



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING #58

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
Held at 9:00 a.m. on 13 June 2008
GVHA Board Meeting Room
202 – 468 Belleville Street

In attendance:

Barbara Desjardins, Township of Esquimalt
Dan Kukat, Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society
Mark Lindholm, Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society
Ian Maxwell, Community Director
Don Prittie, Capital Regional District
Randy Wright, Community Director
Bea Holland, City of Victoria

Resources:

Paul Servos, Chief Executive Officer
Darryl Anderson, Manager Business Development & Customer Service
Ian Crocker, Manager Infrastructure
Sonterra Ross, Corporate Controller
Julia Park, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Dan McAllister, Tourism Victoria
Doug Enns, Community Director
Bill Wellburn, Provincial Capital Commission
Chief Robert Sam, Songhees Nation
Chief Andy Thomas, Esquimalt Nation
Vacant, Chamber of Commerce

Guests:

Doug Craig, James Bay Neighbourhood Association
Pat Brown, James Bay Neighbourhood Association
Helen Tremaine, James Bay Neighbourhood Association
Dunstan Chicanot, Fisherman's Wharf Customer
Jim Allard, Hyack Air
Bob Barlow, Western Stevedoring
Greg McAllister, King Bros. Ltd.
Rebecca Penz, Communications Coordinator, GVHA
Brigitte Runkel, Financial Analyst, GVHA
Kyla Fiddick, Assistant Controller, GVHA

1. Call to Order

Don Prittie, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

2. Introduction

Don Prittie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Desjardins/Wright)

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Review/Approve Minutes

MOTION (Desjardins/Wright)

That the minutes of Public Meeting #57 be approved with a correction on page 001473, under Item 5, Business, 5.1 changing "This phase of mathematical" to "This phase of modeling".

CARRIED

5. Business

5.1 Chairman's Report

Don Prittie reported that he has been very busy since the last Board meeting attending several member agency meetings and updating them on the GVHA's Business Plan. Other highlights included the success of the Victoria International Floating Boat Show (despite unseasonable weather), Swiftsure, receiving a plaque for sponsorship while attending the unveiling of the new Victoria fire boat, the Cruise BC season opening dinner, and the Royal Victoria Yacht Club's opening day ceremonies. He noted that the main focus of the last two months has been the partnership meetings, including meetings with Mayor Alan Lowe and Council, MLA Carole James and MP Denise Savoie.

Island Farms has been provisioning ships here in Victoria and Vancouver. This is great news for GVHA and Island Farms, and is largely a result of the success of the Seatrade partnership.

5.2 CEO's Report

Paul Servos and Don Prittie spent considerable time consulting with member agencies and stakeholders since the last Board meeting. The presentation was based on GVHA's Business Plan. The key message was we are able to sustain the assets we manage, but we have to work with our partners for the future development of the harbour.

Shipping - There have been 5 cargo calls, 58 cruise calls, and 4 pocket cruiseship calls.

The caisson repairs are complete and the wall repair issues are being addressed. The project will be ongoing for the next few years.

The new GVHA sign is up on the Ogden Point warehouse, and the First Nations murals are in progress that will read "Welcome to the Traditional Territories of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations". The warehouse is painted and the landscaping is moving forward.

The Tahitian Princess was provisioned for the first time in Victoria this spring. The Dawn Princess continues to provision in Victoria in 2008.

Marinas and Attractions - Large events planned for the Inner Harbour: BC 150th Anniversary Celebration, Canada Day, Symphony Splash, etc. Marinas will get busier

but are significantly down for May and June. The large vessel strategy is helping. June is traditionally slow from Swiftsure to Canada Day. Fisherman's Wharf float improvements are going well and the foreshore improvements have been well received. The walkway was installed and the improvements meet the safety needs and concerns of the public. The floats are progressing and the garbage facility is in and working well. The dumpster system wasn't meeting the needs of GVHA. GVHA plans to expand moorage capacity and bring in additional clients.

Property Services - Progress is being made on market values for GVHA properties. Eagle Wing is a new vendor at Fisherman's Wharf. Victoria Harbour Ferries is introducing direct Causeway to Fisherman's Wharf service which should improve business activity at the wharf.

Transportation - GVHA continues to advocate for a Belleville Terminal redevelopment.

Harbour Development - Reports show that the working harbour is "under siege". There are issues emerging that will impact the working harbour.

