

THE CHAMBER.

GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 28, 2020 | 7:30 – 9:30 am

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

Regrets: Christina Clark, Captain (Navy) Sam Sader, Carmen Charette,

1. Agenda/Minutes

Motion to approve agenda as is.

Moved by Moira Hauk

Seconded by Kris Wirk

Carried

Motion to approve minutes from previous board meeting.

Moved by Rose Arsenault

Seconded by Paul van Koll

Carried

2. Chair's Remarks

Welcome to the board and welcome to Erin Boggs who is sitting in on behalf of Brianna Green representing the Prodigy Group. Great participation and feedback from broadcasting the awards on CHEK. 5 Chamber Mixer was wonderful. Great work from the staff and CEO. Update on the Chamber Board election. Great slate of candidates and election engagement is on track with historical numbers. Voting ends at noon on Oct. 1.

Motion to appoint Christina Clarke to the Esquimalt Victoria Harbour Society Board.

Moved by John Wilson

Seconded by Judith Ethier

Carried

Reminder of Committee Member Recruitment is in place. Please encourage Chamber members to apply by Oct. 11

Chair and CEO met with BC Chamber Chair and acting CEO to discuss current conditions, review on consultation, value for service and distinct messaging as well as confirmation of non-partisan status. It was a good start to the annual review.

Motion to appoint the 2021 Board Nominating Committee is formed by Past-Chair, Chair & Vice-Chair

Moved by Ian Batey

Seconded by Kris Wirk

Carried

Chamber Member of the Year nominations are now open. Over the last four years there have been some outstanding winners.

Nominations are generated by the Board and due by October 27. Voting on the winner will take place at the November board meeting.

3. Finance & Audit Committee

Reminder that revenue in the financials reflects invoiced versus actuals, but invoicing is currently tracking at just over 67% compared to a normal annual figure of 86-88%. Overall financials are on track for the adjusted budget due to cost-cutting and government subsidies.

Motion to approve the financials as presented.

Moved by Moira Hauk

Seconded by Paul van Koll

Carried

Discussion of the Investment Portfolio and creating a formalized policy on purpose as recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee. Discussion around what other organizations use their portfolio for and how best to restructure our current policy on the fund to better reflect the needs of the organization based on contractual obligations versus opportunities.

There is a feeling that 2021 will continue to lag economically as 2020 pandemic conditions continue. The provincial and federal governments have been helpful and open to assisting the area but support in particular areas has been short of the mark. The provincial election will have impact on the overall economic health for the coming years of recovery.

#ChamberLocal campaign is launching to support and promote our local businesses on all of our social media platforms. Work continues to take place on the Malahat Nation Film Studio providing ample connections.

Victoria by-election debate was a very lively discussion with a focus on what the candidates have planned for their term.

4. Finance & Audit Committee

Affiliation revenue remains solid. Reminder that revenue in the financials reflects invoiced versus actuals, but invoicing is currently tracking at just over 71% compared to a normal annual figure of 86-88%. Overall financials are on track for the adjusted budget due to cost-cutting and government subsidies. Deferred Referred reflects the Michelle Obama event.

Motion to approve the financials as presented.

Moved by Moira Hauk
Seconded by Kris Wirk
Carried

There is a feeling that 2021 will continue to lag economically as 2020 pandemic conditions continue.

Motion to approve the 2021 Budget as presented.

Moved by Moira Hauk
Seconded by Pedro Marquez
Carried

Discussion of the Investment Portfolio Policy update. A larger than usual amount of money has been placed in cash reserves in order to offset any potential cash needs.

Motion to approve the updated Investment Portfolio Policy as presented.

Moved by Moira Hauk
Seconded by Sam Sader
Carried

5. Committee Reports

Executive & Governance Committee's draft minutes were reviewed. Updated Skills Matrix for the 2021 Board was reviewed. Chamber Champion program may become a fee for service for other Chambers, the program has been patented. By-election is critical to provide a better voice for business in the council chambers. The Chamber continues to work cohesively with stakeholders to find better solutions around community safety and mental health to eliminate homelessness.

Public Policy & Advocacy Committee review and approval of board focused priorities for 2021 to be provided to the Board in November. Important to keep the 2021 policies fluid and responsive to changes due to pandemic. Discussions around property taxes on best use taxing and how it impacts small businesses.

Motion to approve the 2021 Policy Priorities as presented.

Moved by Kris Wirk
Seconded by Sam Sader
Carried

Prodigy Group had their retreat in November and adjusted their plans for 2021 to look for extra value for the members. Plans include both virtual and possible physical events when allowed. Will continue to focus on Mingles and Mentorship. Looking for additions to the board in mingles, mentorship and communications. Acknowledgement of the very hard work done by the Prodigy Group and outgoing chair Brianna Green during this very challenging year.

Ambassador Committee is very robust with four new members – now 12 of which 3 are Board Members. Discussions around Ambassador attendance and engagement. 2020 has been challenging without in-person events or meetings. 2021 meetings will ideally have speakers to assist in providing value to the Ambassadors and The Chamber. Reiterated importance of in person meetings once COVID regulations permit.

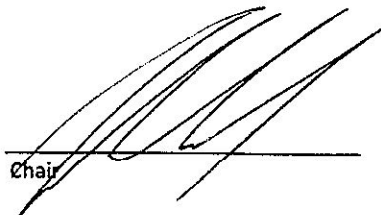
Motion to accept the Executive, Policy, Prodigy & Ambassador Reports as presented.

Moved by Carmen Charette
Seconded by Paul van Koll
Carried

6. Next Meeting – December 16, 2020 - 7:30 – 10am

Motion to adjourn
Moved by Pedro Marquez
Seconded by Christina Clarke
Carried


Secretary


Chair