



FINAL

Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society Member's Meeting

February 13, 2018, 5:15pm

City of Victoria Antechamber, 1 Centennial Square

MEMBERS PRESENT:

VEHS directors: Hannah Horn, Bernie Talbot (ILWU Local 508), John Sanderson (Burnside Gorge Community Assoc.), Ryan Burles (Black Ball Ferry), Jonathon Sectar, Mark Braithwaite,

VEHS members: Bruce Hale (Finest at Sea), David Gudgel (Clipper), Margo Goodhand (Fisherman's Wharf Community Assoc.), Harold Aune (Whitehall Rowing), John Espley (BC Hazmat)

Guests: Richard O'Shaunessy, (Variety the Childrens' Charity), George Hanson (Vancouver Island Economic Alliance, Milton Barnes (Mercury Marine), Lisa Cordasco

Regrets: Don Prittie (Canoe Cove Marina), Olga Liberchuk, (Township of Esquimalt), Alois Schonenberger (Transport Canada)

NOTE TAKER: Trish Suzanne

Hannah Horn Called to Order at 5:15pm. Introductions

Approval of agenda: Margo Goodhand moved, Bernie Talbot seconded. All in favour. Carried.

Approval of minutes of January 9 2018 member meeting, Ryan Burles moved, Bernie Talbot seconded. All in favour. Carried.

1. Presentation: Richard O'Shaunessy, Coordinator, Variety Boat for Hope

Variety has been supplying funds for kids with special needs for 52 years. Last year they helped 7,700 kids. The charity raises funds to supply mobility and to support mental wellness, specialized therapy: speech, language and music.

Variety's Boat for Hope is an annual event in Victoria Harbour. Local skippers volunteer their boats to take kids with special needs and their families around the harbour on a pirate-themed treasure hunt. The Boat for Hope organizers work with communities and engage with companies and organizations for sponsorship, including, Trotac, GVHA, City of Victoria Fire Dept and the Coast Guard.

June 2nd 2018 is Variety's 13th year with Boat for Hope in Victoria. Boat for Hope events also occur in Vancouver and Kelowna.



DRAFT

2. Presentation: George Hanson, President, Vancouver Island Economic Alliance

The Vancouver Island Economic Alliance (VIEA) was started in 2006 to promote regional economic development on Vancouver Island. VIEA operates under a membership model and are the only non-government regional economic development organization in Canada.. VIEA addresses issues they feel are important to the entire island economy. Their mandate is to ensure Vancouver Island has a viable stable economy across all sectors. Their approach is strategic - what is needed to move the economy forward? Where are the opportunities and impediments to growth?

Activities include: hosting the annual economic summit at the Nanaimo Conference Centre in Nanaimo; producing an annual VI Economic Report; a website with information about the VI economy; cohosting a meeting between First Nations economic business development initiatives with non-aboriginal service providers; and promoting 'Island Grown' products.

VIEA is currently campaigning for Vancouver Island to become the 10th foreign trade zone point in Canada. If VI gets this designation, we can better market international foreign trade to the Island to invest. VI has elaborate infrastructure with a significant amount of underutilized commercial industrial land with deep water access.

Discussion

Q: How can VEHS interact with your organization to benefit the harbour economy?

A: With the Foreign Investment Project starting this spring we will be meeting around the Island bringing stakeholders together to identify investment opportunities. There is a role you can play in bringing the harbour stakeholders together.

Q: What other economic development opportunities are out there?

A: We can look at anything on VI. For example, transport of goods up Island and across to the Mainland. The challenge of both is volume. Seaspan comes to VI with volumes of cargo and returns to Vancouver almost empty.

Right now steel comes into Coal Harbour from China, offloaded onto hundreds of flatbed trucks then driven through Vancouver to the yards and the warehouses on the Fraser River then railroded across Canada and the United States. Then the ships reposition to Duke Point to be loaded with wood products to take back to China. Why not have the steel come directly to Duke Point, offloaded onto barges that takes the steel up the Fraser River bypassing Coal Harbour and eliminating the loading onto trucks.



FINAL

Q: Have you been working with the Provincial Government to promote representation of Island interests?

A: We have a population of 800,000 on VI. We have been traditionally been overlooked as an economic sector. VIEA continues to put that in front of people.