Corporate Services – Management is finalizing a human resources manual to maintain good quality staff. GVHA presently has an experienced and committed staff.

5.3 James Bay Neighbourhood Association (JBNA) Presentation

Doug Craig, Transportation Committee Chair of the JBNA commented that he became a volunteer with the JBNA in order to enjoy and enhance the quality of life in James Bay. He has been working with Darryl Anderson and Paul Servos on some of the Association's concerns. He has an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders including taxi drivers, horse drawn carriages, bicycle cabs, and motor coaches about the impact of noise levels and the traffic flow that has been impacting some of the residents of James Bay. He thanked Paul Servos and Darryl Anderson for working together and stated that the relationship between JBNA and GVHA is not an adversarial one. He reported that the buses are having an impact in the neighbourhood. Although the cruise business and shore trips are successful, there is a high concentration of activity on Friday and Saturday nights between 5:00 and 7:00 pm. The counterclockwise traffic flow is an acceptable solution, and the residents are appreciative of the change in traffic pattern. Doug Craig again thanked GVHA for the continued efforts to find solutions to resident's concerns, saying the signage helps as well as the different systems for the buses leaving Ogden Point. He noted the first phase of the Air Quality Study was done, and the JBNA is considering further studies.

Doug Craig asked about the scheduling of Air Care vehicle testing for the buses. He suggested web-based reporting system where all stakeholders could communicate. He noted the industry continues to grow, but with the growth there is more traffic, etc. He asked if a future agenda could include a study on carrying capacity for Ogden Point. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak, and stated that working together is the key to success.

The Board discussed positive outcomes from GVHA and JBNA working together. GVHA has been proactive in mitigating perceived problems with pollution, traffic congestion, and bus idling. The City of Victoria Transportation Department has been very involved as a joint effort. The Board noted that the GVHA has been doing a good job seeing to the concerns of all stakeholders.

5.4 Market Rates Report

Darryl Anderson presented management's report on market rates.

A Board discussion followed regarding the best use of GVHA properties including:

- Moving into future property agreements most effectively
- Dealing with clients on an ad-hoc basis
- A move from short term to longer term agreements to improve revenue streams
- Legal challenges
- Setting formal processes
- The length and number of longer term clients
- PCC upland issues
- Tenant demands at different facilities.

The Board is concerned with some of the planning initiatives from the City of Victoria that affect the working harbour. GVHA prefers to be proactive rather than wait until the City of Victoria moves on these initiatives.

MOTION (Holland/Desjardins)

That GVHA management prepares for Board consideration, an analysis of the type, location, and duration of land use contracts that would be most beneficial for multi-year agreements in preparation for the next business cycle.

CARRIED

5.5 City of Victoria Harbour Planning Initiatives

Darryl Anderson presented a report on the City of Victoria Harbour Planning Initiatives.

Feedback included the need to mitigate land use conflicts, upcoming changes in City Council impact implementation of planning initiatives (residential and industrial), pressure from developers, support from all GVHA member agencies, garnering support for GVHA objectives, the need for a commitment from the City of Victoria to protect the working harbour, and the working harbour of the future.

MOTION (Lindholm/Wright)

That GVHA will work with the City of Victoria's elected officials to obtain a commitment from the Planning Department that the City will proactively adopt planning tools that will mitigate conflicting land use pressures so that the supply and use of marine industrial, commercial, and tourism property is not adversely impacted by urban growth pressures and public waterfront pathways.

CARRIED

5.6 Certificates of Compliance Update

Paul Servos noted that at the last Board meeting the Board commented on the lengthy process to get the Certificates of Compliance (CoC). Mr. Servos reported that management has attempted to move the CoC process forward. The delay has been caused by technical and scientific issues forced by the Ministry of Environment. CoCs are possible for the Upland, but Approvals in Principle (AIP) for the water covered lands are proposed.

Paul Servos summarized the results of his meeting with all parties involved, and reported that work will continue to expedite the process. An agreement was reached with all parties on the method to advance the review and approval process.

