



# Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society

## Members Meeting

November 18th, 5:15pm at 234 Menzies St

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### MEMBERS PRESENT:

VEHS directors: Hannah Horn, Erika Stenson, Stephen Baxter, Ryan Burles, John Sector, Brian Henry

VEHS representatives on GVHA Board: Nick Banks

Other members: Marty Paklovsky, Josh Hickey, Michael Chafe, Nures Kara, Laura Authier, Kim Young, Doug Crowder, Melanie Sibbit (FWCA), Leslie Welsh, Mark Braithwaite (ILWU), Paul Ridout, Don Prittie, Al-Nashir Charania, Jack Cox

**GUESTS:** Bob Evans

**REGRETS:** Pete Hartman, John Bryant, Bernie Talbot, Susan Low, Gary Leibel

**NOTE-TAKER:** Jacqueline Suzanne

### 1. Welcome and Introductions – Hannah Horn

Meeting called to order at 5:15pm

### 2. Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of meeting agenda Moved Ryan Burles and Second Brian Henry. All in favour.
- Approval of minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup> Moved Don and Second Leslie Welsh. All in favour.

### 3. Presentation #1: Schnitzer Steel

#### Update on the Gorge Waterway Clean Up

Marty, Josh, Mike and Nures gave an update on clean-up efforts in the Gorge waterway. They were limited in what they could present due to an investigation underway. There was an incident in August where vehicles had fallen off a barge in the Gorge waterway but no one was hurt. Seaspan provided a timely response. The majority of the clean up was finished by end of September/ early October and shipments resumed.

Schnitzer Steel emphasized its commitment to safety and the environment. Operational issues have been addressed and steps have been taken to ensure this type of incident will not happen again. Schnitzer is working with Transport Canada to move forward and regulators are happy with efforts that have been made.

#### *Discussion:*

Schnitzer commended for its response. Things happen but it's what you do about it that matters.



#### 4. Presentation #2: Ryan Burles, CEO of Black Ball Ferry

##### Update on the Belleville Terminal upgrades

The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has been working with Clipper Ferry, Black Ball Ferry Line and Canada Customs to plan for upgrades to the Belleville Terminal site as a Transportation Hub. There are 3 phases to the upgrades starting with the repair on the Coho and Clipper docks (Phase 1), the David Foster Way to be completed by 2017 (Phase 2) and a new terminal building that combines the Coho and Clipper terminals (Phase 3).

The first phase of the upgrades to the Coho dock involves replacing concrete pillars for the car and passenger ramps. The pillars will be significantly higher to accommodate predicted sea level rise (up to 65 cm on the west side). Will also build a covered and heated walkway for passengers disembarking into the customs area. The Coho will be not running between January 4<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 due to the construction on the ramps.

The second phase of the upgrades will continue until May and restart again next October as work continues on the passenger and vehicle ramps and the customs area.

The final phase will include landscaping for an inviting entrance and the completion of the passenger disembarking area.

Most of the work has been contracted to local companies and the cost of the overall upgrades is \$14 million dollars. Black Ball Ferry Lines, United States customs and the City of Victoria are working together to complete the project.

##### *Discussion:*

Q: Is there an alternate ferry service during January and February?

A: An alternative ferry service is not operating during that time.

Q: Will the ramp be a hydraulic?

A: Yes the ramp will be hydraulic for vehicles.

Q: Do you have to remove existing dock to install the new pilings?

A: The pieces will be removed one at a time from old dock and replaced with new pilings, which will be coated.

Discussion of the requirement to raise the docks in anticipation of sea level rise. Is a MOTI requirement.

*Action:* AI to send out a link to a CRD report on Coastal Sea Level Risk Assessment and the BC Storm Surge Forecast System. The whole Inner Harbour is expected to rise by 1m by 2100.



## 5. Chair's Report

### Change in Members Meeting process

The Board proposes measures to streamline member meetings. Before each member meeting, an email will be sent out advising the VEHS members of the Treasure's report and Committee Reports including Membership, Communications and Issues Response. Items from any of these reports can be brought forward for discussion at the member meeting.

