

Minutes –

Chamber Board Meeting –

November 25, 2022 | 7:30 – 9:30am

THE CHAMBER.

GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Attendees: John Wilson, Christina Clarke, Richard Michaels, Ann Squires-Ferguson, Dan Dagg, Kris Wirk, Fallon Lindsay, Pedro Marquez, James Gatsi, Rose Arsenault, Jessica Stigant, Moira Hauk, Judith Ethier, Captain (Navy) Jeff Hutchinson, Paul van Koll, Bruce Williams, Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman (staff). **Guest:** Josue Dubon

Thank you to the Songhees Nation for welcoming us to their home. *The Greater Victoria Chamber acknowledges that our members live and do business on the Traditional Territory of the Lakwungen speaking peoples. It also recognizes the First Nations governments across this region.*

1. Motion to approve the agenda.

MOVED by Judith Ethier SECONDED by James Gatsi CARRIED

2. Motion to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez SECONDED by Jeff Hutchinson CARRIED

3. Chair

a. General comments

At my last meeting as the Chair of this Board, I wanted to thank the board for all of their support of the Board and The Chamber. There are lot of positive discussions about what The Chamber is doing and I'm proud to have been part of the building of this robust organization. Very proud to be part of this organization because of the support we provide and our contribution to our members' success. It was an honour to be the Chair through such a tumultuous period.

Thanks were extended to Dan Dagg in his role as past chair at his last official board meeting. He has been a strong supporter of The Chamber and his cohorts on the board. His work for the community and The Chamber has been phenomenal. Dan came to the chamber during a period of personal turmoil, and it was a good thing for both Dan and The Chamber. He has made good friends and great contacts that will continue to strengthen both his work and life experiences.

A welcome was offered to new board members as observers for board meeting and participants in planning session with a specific welcome to Josue Dubon who will be taking over the position as the Prodigy Chair in 2023. And a thank you to Paul van Koll's at his last meeting for all of your hard work. Exciting times to come.

b. Approval of Nomination Committee recommendations for committee appointments (attached)

Discussion was held about the new executive and committee placements for 2023. A welcome was extended to James Gatsi in his new role as Secretary of the Board.

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Nomination Committee recommendations as presented.

MOVED by Richard Michaels SECONDED by Pedro Marquez CARRIED

Motion to appoint the Base Commander of CFB Esquimalt to the 2023 Chamber Board as a director and appoint the CEO of the Chamber and the Prodigy Group chair as non-voting members of the 2023 Board.

MOVED by Christina Clarke SECONDED by Kris Wirk CARRIED

A reminder of Board Attendance expectations was provided, asking that the board make themselves available for all meetings and miss no more than two. A reminder as well of Business Award nominations being open and it is a great way to support and promote businesses in the region. The board reviewed the candidates for the 2023 Chamber Member of the Year, candidates in the room recused themselves from the discussion and vote.

Motion to accept the 2023 Chamber Member of the Year as Ann Squires Ferguson.

MOVED by Dan Dagg SECONDED by Rose Arsenault CARRIED

Discussion ensued on the list of finalists for the 2023 Chamber Award of Distinction candidates. The list was cut down to five candidates who will then go forward to independent judging for the final selection. In the room recused themselves from the discussion and vote.

Motion to proceed with the following candidates for 2023 Chamber Award of Distinction: Alan Lowe, Erinn Pinkerton, Julian Daly, Mandy Farmer and Margaret Lucas.

MOVED by Moira Hauk SECONDED by Jessica Stignant CARRIED

4. CEO

There has been significant engagement with stakeholders over the past months ranging from BC Chamber Executives to BDC engagement, VIEA role, Island Health event and SIPP's Rising Economy Week. The Greater Victoria Chamber 1863 Impact Award was announced providing \$160,000 in funding to assist dependents of Chamber members and/or youth in underrepresented minorities who are financially disadvantaged with \$2,000 to assist with the first year's tuition. Auction exceeded expectations by a large margin. Reminder about Chair's Holiday Reception - and the goal of filling a bus with items for Our Place.

