



# FINAL

## Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society Members Meeting

Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2015, 5:15 pm at James Bay New Horizons 234 Menzies St

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### MEMBERS PRESENT:

VEHS directors: Hannah Horn, Bernie Talbot, Don Prittie, John Sector, Susan Low

VEHS representatives on GVHA Board: Absent with regrets

Other members: Paul Ridout, Doug Crowder, Travis Wilson, Les Welsh, Jack Cox, Peter Lehmann, John Sanderson

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Ian Robertson (CEO of Greater Victoria Harbour Authority); Denton Pendergast (Stories of Victoria Harbour); Milton Barnes (Mercury Marine), Laura Richards (Fisherman's Wharf Community Association), Ash Knightley

**REGRETS:** Nick, Banks, Pete Hartman, Gary Leibel, Stephen Baxter, Erika Stenson, Brian Henry; Fire Chief Paul Bruce.

**NOTE-TAKER:** Jacqueline Suzanne

### 1. Welcome and Introductions – Hannah Horn

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm

### 2. Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of the agenda: Bernie Talbot approved, Don second. All in favour. Carried.
- Approval of minutes of June 17<sup>th</sup> member meeting including corrections: Susan Low Approved and Ryan Second. All in favour. Carried.

### 3. Presentation #1: Denton Pendergast

#### Overview of Stories of Victoria Harbour Project

Denton Pendergast spoke about his collaborative project to develop a website about Victoria Harbour. The website comprises pages of factual and researched topics deeply connected to the history of the Victoria Harbour, including tugboats, the Working Harbour, historical events of the Harbour, and culture. A page titled Harbour Heroes captures stories about explorers, enterprisers, and industrialists who had visions for the Harbour. Also, you can read stories about vessels, plaques, and statues in and around the Harbour. The on-line website will include current information such as city plans, the Greater Victoria Harbour Association initiatives, Point Hope Shipyard development and Museum plans for remodeling. There will also be an interactive page in which you can nominate a hero, write your own harbour stories and make any corrections if needed. The website will be up and running in November 2015 with a public launch at the Empress Hotel.



# FINAL

## 4. Presentation #2: Ian Robertson, CEO Greater Victoria Harbour Association

### Early Observations as gVHA CEO

GVHA CEO Ian Robertson spoke about Greater Victoria Harbour Association and future plans for the Victoria Harbour. Ian started as GVHA CEO in April 2015.

Ian announced that GVHA will be entering lease arrangements at the Steamship Terminal. Riverside Marine will offer marine passenger service between Downtown Victoria and Downtown Vancouver. Ocean Networks Canada, in partnership with the University of Victoria, will lease the lower level where a 50 - 60 seat theatre will showcase videos and explorations of educational ocean research, opening in 2016. Having the Neptune Project at the Steamship Terminal will bring back the marine history associated with the Steamship Terminal and will be an exciting anchor and focus for the Harbour.

In 2015, the GVHA saw a record year for the Cruise ships with 230 ships and 513,000 passengers. The cruise industry provides 56% of GVHA's annual revenue.

The GVHA's 10 year Strategic Plan was approved at their last Board Meeting. Strategic Goals are economic, social and environmental benefits, financial sustainability, trusted advocate of the working Harbour and effective governance and accountability.

The GVHA 3 Year Business Plan is under development. VEHS, as one of VHA's member agencies, will be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on this plan. Other initiatives include implementation of the Facilities Plan at Fisherman's Wharf; a Master Plan for the Inner Harbour, in collaboration with the City of Victoria; and ongoing support advancement of the cultural economic interests of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations in the harbour. As well, the GVHA will continue to focus on environmental and public safety responsibilities.

GVHA has hired Stantec to provide is a 25 year road map for revitalization of Ogden Point through the Ogden Point Master Plan. Rezoning will begin in 2016 and development will start in 2017, phased in over 20 years. There will be many opportunities for engagement through workshops and on-line participation. GVHA has an interest in making Ogden Point attractive and inviting for local residents as well as cruise visitors.

#### *Discussion:*

- Kudos to Ian for his focus on financial stability for GVHA.
- Q: How to improve the noise down near the new barge? Ships who are required to blow their horns when they pass the barge.
- A: GVHA has been looking into ships' whistles in response to a complaint about noise but Ian was unaware about the requirement to blow the horn when passing the barge.