Q: Can VIEA assist with evaluating the economic potential of developments such as short seas shipping i.e., super container ships drop off containers at Ogden Point and have them short shipped to places like Tacoma?

A: We can include GVHA in the dialogue with the direct investment committee, such as the CEO of Nanaimo Port Authority, CEO of Nanaimo Airport, and CEO of Seaspan. These are the folks in the business of moving these ideas forward with other stakeholders.

3. GVHA rep report (Ryan Burles and Bruce Hale)

Work continues on the Ogden Point Master Plan. There have been some delays and now there may be delays due to the municipal elections in November 2018. The rezoning may go to Council in the spring of 2019.

GVHA is working on a plan to install a dolphin for larger cruise ships (quantum class) at Pier A. Pre-clearance has been passed at the federal level but probably won't come to Victoria for another two years. The next step is to put legislation in place. Victoria Airport is the priority, then the marine entrances.

GVHA had to add to its transportation and market studies. The outcomes of the new studies might cause a considerable change to the initial OP plan. The OP plan is a huge project and GVHA is doing their due diligence. The recently released Market Study was well-done.

Discussion

Q: How many passengers do the big cruise ships carry?

A: Up to 10,000 tourists and crew come off the larger cruise ships.

Concern that GVHA has a cruise ship mentality and is losing focus on other marine-related activities.

Victoria Harbour is underutilized. There is potential for other stakeholders to benefit from opportunities at the GVHA properties.



DRAFT

4. Upcoming AGM: Discussion of nominations and resolutions

1. Nominations to the VEHS Board: Call out to people to sit on the VEHS Board. Let Nominations Chair Leslie Welsh or Hannah know.

2. Discussion of proposed resolutions:

a. Should we update the VEHS by-laws to require any member selected by members to be a candidate to the GVHA Board to receive a majority of the votes at the Special General Meeting for that purpose.

General agreement to take this forward as a resolution at the AGM.

b. In the VEHS by-laws, the Board of Directors include appointments from the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Victoria. These appointments have not been filled in some time and, we have moved to a reciprocal membership model instead. Should we remove these two appointed positions from the by-laws?

Agreement that we should not strike these two appointments from the by-laws. It is better to leave them in as an option for later, if needed

Comment that we should keep the lines of communication open with these organizations and be supportive of what they are doing.

c. We have seven active Board members right now. Do we need more?

Agreement that seven is enough.

5. Other Business:

- **Update on support for Ralmax graving dock project**

VEHS submitted a letter of support for the Ralmax project in January 2018. The letter was well-received and we got positive emails from the City Administrator and some City Councillors.

- **Update on VEHS support for Ogden Point rezoning**

Ryan explained the delays in the rezoning application to City of Victoria, including the upcoming municipal elections. Ian Robertson will let us know when the timing is right to provide support.

- **Working Harbour Forum next steps (Hannah)**

The first forum was in November with the big players like the Coast Guard and companies operating larger vessels. The second forum in January was with operators of smaller vessels, many in the tourism sector, and residents. The intent is to take the discussion forward in sub-groups with 6 or 7 committees planned in the categories of: Common Infrastructure, & Services, Public Safety, Enforcement & Risk Management, Public Communications & Engagement, Human Resources, First Nations, Environmental Protection & Remediation. Sub-committee meetings will commence in the upcoming months. VEHS will be presented on some of these sub-committees.

- **Update on Clipper Vacations (David Gudgel)**

Clipper 5 will start service Victoria to Seattle starting in early March. The ship has greater capacity and is faster. Upgrades to the terminal are underway and some changes to pre-clearance issues are being worked out.

Clipper Vacations is no longer intending to have runs to Vancouver.

- **Esquimalt Harbour Advisory Commission (John Sanderson)**

John attended a meeting in November. There were no topics that affected VEHS.



DRAFT

6. Announcements:

The Car Show will resume at Ogden Point in May. James Bay has been supportive

Another big year is expected for the cruise ships with around the same amount of visitors as last year. Starts in mid April.

Next VEHS meeting: AGM on **Tuesday April 10, 2018, Victoria City Hall.**

Bernie moved to adjourn. Ryan seconded.

Adjourn