At this time, nothing new has been brought forward and but we will discuss Old Business.

## 6. Old Business

**Item #1: Report on Greater Victoria Harbour Authority AGM on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.** At the AGM, VEHS is a member agency of GVHA and is represented at the by the VEHS President.

Questions asked by VEHS at the AGM:

- a. What is GVHA's business plan for the Steamship Terminal and how are they performing against that plan? Response: The Steamship Terminal did not perform as well as expected because of the shortage of tenants in the space. The GVHA are moving forward with full tenancy at this time and are getting things back on track, after losing a lot of money on the space. A new business plan has been put together.
- b. What is the breakdown of spending for GVHA's \$1 million contribution to social benefits? What is the business case for this kind of expenditure when general operating expenses continue to exceed revenues. Response: Much of the \$1 million value is for in-kind services such as staff time at events. GVHA is always looking for ways to work with other agencies such as Vic City, to share event support. They do lose money on large events such as Swiftsure before and after because they have to move all moorage clients out for the event.
- c. GVHA is not an "authority" and are they willing to change the name to something more suited to their purpose. Response: At the AGM, GVHA CEO stated that the organization is considering re-branding itself.

*Discussion:*

- Clarification that there are more pressing for GVHA attend to before rebranding their name, esp as it is expensive to do. The GVHA Board has deferred a decision on this.
- It is encouraging to see GVHA looking to reduce cost of their overhead e.g., administrative space and employee numbers. It is refreshing and exciting to see what will happen in the future for the GVHA.



## Old Business cont'd

### **Item#2: Communication between VEHS and GVHA**

VEHS directors have met with Nick and Pete, our member agency representatives to the GVHA Board to discuss the ways that communication can be improved between VEHS and GVHA. Key points:

- VEHS acknowledges that representing us on the GVHA Board is a big commitment and that the ma reps must act in the fiduciary interest of GVHA at the Board.
- The GVHA reps can present information on a high level to VEHS but have to be careful with sharing *in camera* information before it is publicly available. The GVHA quarterly report is the official record of GVHA Board discussions to its member agencies.
- Member agency reps agree that at least one of them will the attend member and board meetings to share information and hear firsthand about VEHS concerns and interests.
- VEHS will cc its member agency reps on communications so that they are kept in the loop.
- Discussion on this issue is ongoing.

#### *Discussion:*

- Member agency reps can take anything to the GVHA Board if presented in a timely and appropriate fashion. Member agencies can clarify with the GVHA Board whether information is appropriate to share.
- It is an asset to have two VEHS members on the GVHA Board and that communication should be utilized.
- The consistency of communication is a great value. Ian will be good at improving the consistency of communication between the VEHS and GVHA.
- Member agency reps have a responsibility to carry ideas forward as requested by members and report back to VEHS. The GVHA Board has a responsibility to report to its member agencies on things that are public. VEHS is a GVHA member and also a stakeholder.
- Can appreciate both sides as it is balancing act in both roles. At this time, there are not great channels of communication between the GVHA and the VEHS.
- It is important for member agency reps come to the VEHS board or member meetings to absorb information.
- Encourage GVHA to be more transparent and open with communications.

#### *Actions:*

- Nick and Paul to meet to discussion opportunities to improve communication between GVHA and VEHS through the member agency reps.
- Hannah will follow up with the incoming GVHA chair.



## Old Business cont'd

### **Item#3: Input to GVHA draft Business Plan:**

Jon Sexter (Issues Response Chair) presented VEHS input to draft GVHA 3 year Business Plan. Includes: support for environmental safety management, concern re lack of commitment to fuel dock, spending on office space, need for GVHA name change.

