



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING #59

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
Held at 9:00 a.m. on 8 August 2008
Coast Harbourside Hotel
146 Kingston 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
Dan McAllister, Tourism Victoria
Chief Andy Thomas, Esquimalt Nation
Bill Wellburn, Provincial Capital Commission
Doug Enns, Community Director
David Rand, Chamber of Commerce

Resources:

Paul Servos, Chief Executive Officer
Ian Crocker, Manager Infrastructure
Sonterra Ross, Corporate Controller
Julia Park, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Chief Robert Sam, Songhees Nation

Guests:

Marilynn Graham, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation
Jonathan Rayner, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation
Jim Allard, Hyack Air
Gerry Lutz, Ogden Point Enhancement Society
Paul Ridout, Ogden Point Enhancement Society

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced David Rand, the new Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce appointee to the Board. He congratulated Randy Wright as the new Chair of Tourism Victoria.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Wellburn/Wright)

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Review/Approve Minutes

MOTION (Wright/Desjardins)

That the minutes of Public Meeting #58 be approved.

CARRIED

5. Business

5.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported that the member agency meetings were complete with the exceptions of the Victoria / Esquimalt Harbour Society, Chamber of Commerce, and Tourism Victoria. Other meetings included a hearing regarding the shelter move to Burnside and a Victoria Conference Centre Advisory meeting regarding the addition of Crystal Gardens.

Other highlights since the last board meeting included:

- An inaugural visit ceremony aboard the Tahitian Princess
- Fundraising dinner aboard the USCGC Eagle during Tall Ships to benefit the programs/services of the Esquimalt Military Family Resource Centre
- the opening of the new Aura restaurant at Laurel Point
- meeting with Stockwell Day regarding port properties, general security issues, and a discussion with respect to Customs and the Belleville Terminal.

5.2 CEO's Report

The CEO gave a presentation of GVHA activities and progress at different facilities.

Shipping

The market remains strong; GVHA has only lost three ships due to weather conditions this season. At the Ogden Point terminal the Butchart Gardens mural is on the warehouse, with more to come from the City of Victoria, First Nations, Westcan, King Bros. Ltd., etc. The warehouse will have a First Nations theme with both Nation's logos on the doors and a sign welcoming visitors to the Nation's Traditional Territories. The landscaping has been completed, the ecological kiosk project is in progress, the band shell is complete and will host various artists for the entertainment of locals and cruiseship passengers. GVHA looks forward to showcasing Ogden Point to the local community and the cruise lines.

The grand opening of the Ogden Point terminal is August 23. GVHA is hosting an event with a recognition ceremony to honour all those who contributed to the improvements at Ogden Point. The event will include vendors, entertainment, a kids tent, a reception aboard the Holland America ship Westerdam, and a fireworks finale off the breakwater on a barge donated by Seaspan. As the crowd is expected to be large, GVHA will provide security. The breakwater will be secured, and the RCMP, Victoria Police Dept., Victoria Fire Dept., and other agencies will be in attendance to help secure traffic on the water and in the immediate neighbourhood.

Ellice Recycle Ltd. has donated its services to provide a zero waste event. GVHA has approached the BC 150 Commission for a grant to help cover expenses.

Marinas and Attractions

The Floating washrooms are in at Fisherman's Wharf and are functioning well. There have been problems with vandalism and the homeless sleeping inside. The wharf community and clients are assisting to monitor the area.

The new fence at the entrance to Fisherman's Wharf is complete, with a portion of the costs being paid by the neighbouring property owner.

GVHA is working well with the City of Victoria regarding the new easement. There will be no extra parking, but the area will be expanded, making it safer.

GVHA has a temporary agreement for the PCC waterlot. Expressions of interest are being sought for plans to reconfigure the area and will be looked at this winter. GVHA is working on a long term agreement with PCC.

Ship Point is busy with large vessels, the program is working well. Smaller boats are not arriving due to various factors, i.e. fuel costs, weather, etc. April, May, and June revenues are down by 50%. GVHA has recovered during July and August, but the numbers are still down 25 to 30% on transient vessels.

The inner harbour hosted several festivals. The Tall Ships event was well attended and financially successful. BC Day and Symphony Splash were enormous successes with exceptional entertainment and all events were problem free with the Causeway kept clean and unobstructed thanks to help from the City of Victoria and volunteers.

Property Services

Lease renewals continue with Hyack Air and Marine Masters; litigation is in progress.

Transportation

Belleville Terminal re-development is still on GVHA's agenda, but there is nothing new to report at this time.

The CEO also reported that the Fish on a Stick concession put on by the Esquimalt Nation at Tall Ships was a huge success in terms of experience. The weather was too hot; most hot food vendors did not do well financially. The First Nations did an extremely good job running the concession.

GVHA has reduced overhead due to industry challenges, rising overhead, and reduced revenues. Staff reductions include the terminations of one manager, one dock office person, and one maintenance person. Estimated savings are in the \$160,000 to \$180,000 range. A new organizational chart was provided to the Board indicating the staff changes.

Board discussion followed regarding lost revenue when a cruiseship cannot dock. GVHA and Western Stevedoring still incur all expenses whether the ship gets in or not. The ship does not pay if it can not dock. It is always the Captain's decision with respect to entering a port.

5.3 Board Correspondence

The Chair reviewed the correspondence:

- Complimentary note regarding the Victoria harbour from Herb Klinger, author of the book "Paddle Adventuring with Canoe & Kayak";

- Letter from the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce regarding the appointment of David Rand to GVHA's Board of Directors;
- Letter from Joan Hesketh, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment regarding Antoinette Boltre's letter of concern with respect to perceived floatplane noise and air pollution;
- Letter from GVHA Chair to Doug Craig, Transportation Chair, of the James Bay Neighbourhood Association thanking him for his presentation at GVHA's last Board meeting;
- Letter of congratulations from GVHA Chair, to the Honourable Stan Hagen with respect to his new portfolio;
- Letter from GVHA Chair to the Honourable Bill Bennett congratulating him on his new portfolio as Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts; and
- Letter from GVHA Chair to Irene Lin of Transport Canada requesting a meeting to discuss the new marina proposal at Songhees.

The Chair reported he had received a letter of response from the Honourable Bill Bennett. Irene Lin of Transport Canada has set up an appointment to meet with GVHA on September 16, 2008 to discuss their position on the new marina.

6. New Business

The motions from the last board meeting regarding the Market Rate Report, the City of Victoria Harbour Initiatives and the Sponsorship Policy review will be on the fall agenda.

7. Public Input

Jim Allard noted his lease negotiations are ongoing and his lease expires on September 30, 2008. He has concerns surrounding the lease rates, Hyack Air's future with fuel costs rising, and a high Canadian dollar. The Board's response to Mr. Allard is that GVHA has a very clear, fair, and transparent process for establishing fair market lease rates for properties and waterlots and that policy will be followed.

Gerry Lutz thanked GVHA for the beautification of Ogden Point. He noted years of hard work and expense have gone into the enhancement project, and it will pay off in the years to come.

Chief Andy Thomas thanked GVHA for assistance with the Fish on a Stick concession at the Tall Ships festival. He noted it was a great learning experience for the youth. Funds raised, approximately \$4,600, will go towards the Esquimalt Nation's children's Christmas party and healing programs. Chief Thomas also thanked the catering consultant, Conor Fleck, for his help in managing the concession. He reported the floats that were provided for Tribal Journeys were very useful for tying up the canoes and escort boats.

There being no additional comments, the meeting was adjourned to the in-camera session at 9:55 a.m.