# FINAL

- Q: Is there potential to expand berthing opportunities at Ogden Point?  
A: No plans to expand the existing berth base. Need to enhance and modify Pier A.
- Q: How is GVHA engaging the community on Ogden Point?  
A: On-line participation is key. External online source, info kiosks, workshops. Want to hear from all stakeholders and get a broad perspective.
- Q: What is happening with the harbour aerodrome?  
A: It is Transport Canada's call if they chooses to divest the airport. If it does, then GVHA wants to be one of many at the table. Will depend on the priorities of the next federal government. GVHA would need to establish trust and collaboration with all stakeholders to move ahead. It is on their radar screen.

## 5. Chair's Report

Welcome Back. Erika Stenson has joined us as the appointee from Tourism Victoria. Erika is Head of Marketing, Sales and Business Development with the Royal BC Museum.

Kathleen Burton has stepped back from her appointment with the Chamber of Commerce and her seat on the VEHS Board will need to be filled.

Jackie is welcomed as the official VEHS secretariat.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

33 members paid and seven outstanding. VEHS bank balance is up from \$3,000 from this time last year but we have this committed to website upgrades.

## 7. Committee Reports

### a. Membership Committee

Membership Committee to re-convene as memberships are VEHS's only source of income.



# FINAL

## **b. Communications Committee**

Kathleen has stepped back as the Communications Chair and her position needs to be filled. One option would be to contract a communications person to work with social media and prepare the VEHS newsletter. Need to get the VEHS message out.

Suggestion for the membership Committee to seek new members who have expertise in communications. Will also look into sources of funding to support contracted communications work e.g., grants.

Les Welsh has volunteered to assist with communications.

## **c. Issues Response Committee**

Jon reported that the Issues Response Committee has provided a second critique of the GVHA Strategic Plan. Otherwise, it has been quiet over the summer.

VEHS was in discussions with local air operators and Transport Canada about a Fact Sheet on harbour aerodrome activities. Transport Canada is not interested in pursuing this project at this time and VEHS has stepped back from further involvement.

## **8. GVHA Directors Report**

Concern expressed that neither of the two VEHS reps to the GVHA Board were present to provide a Director's Report. Discussion that reps have an obligation to report back to VEHS and to convey VEHS messages and feedback to GVHA. Request that the VEHS Chair send a letter reminding the reps of their responsibilities.



# FINAL

## 9. Other Business

### 1. Updates on summer events and activities:

Bernie: Successful Car Show at Odgen Point

Don: Classic Boat Festival 80 plus boats. Race to Alaska 40-50 vessels.

John Sanderson: Gorge Swim fest had more people than ever with a good response from the city.

Potential for the Gorge to be used for long distance open water swimming events in the future.

2. Update on the Dave Featherby bursary: VEHS raising money for a bursary to a student in the marine trades at Camosun College. Have \$5000.00 raised so far and are seeking a further \$10,000. Marine Trades is the only program at Camosun that does not have a bursary.

VEHS members are asked to consider making a donation or following up with other businesses.

3. VEHS Strategic plan follow up: Jon presented an action plan, with measures of success, as requested at the last member meeting.

4. Susan Low attending a meeting with the Naval commander and senior officers with the base. Is there anything to deliver at the meeting?

5. Input sought on designed guidelines for West Bay village.

6. Odgen Point Master plan update: Bernie will represent VEHS at the next consultation workshop. Let Bernie know if there is anything that VEHS should put forward or provide input on the GVHA website.

#### *Discussion:*

- Area doesn't require vast amounts of infrastructure to be successful. Keep it simple.
- GVHA now has one person focused on managing cruise (Sonterra Ross)

7. GVHA AGM on October 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting – do members have any questions for VEHS to ask as a member agency? Hannah will represent VEHS. Brian Henry will be alternate.

7. Kathleen represented VEHS at the Cruise alliance meetings. Don Prittie may be interested in attending as VEHS rep.



FINAL

## 10. Announcements

GVHA AGM Oct 13 2015 at 5:30 at the Comfort Inn, 3020 Blanshard.

Call for applications for GVHA Independent Director – notice distributed to members.

Issues Response Committee to respond to Times Colonist letter to the editor about the working harbour. Will provide an alternate view of the Harbour as a valuable natural and economic resource and community asset.

### Closing of meeting

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm

**Next member meeting:** Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm at James Bay New Horizons