#### *Discussion:*

- Discussion about pros and cons of the GVHA name change. On one side, “authority” can support GVHA aspirations to eventually have more harbour control. On the other, the name is not factual – it misleads on who has the authority for the Harbour.
- Question about the fuel dock as it is falling apart. There are holes in it and boats not fueling there because of its condition. Is it a GVHA business plan item, a better fuel facility?
- There was fight to keep the fuel dock open until the GVHA took it over. It would not be unreasonable to include this item in the letter.
- Comment that fuel docks do not have a long lifespan.

#### *Action:*

- Will state that *many* members support changing the GVHA name.

### **Item #4: Input to Ogden Point Master Plan**

GVHA holding a public meeting Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Members encouraged to attend. Should VEHS provide input as an organization and what would that be?

#### *Discussion:*

- Jon Sexter reported on his participation at September 21st stakeholder meeting attended by Ogden Point tenants, James Bay Neighbourhood Association and the VEHS. Provided input that OP is not just an amenity to James Bay residents – is important to the region as a whole. Also clarified that OP is not a harbour; it is a working port.
- The more commercial activity the better.
- Support for OP as a home port-of-call for cruise ships.
- Discussion about whether or not the logistics of OP being a home port-of-call have not been adequately thought through.

*Action:* Will invite GVHA/ Stantec back to present to VEHS members once the OP concepts are drawn out. It will be easier to speak to these.



## 7. Other Business

- Brian Henry reported on his attendance at a Public Realm meeting hosted by City of Victoria. Was mainly focused on the new Johnston Street bridge and opportunities for interaction with what is happening in the harbour. Ideas include dingy docks, walkways, paddle areas. The Harbour was treated as an asset; the City is listening.  
*Action:* Will invite City of Victoria to a meeting to present on planning around the new bridge.
- Brian also meet with the City of Victoria planning manager to get an update on the Gorge waterway plan to move trespass vessels. The City has its license of occupation but is moving cautiously.
- Hannah and Jon attended a presentation on the Victoria International Marina. The plan has been revised to incorporate a kayak thoroughfare and floating restaurant and teashop. VI Marina will present to VEHS at an upcoming member meeting.
- Discussion about whether to change the member meeting day and week as many other meetings happen on the third Wednesday evenings. Hannah to follow-up.
- Dave Featherby Bursary update – need more donations to reach \$15k base funding. Members encouraged to donate or ask others to donate.
- Updates to the VEHS website are still underway. A link to the new format was sent to members for input. It is fresher looking and thumbs up to webmaster Rob Fiddler.
- Revamp of brochure and is now less wordy.
- Future Meeting Speakers and themes:
  - Victoria International Marina and Blue Water System engineers
  - Annual General Meeting – will invite new Harbour Master and the new chair from GVHA
- The Victoria Cruise Industry Alliance has a new Facebook page – link sent out to members. Don Prittie to consider being VEHS rep with the Cruise Alliance.
- City of Victoria Economic Action Plan – includes two sectors of interest to VEHS: Ocean / Marine and Experiential Tourism. VEHS to provide feedback, although Council has already adopted the Plan. Can also invite a City representative to speak about the EAP at a member meetings



## 11. New Business

- Proposal to amend the VEHS mission statement to include the environment. The Board passed the change in principle but need the approval of members

Revised mission statement: *To protect and advance the social, economic, environmental and cultural vitality of our working harbours through advocacy, stewardship and community engagement.*

- VEHS AGM nominations and resolutions will be in [April] and currently looking for nominations on the Board and any resolutions to be brought forward. To be discussed more at the next members meeting. Do we bring forward the resolution tabled at the 2015 AGM about repealing the by-law that directors on the VEHS Board cannot simultaneously serve on the GVHA Board?
- VEHS will hold back on input the CRD wastewater planning committees. The VEHS position is that sewage facilities are not the best use of waterfront lands.

## 10. Announcements

- GVHA community meeting on Ogden Point Master Plan Thurs Nov 19

### Closing of meeting

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm

**Next member meeting: Wednesday, January 20th at 5:15pm at James Bay New Horizons**