



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING #56

**Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
Held at 9:00 a.m. on 22 February 2008
Fairfield Room, Coast Harbourside Hotel**

In attendance:

Doug Enns, Community Director
Councillor Bea Holland, City of Victoria
Mark Lindholm, Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society
Dan McAllister, Tourism Victoria
Ian Maxwell, Community Director
Don Prittie, Capital Regional District
John Sanderson, Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society
Bill Wellburn, Provincial Capital Commission
Rick Wiertz, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce
Randy Wright, Community Director

GM & Resources:

Darryl Anderson, Manager Business Development
Ian Crocker, Manager Infrastructure
Sonterra Ross, Corporate Controller
Paul Servos, Chief Executive Officer
Rebecca Penz, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Barbara Desjardins, Township of Esquimalt
Chief Andy Thomas, Esquimalt Nation
Chief Robert Sam, Songhees Nation

Guests:

Dan Kukat, Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society

Jim Allard, Hyack Air
Bob Barlow, Westcan Terminals
Paul Ridout, GVHA Life Member
Martin Scherzer, Shoal Point Advisory Committee
Jill Stainforth, Fisherman's Wharf Advisory Committee

1. Call to Order

Don Prittie, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

2. Introduction

The Chair welcomed Dan Kukat, Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society, to the Board. His appointment will begin March 1, 2008.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Wright/Holland)

That the agenda be approved with the following amendment:

- Election of new secretary moved to top of the agenda.

CARRIED

5. Election of New Secretary

MOTION (Holland/Wright)

That Dan Kukat be elected to the position of GVHA Board Secretary.

CARRIED

4. Review/Approve Minutes

MOTION (Wellburn/Wiertz)

That the minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Business

6.1 Chairman's Report

Don Prittie reported on the following activities since the last board meeting:

- Mayor Lowe has agreed to attend Sea Trade Cruise Ship Convention as an ambassador for Victoria.
- Don Prittie attended Greg McAllister's father's funeral to support Greg in his time of need.

Mark Lindholm arrived at 9:15am.

6.2 CEO's Report

Mr. Servos updated the Board on Management's activities over the past two months. The highlights include:

- The caisson repairs at Ogden Point are nearing completion. They will be ready in time for the first cruise ship on April 3, 2008. The project is coming in on time and within budget.
- Fisherman's Wharf improvements include the extension of the pathway, shoreline revitalization/naturalization, and the addition of a new floating washroom facility.
- The reinvigoration of the cruise ship terminal is scheduled to be complete in time for the 150th cruise ship of the year on August 23 in order to celebrate BC's 150th anniversary. Signage at Ogden Point is near completion. Landscaping has begun and repairs on the warehouse have started.
- Cargo visits are increasing. Ogden Point has had two cargo ships call this year. They were both in port to clean the cargo holds.
- BC Ferries new ship, Coastal Renaissance, docked at Ogden Point for a public open house on February 8, 2008. 6,000 people attended the open house.
- GVHA has invested in numerous improvements in the Inner Harbour Marinas including:
 - removing old piles and adding new fender piles at Ship Point
 - adding handrails to the Causeway staircase
 - installing a vessel sewage pump out station
 - replacing the main gates at the Causeway marina

- expanding the Broughton Street pier
- replacing planks on the Johnson Street floats.
- The Business Plan was further revised and updated, and the Capital Expense Plan and Operating Budget were developed from the Business Plan. Working with the human resources consultant, Management realigned the manpower to align with Business Plan. Senior managers, Sonterra Ross, Darryl Anderson and Ian Crocker, will handle more of the operational side, allowing Paul Servos to focus on the harbour development and the First Nations economic development objectives.
- Management held meetings with cruise clients to further the port's destination marketing. Paul Servos had discussions with the cruise tourism clients about the proposed mooring dolphin to ensure it will meet the needs of the customer.

6.2 I. Passenger Vessel Services Act

American authorities are currently reevaluating the interpretation of the Passenger Vessel Services Act foreign port-of-call qualification. The changes could require cruise ships to stay at least 48 hours in a foreign port and spend at least 50% of their time in foreign waters. This could damage the Seattle's cruise ship business. The Association of American Port Authorities is arguing that it is such a significant change that it would require a change to the legislation.

The proposed interpretative change could have an impact on Victoria's cruise business; however, it's unclear how the industry could evolve. Management does not anticipate any changes for 2008 or 2009. Management continues to monitor the situation through Cruise BC, Cruise the West, and the NorthWest CruiseShip Association.

