



FINAL

Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society Member's Meeting

January 9, 2018, 5:15pm

City of Victoria Antechamber, 1 Centennial Square

MEMBERS PRESENT:

VEHS directors: Hannah Horn, Ryan Burles (Black Ball Ferries), John Sanderson (BG Neighbourhood Association), Bernie Talbot (ILWU 508), Mark Braithwaite, Jonathon Sector (Sector Environmental), Andy Glover (Clipper Vacations)

VEHS members: Doug Crowder, Olga Liberchuk (Township of Esquimalt), Gary Leibel (Ralmax), Leslie Welsh (Environmental Consultant), Don Prittie (Canoe Cove Marina), Bruce Hale (Finest at Sea), Sheila McLellan (Vic West Community Assoc.)

Guests: Alois Shonenberger (Victoria Harbourmaster), Riccardo Regosa (Ralmax), Milton Barnes, Sydney McCabe (Eagle Wing Whale Watching)

NOTE TAKER: Trish Suzanne

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

Olga Liberchuk moved to approve the Agenda, Leslie Welsh seconded. All in favour.

Olga Liberchuk moved to approve the minutes of the Nov 14 2018 Special General Meeting. Four amendments put forward: change the word "approved" to "moved" on pages 1, 5 and 6. On page 6, where it reads nomination chair, add represented by proxies. All in favour of the Nov minutes as amended.



DRAFT

1. Expansion of Point Hope Shipyard (Gary Leibel and Ricardo Regosa, Ralmax)

Point Hope is part of Ralmax Group of 11 Companies located on 41 acres of industrial property and water lots primarily around Victoria's Inner Harbour. The operation has been in the upper Harbour since the late 1800's. The current operation supports 200+ workers and over 650 subcontractors and business services providers. The focus is on ship maintenance and repair. Clients include BC Ferries, Canadian Forces Navy, Canadian Coast Guard, fishing fleets, tugs & barges .

Proposed Graving Dock Shipyard Modernization – the goal is to maximize the use and value of the limited industrial land. The upgraded graving dock will accommodate vessels up to 170m and 6m draft and up to 6 vessels at a time Rolling cranes will be used to work at the site.

Ralmax wants expand workforce opportunities for machinists, millwrights, painters, electrical and sandblasting. Up to 200 new employees will be needed, increasing the overall workforce to 400. Ralmax also has an apprenticeship program that currently has 12 apprentices. The company is also committed to promoting First Nations economic development. The company is partnered with local First Nations in Salish Sea Industrial.

Ralmax recognizes Victoria Harbour is a community asset that they want to optimize. This includes building infrastructure to provide skills and services. The intent is to reinvest in the local community – in people, causes, and goods and services.

The company is seeking a development permit from the City of Victoria for the Graving Dock expansion. This will go to Council in early February.

Q: How does the dock change the footprint on the water?

A: The dock is not coming out any further into the water lot. It is actually setting it back a little bit.

Q: Are there any issues with the condos in the area?

A: Ralmax has consulted regularly with local residential groups. With one or two exceptions they have received positive feedback and support from the local community.

Q: Is everything fine with the bike/walking lane going through?

A: There have not yet been any issues. The new bike path will have a little ramp.

Comment: This is one of the most exciting things happening in Victoria. We need to be supportive until the shovels are in the ground.

Motion: Leslie Welsh moved that VEHS directs the Board to draft and send a letter of support to the City for the Ralmax proposal. Seconded Don Prittie. All in favour. Carried.



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2. Finest at Sea plans in Victoria Harbour (Bruce Hale, GM, Finest at Sea)

Finest at Sea (FAS) is a commercial fishing company and the company is growing. 90% of the product at FAS retail outlets is caught by their own boats and fishermen. FAS has retail outlets at Granville Island, Kitsilano and Victoria, including three food carts. The company is locally owned and employs 200 – 250 people when at full capacity.

