this. The way that our board, committees and members have pulled together through this crisis says incredible things about our community.

This is a good time to think forward about the fact that many of the same challenges – enough skilled workers – and opportunities – world-class education – still remain and continue to need our attention. Along with new challenges around a diminished and backlogged supply chain and a burgeoning provincial and federal debt.

3. CEO

Media outreach remains strong and a critical part of our advocacy. Chamber Chats remain a positive effort to reflect pivot pilots and opportunities. Videos for Colwood & GVHA have been done in addition to the various letters of support.

Business Awards were well received with 80,000 viewers and impressions marking a nearly 50% increase in audience.

Support provided for the bid for the 2030 Olympics. Hall of Fame to launch shortly. Patios & Picnics contest is done in partnership with four other stakeholders. This will have a two-phase approach including “gifting” free meals, Tue, Wed & Thurs. for four weeks of the contest.

The Chamber has been invited to support Black-led businesses to provide better access and connections within the broader community.

An aggressive campaign highlighting #ChamberChangeMakers promoting vaccinations has been highly successful. We will continue to run the campaign to encourage over 75% vaccination rate.