

Minutes – Chamber Board Meeting –

March 28, 2023 | 7:30 – 9:30am | Hybrid

**THE
CHAMBER.**

GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

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.

Addition of a request from Canadian Chamber for a letter of support to the CEO report

MOVED by Moira Hauk SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson CARRIED

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

MOVED by Rose Arsenault SECONDED by Pedro Marquez CARRIED

3. Chair's Remarks

- a. Support for downtown businesses resulted in a letter from a variety of stakeholders being sent to the provincial government on their sudden shift back to work from home and the effect on the downtown economy. The City Partners group of stakeholders have been reconvened in a new format not led by the Victoria mayor.
- b. February was a very successful month with both the 160th celebrations & Chamber Week workshops and events engaging with members.

Motion to move In Camera

MOVED by Ann Squires-Ferguson SECONDED by Fallon Lindsay CARRIED

Motion to leave In Camera

MOVED by Judith Ethier SECONDED by Christina Clarke CARRIED

4. CEO Report

- a. Parking is again rising up as an issue with members. The City of Victoria has expanded the hours where paid parking rates apply and increase rates. The goal is to use that additional revenue to attract additional visits downtown. A recent development was asked to go back and review their proposed development to reduce parking spots per unit. There are concerns about the long-term impact of those decisions on street parking and shopping centre parking in the area.
- b. The Chamber continued to advocate on behalf of Belleville Terminal upgrades. CEO met with the Consul General and brought forward the need for Federal financial support for the upgrade. This was brought forward to the American Ambassador to Canada to share with the U.S. President to ensure that any delays or funding issues do not result in the currently threatened loss of US customs and marine border. Insufficient funding could also result in heavy tolls/per passenger costs that might negatively impact visitor traffic.
- c. Champions Update: Announcing Starlight Developments, Camosun College, Times Colonist
- d. Engagement with stakeholders. Flower Count was a success again this year with 33.4 billion blooms counted. Five local chambers will now be meeting quarterly on synergies where we can work together. Recent tours for Champions and members include CFB Esquimalt and the new BC Housing facility on Albina St. CEO and various members of the board to attend a BC Chamber luncheon with the Premier and Cabinet. Continuing conversations with CRD and municipalities about snow removal and better plans to keep traffic moving around the region when it snows. Exploring opportunities with ICA to provide better support for new immigrants launching businesses.

5. Committee Reports

a. Executive & Governance Committee

Motion to approve Committee Terms of Reference as presented for the Emerge Committee

MOVED by Rose Arseneault SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson CARRIED

b. Finance & Audit

Motion to accept the Financials as presented.

MOVED by Moira Hauk SECONDED by Judith Ethier CARRIED

Motion to accept the 2022 Annual Audited Financial Statements as presented.

MOVED by Moira Hauk SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson CARRIED

c. Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Report on February & March meetings with guest speakers - Ian Tostenson from BC Restaurant Foodservices Association and Dan Elliot from CRD Capital Regional Housing. April will feature Stephen Tapp, Chief Economist with Canadian Chamber of Commerce

d. Ambassador Committee – all is going well and the return to in person Chamber Events has been a boon.

e. Emerge Committee – lots of great new members joining the committee. Working on building up strengths in mentorship before strongly marketing it to the full Chamber membership.

f. IDEA Committee – Working on outreach with various events and diverse associations. Developing a question in the upcoming membership survey to measure our diversity success.

Motion to accept Board Committee Reports as presented.

MOVED by Pedro Marquez SECONDED by Ann Squires-Ferguson CARRIED

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED by Jessica Stigant SECONDED by James Gatsi CARRIED



Secretary



Chair

Guest Speaker for the March Board Meeting – Paul Nursey, Destination Greater Victoria