5.7 Cruising into History – Celebrating Ogden Point

Paul Servos updated the Board on the progress of upgrades and beautification of Ogden Point. In participation with the Ogden Point Enhancement Society, the Cruise Industry,

Victoria A.M., and the BC 150, GVHA is planning an event on August 23rd, from 4:30 to 10:00 pm to celebrate BC's 150th Anniversary in conjunction with Ogden Point improvements and the arrival of the 150th cruise ship of the season. It will be a great opportunity for local residents to see what GVHA has been doing to improve the facility. There will be music, tours of the warehouse murals, vendors, and fireworks. A request was made for everyone to put the date in their calendar.

Don Prittie noted the improvements are excellent, and Ogden Point is much more vibrant.

5.8 Board Correspondence

Don Prittie reviewed the correspondence:

- Letter from Westac, (Western Transportation Advisory council), thanking the GVHA for their participation at Westac's annual meeting in Victoria;
- Letter from the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce to the Honourable Stan Hagen with respect to future plans for the Belleville Terminal;
- Letter of complaint to GVHA (forwarded on to Transport Canada), from Antoinette Boltres regarding concerns of noise and perceived pollution from the float planes;
- Email correspondence to GVHA from Robin and Jillian Ridington expressing their concerns regarding the proposed mega-yacht marina;
- Team Raven, Paralympics sailing team, update and thank you;
- Article regarding the Victoria Fire Department's new fire boat; and
- Letter from Robert Barlow of Western Stevedoring sent to the I.L.W.U. (Longshoreman's Union), thanking them for their extra effort in loading provisions on the Dawn Princess.

Paul Servos commented that the thank you to the longshoreman is well deserved for their great work on the Dawn Princess, which led to more provisioning opportunities such as the Tahitian Princess. The customers were both impressed and satisfied.

Don Prittie noted that it was conveyed to him at Seatrade by industry representatives, that there is great appreciation for the service received in Victoria.

6. New Business

6.1 Updated Communications Strategy

Paul Servos commented on issues management: how and when items should be brought to the Board, integration of the ISPS security plan to the Communications Strategy, i.e. a terrorist attack, emergency call outs, etc. Components such as these will be added as we move forward, as well as a plan for how the Board will guide and assist when critical issues arise and/or escalate.

Rebecca Penz noted that the plan is a work in progress and asked the Board for any suggestions or input once they have reviewed the document.

Overall, it was noted that the Communications Strategy is ambitious, but it is a working document that will be further developed.

7. Sponsorship Policy

Don Prittie stated that GVHA needs to be clear on sponsorship policy implementation. The existing policy is not clear and as a result, some festivals and events end up complimentary while

others pay nominal rates. Event organizers need to know what to expect. Many of the relationships have a historical “grandfathered” element to them.

Discussion included:

- How to fairly identify and be consistent in our application of policy regarding sponsorship
- Clarity on what is being put forward
- Communications
- Market rates
- Resource challenges such as garbage, staff, and dock space
- Educating festival organizers on the GVHA's role
- Advertising and acknowledgement of GVHA participation
- Enterprise risk management.

MOTION (Holland/Wright)

That GVHA management prepares for Board consideration a Sponsorship Policy review.

CARRIED

8. Public Input

Greg McAllister thanked the GVHA for the improvements at Ogden Point on behalf of all the cruiselines. He said all the work has been noticed and is very much appreciated.

Jim Allard commended Darryl Anderson on their business negotiations which are ongoing.

Dunstan Chicano, a Fisherman's Wharf customer, reported that he would like to see more of a marine experience at Fisherman's Wharf. He feels the area has much more potential for a “green” place for tourists than what is being offered now. He would like tourists on cruiseships to have information that there are alternatives to taking a bus downtown and inquired about getting information onto the cruise ships before tourists arrive to let them know what they can experience in Victoria.

The Board responded that many tourists are walking from the Ogden Point terminal to Fisherman's Wharf and downtown. A brochure with a map and new signage identify walking routes to cruiseship passengers. Buses are using 100% bio-diesel to mitigate pollution.

A Board discussion followed regarding navy fire fighting tugs and whether or not the cruiselines could use them to dock in adverse conditions. Greg McAllister explained that the ships are self sufficient and the need for a tug is extremely rare. The cruise lines don't want to pay substantial costs to have a tractor tug on standby. Should a tug be required the client would pay the cost to have it relocated from Vancouver. It was noted that GVHA was involved in the original discussions, and it was determined there wasn't the need for the tugs or justification for the expense. Last year there was 100% dockage success at Ogden Point.

There being no additional comments, the meeting was adjourned to the in-camera session at 10:50 a.m.