

THE CHAMBER.

GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Board Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2020 | 7:30 – 9:30 am

Attending: John Wilson, Dan Dagg, Moira Hauk, Tom Plumb, Bruce Williams, Pedro Marquez, Ian Batey, Kris Wirk, Captain (Navy) Sam Sader, Carmen Charette, Rose Arsenault, Judith Ethier, Paul van Koll, Christina Clark, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff).

Regrets: Brianna Green

Observers: Richard Michaels, Erin Boggs, Ann Squires-Ferguson

1. Agenda/Minutes

Motion to approve agenda as is.

Moved by Kris Wirk

Seconded by Rose Arsenault

Carried

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting.

Moved by Pedro Marquez

Seconded by Paul van Koll

Carried

2. Chair's Remarks

Welcome to the new board members for 2021. Comments on the important work that The Chamber and board do and how rewarding it is. Thanks to departing Board Members – Carmen Charette, Brianna Green and Paul van Koll.

Motion to accept the appointments as presented by the 2021 Board Nominating Committee

Moved by Ian Batey

Seconded by Tom Plumb

Carried

Motion to appoint the Base Commander, Chair of the Prodigy Committee and CEO of The Chamber to the 2021 Chamber Board.

Moved by Judith Ethier

Seconded by Carmen Charette

Carried

Reminder of commitment and responsibilities as a Chamber Board member including attendance at Board meetings. Board guidance is key, now even more than ever, as we work to make sure our region bounces forward out of this pandemic.

Chamber Member of the Year nominees were reviewed. Over the last four years there have been some outstanding winners. This year's winner is John Espley.

Discussion on 2021 Awards and criteria in terms of the change from Governors' Lifetime Achievement Award to Award of Distinction. Reminder to the Board that they also take part in the vote for this award alongside the governors. Request to look at 2022 to see if we can do an evening event or plan a longer meeting to encourage a social portion for the governors and board.

Action Item: Task Force struck with the following members: Pedro Marquez, John Wilson, Rose Arsenault and Ian Batey to review the criteria for Chamber Member of the Year, Award of Distinction and a possible new emeritus category to report back to the Board before the end of 2020.

Discussion on most effective way to reconfigure the Board Session due to COVID restrictions. Decision made to shift the planning session to Dec 16 & 17 as a potentially two-day event and add additional time quarterly March, June, September & November to review status and direction.

3. CEO Report

This year's annual Auction was purely online and ran for one week. Overall the results fell a little short of previous years but were exceptional in this year of COVID. New programs for 2020/2021 are doing well. There are now 8 Chamber Champions in total. Work will be done to ensure optimum engagement and benefit for each of the champions. A new Chamber Chat series of vodcasts, sponsored by Island Savings will provide broadcast quality vodcasts of approximately 26 per year. CEO has recorded a chamber PSA promoting Chamber membership. This will run on CHEK and promote all chamber memberships, not just ours in the spirit of collaboration. The Chamber CEO & Chair continue to meet with the BC Chamber as they transition to a new CEO in order to perform the annual review of membership. Chamber offices, although they remain open, staffing is limited due to newly announced COVID restrictions, and doors remain locked to the public and all meetings and events are being held virtually until the restrictions are lifted by the Provincial Health Officer.

The Victoria by-election debate hosted by The Chamber was extremely lively with a focus on candidate plans for their term. Recommendations for appointments requested by two external organizations. Based on requested skills matrix, Karen Tunkara from the Songhees Nation was sent forward to the Reaching Home Community Advisory Board. Michelle Stilwell's name was put forward as a potential nominee to the Senate.

Public Policy & Advocacy Committee has pivoted to a zoom roundtable using the expertise and diversity on the committee to inform The Chamber on our rapidly changing environment and current advocacy needs and how best we can help our members. This has been informing staff advocacy efforts.

Prodigy Group is examining virtual mingles efficacy until we can return to in person meetings. Work has been done to shore up the committee members during this time of chaos but additional committee members are needed in Communications and Mentorship. Critical to bring in new engaged members.

Ambassador Committee is doing well, attending the virtual events and meeting monthly virtually. Additional work has been done to promote connecting with Ambassadors with members during this time of social isolation. Engagement is still a challenge, without face to face meetings – both from the committees and the membership.

Motion to accept the Executive, Policy, Prodigy & Ambassador Reports as presented.

Moved by Carmen Charette

Seconded by Sam Sader

Carried

Motion to recognize the extraordinary efforts, creativity and innovation of the Chamber staff during this time of crisis

Moved by Ian Batey

Seconded by Pedro Marquez

Carried

5. **Next Meeting – Tuesday, Sept 29, 2020 - 7:30 – 9:00am**

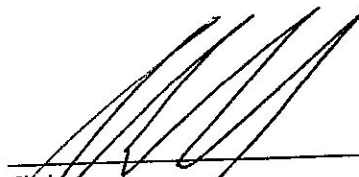
Motion to adjourn

Moved by Dan Dagg

Seconded by Carmen Charette

Carried


Secretary


Chair