

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS – JUNE 2024



Q1 Board Meeting Report

GVHA Board Highlights provides a brief summary of items from each quarterly Board meeting. The summary is not inclusive of all agenda items.

PAR Certification Process

GVHA submitted its application to the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business (CCIB) Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program on April 1. PAR is a certification program that confirms corporate performance in Indigenous relations. On June 6, the official PAR verifier met with management, Board members, and our rights holder partners, the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation. GVHA is currently certified as 'silver' in the PAR program. The new certification will be announced in September and covers the years 2021-2023. GVHA is evaluated on the following pillars: Leadership, Business Development, Employment, and Community Relations. If you wish to receive a copy of GVHA's PAR submission, please contact claviolette@gvha.ca.

Integrated Planning

GVHA has started a review of its asset base. Project planning has begun internally and will be a focus area over the next year. The management team is in the process of building the internal systems to manage the project. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Songhees Nation, Esquimalt Nation, City of Victoria, Township of Esquimalt and GVHA is being drafted to lay out how collaboration will occur between these important stakeholder groups.

Vision and Mission Update

GVHA's proposed new Vision and Mission statements were developed with feedback from our rights holders and member agencies. Following the approval in principle at the March board meeting, the CEO and Chair presented the proposed Vision and Mission to the Chief and Council of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation and the City of Victoria. At the June board meeting, the Board approved the new Vision and Mission. The Vision contains Lekwungen language, which requires final confirmation. Once confirmed, the Vision and Mission will be formally launched.

Corporate Recruitment

GVHA is pleased to announce the hiring of Colleen Turner as our first Vice President, Strategic Partnerships & Innovation. Colleen joins on July 2. This is a new position is part of a change to the organizational structure made to support strategic initiatives associated with major infrastructure investments, economic development, integrated planning and GVHA's new Vision and Mission.

Accessibility Act

The Accessibility Act was created by the Federal government in 2019 to create barrier-free organizations. As a federally regulated organization, GVHA is required to comply with the act. A GVHA staff committee was formed to review accessibility requirements. The committee then engaged external consultants for guidance. Staff, Board, external stakeholders and the public were surveyed for input prior to drafting the plan for improved accessibility. The draft plan and the ongoing survey is available on our website <https://gvha.ca/accessibility/>

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Committee Report Highlights

Audit & Finance Committee (AFC)

KPMG attended the AFC meeting to present the audit plan to the committee. The annual audit is underway. The audited financial statements for FY2023-24 will be presented at the AGM. AFC reviewed and approved a license renewal for Global Marine Services who operate the Cable Innovator and lease 37,000sf of space in the Warehouse at Pier A, Ogden Point. AFC received the annual insurance report. GVHA insurance was renewed on April 9 and actual cost for 2024-25 came in at less than budgeted at \$1.05M. GVHA's 2023-24 year-end results were better than expected with EBITDA of \$7.9M (unaudited results.) The restricted reserve fund performance is reviewed quarterly. The current 5-year annualized rate of return of 7.2% surpasses the target of 6%.

Environmental Stewardship Task Force (ESTF)

ESTF was a temporary task force formed to review and recommend next steps for the board oversight of environmental sustainability at GVHA. The committee's recommendation to the Board is that a new Board committee is formed. The Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) will be created in January 2025.

First Nations Economic Development Committee (FNED)

FNED discussed the First Nation Contribution Fund, which is 1% of GVHA annual operating revenue and totals \$322K for 2024-25. The committee approved an application to provide funds to the Lekwungen Traditional Dancers and will contact other dance groups to inform them about the application process. FNED will also look at the opportunity to provide funding to support youth on Tribal Journeys. FNED discussed the Inner Harbour Placemaking Project and the options for Protocol Corner. It was decided that additional signage would be added to the existing Commonwealth sign to tell the story of Lekwungen involvement in the Commonwealth Games. The concept of co-management of GVHA was discussed at the committee, and it was approved that GVHA could hire a consultant to help develop this framework. FNED reviewed the cruise welcome protocol and discussed GVHA's procurement policy.

Human Resources Committee (HRC)

After a thorough assessment over the past six months, GVHA as confirmed that the current compensation philosophy and executive comply with the Pay Equity Act. The draft Pay Equity plan was presented to the committee. HRC reviewed the annual HR metrics and received an update on the upcoming annual employee engagement survey. The committee discussed and approved the proposal to combine the committee with the GNC committee starting in January 2025.

Governance Nominating Committee (GNC)

GNC annually reviews the constitution and bylaws and presents recommended changes for approval at the AGM. There are no recommended changes this year. GNC also reviewed and approved changes to committee charters and the board manual. The committee discussed and approved the proposal to combine the committee with HRC starting in January 2025.

Infrastructure Planning & Development Committee (IPAD)

GVHA's 24/25 Budgets for the Capital Project have been set and staff are in the process of preparing project plans for review by the end of May for all Capital works. The committee reviewed the capital projects dashboard and discussed current and recent projects.

Events

GVHA continues to support key community events on its properties. In May, GVHA hosted competitors from the Swiftsure International Yacht Race. In June, World Ocean Day was staged at Fisherman’s Wharf, with 27 organisations participating in this family-friendly event designed to raise awareness about healthy oceans. In June, we also hosted competitors from the Race to Alaska. The Ship Point Market returned in May. It operates on seven weekends over the summer. GVHA’s Artists on the Causeway program returned in May and will continue until October, giving visitors the chance to meet and buy from local artists. GVHA is celebrating Indigenous History Month through various events in June, including a rose cedar workshop for staff led by Melissa McLurg, a Songhees Member and Cultural Ambassador, and a Signs of Lekwungen Walking Tour by Cecelia Dick, cultural tourism manager for the Songhees Nation. GVHA staff will also participate in Victoria’s Pride Parade in July.



Image: Pride at Fisherman’s Wharf



Image: Board and Staff with Cecelia Dick, Signs of Lekwungen Walking Tour.