Management anticipates the following activities for 2008:

- 211 cruise ship calls
- 15 pocket cruise ship calls
- 15-20 cargo ship calls
- 1,500 transient moorage vessels

Special Events include:

- Tall ships
- BC 150th celebration

6.3 Board Correspondence

John Sanderson presented the following correspondence:

- GVHA received a letter from Roger Palmer, a resident of Shoal Point, who would like to tie up at Fisherman's Wharf. He suggests that GVHA needs to remove the derelict boats and accelerate the reinvigoration in order to make Fisherman's Wharf a more desirable marina to moor at.
- GVHA received a copy of a letter sent to the Township of Esquimalt from the North Coast MLA, Gary Coons, arguing that the extension of property tax caps on ports burdens municipalities.
- GVHA received a letter from Western Stevedoring informing that Westcan Terminals and Western have amalgamated under the name of Western Stevedoring.
- GVHA sent a letter to Martin Paish, Ministry of Environment, clarifying that the GVHA has not given formal approval to the idea of a net pen project at Ogden Point.
- GVHA received a letter from Tourism Victoria informing that they are creating a Transportation Committee in order to review and address inbound and local transportation issues relating to the tourism industry.
- GVHA received a thank you letter from Ken Kelly of Team Raven, the paralympic sailing team supported by the Society.

- GVHA sent a letter to the City of Victoria Planning Department regarding GVHA's concerns about potential negative impacts on the working harbour by pressure from increased residential growth.

6.4 Downtown Plan Harbour Implications

GVHA Management met with the City of Victoria planner responsible for the Downtown Plan project and expressed concerns related to Options 3 & 4, which would have significant impacts on the working harbour.

Management also had a brief discussion with the planner about the pathway project and advised that the GVHA will participate in achieving the dream of a harbour pathway but will not give up its littoral rights in doing so.

6.5 Unsolicited Business Proposals

The unsolicited business proposal guidelines that were created in 2005 have been updated.

Issues include:

- The timeline provided by the guidelines is unworkable (entrepreneurial ventures don't necessarily coincide with the GVHA fiscal year).
- By posting unsolicited business proposal guidelines on the web, GVHA gives the impression that it is soliciting for new businesses.
- Most of Management's time in business development is spent working with existing clients to expand their current business, yet the guidelines don't address working with those clients.

Management is developing a set of principles that will be used to help guide decision making with a pragmatic realistic timeframe.

Management is bringing this item forward so that the Board is aware of the procedures used. This was requested at the December 2007 board meeting.

7. New Business

7.1 Presentations at Board Meetings Guidelines

Management receives requests from individuals and groups to make presentations at board meetings, however, we do not currently have an established process to respond.

The Board discussed whether it is reasonable to ask presenters to submit their requests 10 business days in advance of the board meeting. Management explained that it requires that amount of notice to be able to include it on the agenda.

MOTION (Lindholm/Wright)

That the Guidelines for Presentations at Board Meetings be approved and included in the policy manual with the following amendment:

"Notwithstanding the above, the chair may allow any presentation on an emerging basis if (s)he considers it imperative to the wellbeing of the GVHA."

CARRIED

ACTION: The Governance Committee will review the Guidelines for Presentations at Board Meetings.

7.2 Cruise BC Video

Darryl Anderson presented the Cruise BC video that was presented to cruise ship executives at recent receptions in Miami and Seattle.

The Board offered feedback and suggestions to improve the video.

The Board asked how Cruise BC is funded. It is an equal partnership between the five ports, Western Economic Diversification, and the Ministry of Tourism, Sports & the Arts.

The Board asked about the impact on the Port of Victoria by the challenges faced by Campbell River. Sustainability of the industry requires other BC ports to be successful. Campbell River has recently brought in a stronger Management team to address the concerns.

7.3 John Sanderson Thank You

Don Prittie presented John Sanderson with a gift and thanked him for his passion for Victoria's harbour. John Sanderson helped to build the organization and has made significant contributions to the success of the GVHA.

John Sanderson asked the Board to always keep the dream in mind.

8. Input from the public

Jill Stainforth, a Fisherman's Wharf float home owner, reported that the float home community offers something quaint and beautiful to the community. Members of the public stroll past their homes every day and the float home owners enjoy giving back to the community. The GVHA uses images of the float homes everywhere and yet the message the float home owners receive is far less committed. The float home owners would like clarification of what is going on. The licence of use says that clients are only secure for a few months. The notice says that at any time, the clients can be given seven days to leave the facility. The owners understand that they might not be able to stay forever, but they would like to know the GVHA's intentions. They are getting conflicting messages. They would like to work with the GVHA and would like the float home community to add to Victoria's charm for a long, long time.

Paul Ridout, GVHA life member commented that the Cruise BC video is too long. He suggested getting footage from the cruise line industry.

Jim Allard had three comments:

1. The agenda package that was distributed at the door is missing pages. The package was not posted on the website as usual.
2. He is concerned about the security in the harbour. He would like to see the security strategy in the GVHA Business Plan.
3. Hyack Air has received an inquiry from a group of 100 people that want to come and stay in Victoria and commute by float plane to Whistler during the Olympics. The 2010 Olympics is going to provide a huge opportunity for this harbour. The GVHA needs to capitalize on this.

There being no additional comments, the meeting was adjourned to the in-camera session at 10:30am.