

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS



## Q4 Board Meeting Report – March 2025

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

### CEO and Board Chair Report Highlights

CEO Robert Lewis-Manning shared context on current priorities, opportunities and challenges. The high-level context is that while the current tariff and political environment is creating some uncertainty, there are early signs that point to a strong destination economy this summer. Cruise, marinas, commercial vendors and events are positive currently. The organization has multiple business development opportunities currently in the pipeline. Post board meeting, there have been concerns raised about the possibility of changes to PVSA and the potential impact on cruise. The organization is planning for various scenarios and also working to influence decision makers via proactive public relations and engagement. An information session for Member Representatives has been scheduled, with information provided by email. This will be an opportunity to discuss current priorities, share details of the GVHA Business Plan and talk further about the current economic and political environment.

Board Chair Mark Mawhinney represented GVHA at several high-profile events and announcements, including the federal government's shorepower funding announcement, CLIA's Pacific Northwest conference in Vancouver, and joined CEO Robert Lewis-Manning and Chief Jerome Thomas in an official welcome for the first cruise vessel arrival in March – the Disney Wonder.

### Committee Report Highlights

#### Audit & Finance Committee (AFC) Don Krusel, Chair

Overall financial results to date are favourable against budget. The committee reviewed GVHA's insurance coverage and moved to insure assets at cash value over replacement cost due to the high cost of insurance. The committee reviewed the proposed 25/26 budget and recommended for board approval. The Committee discussed the updated Enterprise Risk Management framework. The committee reviewed the property tax assessment for 2025.

#### First Nations Economic Development Committee (FNED) Susan Brice, Chair

The 2025/26 First Nations Engagement budget was presented and approved by the committee. The budget includes funds to continue placemaking initiatives on GVHA properties and to identify new opportunities for economic development for the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation. GVHA continues work on exploring co-management and through a public RFP process has selected a partnership of Balance Co-Lab and Tartanbond to complete the first phase of this work, which is largely a desktop research approach. FNED reviewed and approved an application from the Songhees Nation for \$125k to support the development of a framework for economic development.

#### Human Resources & Governance Committee (HRGC) Mark Collins, Chair

This was the first meeting of the combined Human Resources and Governance committee. The committee reviewed and approved the new Charter and workplan. The committee approved the proposed labour budget and the board budget. The committee received a presentation from Civic Excellence on the results of the Director Evaluation survey conducted in Q3. The committee discussed the board recruitment process, board compensation and received an update from staff on EDI and KPIs.

### Infrastructure Planning & Development Committee (IPAD) Geoff Dickson, Chair

The committee reviewed and discussed the progress of a number of projects:

- Transformer: new transformer work is close to completion.
- Breasting dolphin: project is moving forward.
- Shoreline sloughing at Ogden Point: geotechnical drilling works completed

The proposed 2025/26 capital budget was reviewed and recommended for board approval.

### Sustainability Committee (SC) Gail Stephens, Chair

This was the first meeting of the Sustainability Committee. The committee reviewed and approved the new Charter and workplan. GVHA's Sustainability Manager presented to the committee on topics including GVHA's previous work in sustainability and the path towards developing a GVHA Sustainability Strategy. The committee reviewed the results of GVHA's first greenhouse gas emissions baseline report on all properties and discussed board education opportunities focussed on sustainability.

## Business Plan

The board approved the business plan presented by the CEO. The key priorities for 2025/26 are: Integrated Planning; resilient infrastructure for the future; implementing the new vision and mission; a new framework for port leadership and governance; a new economic development model with First Nations and sustainability and supporting regional prosperity. The Business Plan will be posted publicly on the GVHA website. The draft plan, currently undergoing non-material copy edits, is included in this report out.

## 2025/26 Budget Approval

The board approved the 2025-26 Operating Budget with a net income of \$7.23M as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee, and the Capital Budget with a projected spend of \$6.82M as recommended by the Infrastructure, Planning & Development Committee.

## CLIA Pacific Northwest Symposium

The second annual PNW Cruise conference took place in late January. GVHA sponsored a panel titled Indigenous Tourism Partnerships Model of Opportunity, hosted all Greater Victoria conference participants, and met with several cruise lines to discuss opportunities for partnership, current issues, and to build on relationships. Board Chair Mark Mawhinney attended along with GVHA leadership and representatives from both First Nations.

## 2025 Cruise Season

On March 6, Victoria welcomed the Disney Wonder, the first cruise ship of the season. To mark the occasion, Robert Lewis-Manning and Mark Mawhinney were joined by Chief Jerome Thomas of the Xwsepsem Nation, who provided an official Ləkʷəŋən welcome to the ship's captain. The season gets underway on April 4 with the arrival of Holland America's Koningsdam. In total, 320 cruise ship visits are scheduled, including five inaugural calls: Europa 2, Caribbean Princess, Anthem of the Seas, MS Riviera, and Odyssey. [Click here to see the full 2025 cruise schedule.](#)

## Shore Power

On February 11, 2025, the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Transport and Internal Trade was in Victoria to announce Transport Canada's investment of \$22.5 million to bring renewable shore power to Victoria's cruise ship terminal. Board Chair Mark Mawhinney participated in the event and conducted several follow up media interviews. This initiative is part of a broader effort to establish a Green Corridor for cruise travel between Alaska, British Columbia, and Washington and would be a catalyst for the electrification of The Breakwater District at Ogden Point. The board will review the business case for shore power at the June meeting.

## Business Development Opportunities

GVHA is exploring 24 business development opportunities across all properties. These opportunities range from small scale operators to larger operations. The opportunities need to support GVHA's focus on the working harbour and marine growth initiatives. GVHA is open for business, and if any member agency representative has suggestions on business development opportunities, please share your suggestions with Robert Lewis-Manning or Judith Ethier.

## Branding

GVHA has completed an external brand audit. Next steps will include a refresh of GVHA's corporate assets such as brand templates and visuals to better align with the vibrancy of our new mission and vision and support increased engagement and business development activities.

## Long Range Plan & GVHA Properties

Staff presented the Long-Range Plan to the board. At the end of the 20-year time frame, GVHA is forecast to have a negative cash flow of \$49.49M due to the magnitude of potential infrastructure needs. Partnerships are becoming increasingly important for GVHA's ability to address the significant cost of infrastructure repair and maintenance and potential upgrades and improvements. To give member representatives a better understanding of some of the current infrastructure challenges, we will be holding a walking tour on March 27 12:30pm – 3:30pm. You will have received more information on this by email.

## Upcoming Events

The '**Market on the Pier**' at Ogden Point will be returning for the official start of the cruise season on April 4.

GVHA Staff are working with local organizers to host markets, festivals, and creative culinary events throughout the summer. This is in addition to annual sponsored events like the Swiftsure Yacht Race, Classic Boat Festival, Dragonboat Festival, and GVHA's regularly scheduled Ship Point Market taking place over four alternating weekends from July 4 to August 16.