Discussion around the need for The Chamber to be a strong advocate and support for the new mayors and councilors. CEO has reached out to all the mayors and chatted with most.

5. Committee Reports

a. Executive & Governance Committee

Review of Terms of Reference for all committees. Both the Executive & Governance Committee and Prodigy Group will have their ToR approved in 2023.

Motion to approve the Terms of Reference for the Ambassador, Finance & Audit, IDEA, Public Policy & Advocacy Committees for 2023.

MOVED by Moira Hauk SECONDED by Rose Arsenault CARRIED

b. Finance & Audit

Review of KPIs to date and October financials. Overall objectives were met in situations where COVID was not part of the equation. Investment is down as is the markets. Although the net results of the Financial Statement show a loss, if the numbers did not reflect the \$160,000 Impact Award it would be \$25,500 to the positive. The budget for 2023 was reviewed and approved as a slight deficit based on two major projects for 2023 that are non-ongoing operational items.

Motion to approve the 2023 Budget as presented

MOVED by Moira Hauk SECONDED by Judith Ethier CARRIED

Motion to bring forward to the membership the appointment of KPMG as The Chamber's auditors for Fiscal 2023

MOVED by Moira Hauk SECONDED by Pedro Marquez CARRIED

c. Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Advocacy Priorities for 2023 were presented. Important that we keep the priorities finite and achievable within our scope. Discussion ensued around the imagery and the positive feeling of connectivity. The concept of bridge and the stones provides a flow showing membership and building. Suggested changes: Climate Action Leadership, Healthy & Safe Communities, promoting a sense of safety at home & at work. There was some concern that the headers: Finding & Keeping Workers, Growth & Development of Work, Safe at Home & at Work - places too much emphasis on "it's all on us".

Motion to approve the Advocacy Priorities as presented

MOVED by Christina Clarke SECONDED by James Gatsi CARRIED

d. Prodigy Committee

Focusing on growing the committee as 2023 will be an active year. Rebranding work is going well and expected to have final rebranding document before Christmas. The goal was to change from a name that can seem elitist and evolve into a brand designed to be welcoming and provide a good starting point for future members to join The Chamber. Discussion on recommended name changes based on feedback from committee and surveys of the membership.

Motion to rebrand the Prodigy Committee as Emerge as of January 1, 2023

MOVED by Pedro Marquez SECONDED by James Gatsi CARRIED

e. 160th Committee

Outreach for engagement around the Greater Victoria Chamber 1863 Impact Award is ongoing and the first cohort of 13 students to receive the award will start school in Fall 2023. The anniversary party to celebrate the 160th is scheduled for February 9th and will be held at the Royal BC Museum as an elevated mixer.

f. IDEA Committee

Based on a recommendation from the IDEA committee, pronouns are now being offered at part of registration for events. Additional conversations around providing Ambassadors and Board with "Safe with Me" buttons to show support for anyone attending an event who may be isolated, alone, or unwelcome. The committee volunteered to staff a booth for The Chamber at the first Colourful Business Event in order to engage a more diverse business community. Outreach is happening with the Pride Parade locally to be more involved.

g. Indigenous Roundtable

The Chamber has doubled the number of indigenous members in the past year. Lots of good conversations and most recently a very successful mixer focused on this sector engendering great conversations and connections.

h. Ambassadors

Things are going well with the committee and its outreach. They have two new committee members and are excited about initiatives discussed around pronouns and Safe with Me buttons.

Motion to accept Board Committee Reports as presented.

MOVED by Rose Arsenault SECONDED by Richard Michaels CARRIED

The outgoing chair proffered his thanks to the Board, CEO and Chamber staff. The incoming chair indicated his excitement to lead the Board and build on the success of a 160 years of Chamber. It is by fostering a community of good corporate citizens that we are left with a strong community.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED by Dan Dagg SECONDED by Rose Arsenault CARRIED



Secretary



Chair

