



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING #74

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
Held at 9:00 a.m. on 18 February 2011
Victoria Executive Centre – Meares Street Room
Third floor, 915 Fort Street, Victoria BC

In attendance:

Jim Allard
Christopher Causton
Dave Cowen
Barbara Desjardins
Dan Kukat
Dermot Loughnane, Acting Chair
Pamela Madoff
David Rand, Secretary
Bill Wellburn, Treasurer

CEO & Resources:

Ian Crocker, Manager of Operations
Julia Park, Recording Secretary
Rebecca Penz, Manager of Communications
Sonterra Ross, Acting CEO

Regrets:

Chief Robert Sam
Chief Andy Thomas
Mike Williamson

Guests:

Elodie Adams, James Bay Beacon
Bob Barlow, Western Stevedoring
Milton Barnes, Mercury Marine
David Beswick, Ocean Explorations
Clark M. Clark, GVHA Performer
Marg Gardiner, James Bay Neighbourhood Assoc. (JBNA)
Joseph Gonyeau, GVHA
Peter Hartman, Hart Corp.
Barry Hobbis, Victoria Harbour Ferries
Greg McAllister, King Bros. Limited
Alan McGillivray, Prince of Whales
John Parker, Grayline
Paul Ridout, GVHA Board Life Member
Janis Ringuette, JBNA
Brian Scarfe, JBNA
Lyle Soetaert, Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society
Simon Sobolewski, Red Fish Blue Fish
Gordon Tweddell, Shoal Point Resident
Randy Wright, GVHA Board Life Member

1. **Call to Order**
The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. **Introductions**
None.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED and **SECONDED THAT** the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. **Presentations**

a) Pinton Forrest & Madden (PFM) – George Madden, partner

GVHA's CEO Selection Committee conducted an RFP for the recruitment of a new CEO. PFM was the successful proponent. It has many years of international recruitment experience at the senior executive level.

The firm spent many hours sourcing candidates worldwide. PFM sought input from GVHA staff, Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, Northwest Canada Cruiseship Association and other organizations and stakeholders. PFM presented 15 candidates to the Selection Committee, shortlisted 8 candidates, and interviewed 5 candidates.

A preferred candidate was selected and will be interviewed by the board in the in-camera without management meeting. All necessary checks for the preferred candidate have been completed.

**b) Red Fish Blue Fish – Simon Sobolewski
Ocean Explorations – David Beswick, owner/operator**

David Beswick presented the Board with pictures of the SS Beaver under construction and the impact to the Broughton Street Pier. The SS Beaver has been inhibiting Sobolewski's business by blocking access. Heavy construction on the vessel is unsightly and blocks access to the dock on one side.

The SS Beaver's relocation was supposed to be temporary. Construction on the vessel is far more extensive than the repairs GVHA typically allows on boats at its facilities.

Sobolewski presented more pictures of the SS Beaver and the impact to the pier and viewscapes. Demolition included the removal of the top third of the vessel. Large bins on the pier are taking up the seating area.

He pointed out GVHA supplied the materials and labour for the bumpers, as there were none provided by the SS Beaver.

The Manager of Operations stated that the lines used to tie up the SS Beaver were temporary, and work on the vessel was being done during the off-season for Ocean Explorations and Red Fish Blue Fish.

The Chair thanked them for their presentation and noted there would be further discussion on the matter in the in-camera session.

5. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
None.

6. **Review/Approve Minutes**

a) Approve minutes of Public Meeting #73 on December 10, 2010.

MOVED and **SECONDED THAT** the minutes of Public Meeting #73 on December 10, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

b) Business arising from previous minutes

None.

7. Rise and Report

The Board reported that GVHA's Respectful Workplace Policy was approved and will available on the website.

8. Business

a) Chairman's Report

As interim Chair, he has focused on CEO recruitment in the last few months. He has not yet been able to get out in the community.

b) Acting CEO's Report

In addition to the Acting CEO's written report, highlights included:

- Management participated in meetings with the major cruise line in January. Feedback on Victoria as a destination and the Ogden Point cruise terminal was very positive.
- Received a letter from Northwest Canada CruiseShip Association (NWCCA), supporting GVHA's efforts to reduce sulphur content in fuel and join the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy.
- Alaska market very stable, head tax down to by 30%.
- No rock was found during the dredging project. As a result, no blasting was required. Rock will be purchased for rehabilitation of fish habitat.
- GVHA will have two booths at Seatrade to continue building relationships with cruise lines.

The Board discussed the importance of cruise to the community and to GVHA as its largest revenue stream. The Board asked the Acting CEO if the cruise lines had any specific requests for improving services.

The Acting CEO stated one cruise line requested awnings for passengers as they disembark during poor weather. The cruise lines would like to stay longer in port but their itineraries do not allow for it.

The Board noted a Tourism Victoria survey showed high satisfaction with Victoria from cruise passengers, and a large number (6%) intended to return. More research is being conducted by Tourism Victoria to check the survey numbers.

The Manager of Communications reported that several events are being planned in conjunction with first ship arrivals. These include the first call of the Disney Wonder, the first ever Disney ship to visit B.C.

c) Board Correspondence

The Board Secretary reported that both Songhees and Esquimalt Nations were quick to write letters of support for the dredging project, which helped expedite the environmental assessment. GVHA has sent letters to the Nations regarding net revenue sharing.

MOVED and **SECONDED THAT** the correspondence be received as circulated.

CARRIED

9. New Business

a) Board Chair Election

The Board Secretary reported that GVHA's Chair, Mike Williamson, resigned on February 3, 2011 as a result of his initial participation in the CEO recruitment. He remains on the Board as a Community Director.

10. Input from the Public

Marg Gardiner, JBNA

Gardiner stated the need for a safety review for Victoria Harbour regarding float planes. She is concerned GVHA is advocating on behalf of the floatplane operations, due to leases and the floatplane operator that serves on the Board. She is concerned about real or perceived conflicts of interest.

The Qualatech report was sent to GVHA from JBNA. It was accompanied with a request that Transport Canada be urged to conduct a safety case on floatplanes regarding noise levels and volatile organic compounds (VOC's).

With regard to the cruise industry, Board members are directly or indirectly benefiting from the cruise line passengers, which puts them in a conflict of interest.

Janis Ringuette, JBNA

Ringuette requested Board member names be on the table for ease of identification. She inquired when the results of the stakeholder/client (Malatest) survey will be released.

Barry Hobbis, Victoria Harbour Ferries

Hobbis stated that the Qualatech Report does support air operations, but the same safety standard should be applied nationally. The job of Transport Canada is to go to the stakeholder, not the opposite. Transport Canada should be consulting with all stakeholders, including GVHA, and conducting a due diligence risk assessment. GVHA should not be inserting itself into the process.

Lyle Soetaert, President, VEHS

Soetaert stated a letter was being written to GVHA's Chair regarding an issue between GVHA and Marine Masters. VEHS is concerned that GVHA's position is not in the best interests of the harbour, its users or GVHA.

Brian Scarfe, JBNA

Scarfe said the harbour safety study by Transport Canada is overdue. He noted the report is pushing for safety, not an attack on floatplane businesses.

The JBNA has a number of issues with GVHA and has tried to move forward with creation of a joint committee.

11. Adjournment

MOVED and **SECONDED THAT** under section 34 (2) (d) the meeting be moved in-camera as in the opinion of the Board the public interest requires exclusion.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

David Rand, Secretary

Dermot Loughnane, Acting Chair