The Ocean Pearl is the flagship vessel. It hold 320,000 lbs. of frozen sable fish which is 2 ½ to 3 million dollars of fish. The Hanna Lio has a freezer system in one half of the boat and can also bring in a large variety of fresh iced fish in the other half. The Nordic Rand works out of Victoria fishing for tuna and prawns. The Nordic Spirit and Dovre B fish for salmon and tuna.

FAS currently leases a pier from Ralmax and are presently looking for a new home as they will be displaced by upgrades to the Point Hope graving dock. One idea is to set up by Bay Street Bridge to moor the boats and have the public come and buy fish off the boats.

Q: Is Ogden Point within the scope of your search?

A: It is too rough out there. We would need an inner harbour location.

Q: What about at Fisherman's Wharf pier?

A: Yes, that would work. GVHA has been talking with the federal governemtn about expanding to the Coast Guard dock on the other side of the fuel dock at Fisherman's Wharf.

Q: What about the cleaned up area at Rock Bay?

A: Maybe with more familiarization with the harbour, something might come up.



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3. See a Blow, Go Slow campaign (Sydney McCabe, Eagle Wing Whale Watching)

We use every asset of the sacred Salish Sea area watershed.

We are lucky to live among the marine mammals; the killer, grey, humpback, and fin whales. The orcas, dolphins, stellar sea lions and the return of elephant seals.

People come from all over the world to see these animals. We are very lucky with the diversity of the animals that we have on the coast. In the Juan de Fuca, you can see up to 80 humpback whales. They are coming back.

Orcas breach and don't tend to breach on top of boats. Humpbacks can remain submerged for 15 to 20 minutes and can surface without warning. Their densities are increasing and they tend to go along the coastline. A large congregation of birds can indicate whale presence.

We are there for recreational purposes and accidents can happen. We have to think of ways to be safe on the water. It is important to know how to operate your vessel when out on the water. Be cautious and courteous. Slow down and share the water.

The Marine Education & Research Society (MERS) promotes conservation and understanding. They are striving to have 'See a Blow,' 'Go Slow' signs around the marinas, Fisherman's Wharf, Sooke Harbour, etc.

Posting Whale Wing flags on boats can indicate to others that whales are around.

Q: Vancouver Harbour has big ships and tankers. How does it work there?

A: The signs are meant for recreational and smaller vessels, although once big ships hit Haro Straits they are encouraged to slow down. It is hard for ships to slow down so it is still a work in progress.

Q: Data source for humpbacks in the area is crucial to know where to slow down. Where did the data come from?

MERS collected the data. They are looking for more funding and donations in order to collect more data in the area.

Harbour Pilots can assist in getting the information to the captains on the big ships.

We are the only whale watching company doing this so hopefully others will get involved.

There is a signup sheet being circulated if you would like a sign.



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4. GVHA rep report:

Bruce Hale will be meeting with the GVHA on Monday, Jan 15th. The first meeting is January 25th and the first Board meeting is in March. GVHA terms are now 4 years rather than 3years.

Ogden Point Rezoning is to establish a proper zone for the area. There will be infinite number of changes. Two-thirds will remain open area for ships, etc. The GVHA is still learning and looking at the possibilities for Ogden Point.

Maybe VEHS can reach out.

We as a board support the rezoning as a member agency.

5. Other Business:

The Laurel Point dredging is done as per the contract and they are ahead of schedule. They might dredge a bit further. They will be out of there by March.

Q: Is anyone documenting the return of sea life to the area?

A: They have environmental monitors to make sure everything that is going back in is clean. I don't know if anyone is documenting the return of sea life.

Maritime Museum, SS Princess Sophia Exhibition, January 12 – March 18, Vancouver Boat Show is January 17 – 21, and Victoria Boat show is February 16 – 18.

Featherby Award will be merit based. Core marine program is where the award will be housed.

We have an opportunity to tour the interurban campus marine simulator. We could arrange a tour and follow up with the member's meeting.



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6. Announcements:

Next VEHS member meeting, Tuesday Feb 13, 2018, venue to be confirmed.

Sheila McClellan approved to adjourn; Bernie Talbot seconded.

Adjourn