

Board of Directors Highlights



Q4 Board Meeting Report – March 2026

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

Message from the Chair – Mark Mawhinney

Admiral Grace Hopper was one of the first women ever to achieve the rank of Rear Admiral in the US Navy and was known for a distaste of the phrase "we've always done it this way", calling it the most dangerous phrase in the English language. She is also famous for the quote, "A ship is safe in harbour, but that is not what ships are built for." This quarter your board of directors approved a new business plan for FY26/27 which moves us very much forward (to sea) to a chapter focused on...focus, discipline, customer service and a purpose driven culture. Among other things, our team successfully recruited our new Director, Cruise & Port Development and our search for the GVHA's next CEO is well underway with some wonderful applicants from across the country. These key hires will support the GVHA reaching for new horizons, and not resting on its current success.

I commend the entire GVHA team for continuing yeoman's work in support of the GVHA and look forward to another blockbuster year welcoming our cruise guests from around the world!

Strategic Plan and Business Plan

Following the approval on the Strategic Framework in January, staff presented and the Board approved the 2026/27 Business Plan, which will move GVHA toward a new chapter. Our 2026/27 Business Plan is built on four integrated strategic pillars: Financial Prosperity, Governance Alignment, Inspirational Legacy Development, A Purpose-Driven Culture. The new Business Plan will be presented to member agencies in May.

Sustainability Plan

The Board approved GVHA's Sustainability Plan. Over the past 10 months, GVHA's Sustainability Manager has worked with Synergy Enterprises, the Board of Directors, GVHA leadership and staff to develop the Sustainability Plan. The Plan includes key initiatives, actions and targets within six focus areas: climate action; ecosystems wildlife & biodiversity; sustainable & resilient infrastructure; waste management & circular economy; education, outreach & engagement; organizational culture & decision making. You will be able to view the plan on our website in the coming weeks.

Integrated Planning

The Board received a status update from Worley on the Integrated Planning Project. The Project will help transform Victoria's waterfront into a collection of inspirational, commercially resilient, and globally admired legacy destinations. Phase 1 consists of four stages, with Worley currently in the research stage and initiating early engagement with key stakeholders. Phase 1 is expected to conclude in October and will deliver a clear harbour vision, market-grounded development logic, a phased pathway to delivery, early value-creation opportunities, and a tool to align stakeholders and unlock funding.

2026/27 Budget

The board approved the 2026-27 Operating Budget with a net income of \$8.5M as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee, and the Capital Budget with a projected spend of \$9.7M as recommended by the Infrastructure, Planning & Development Committee.

Recruitment Update

GVHA has successfully recruited a new Director, Cruise & Port Development and Manager: new Director to start April 7, 2026.

GVHA is actively recruiting for several key roles:

- CEO: led by Boyden, will begin interviews in April.
- Manager, First Nations Partnerships (posted February 25).
- Seasonal positions

All open positions are listed on our [website](#).

Committee Report Highlights

Audit & Finance Committee (AFC) Gail Stephens, Chair

AFC reviewed and approved the capital and operating budgets for 2026/27 in advance of the board meeting. The restricted reserve fund and the 3rd quarter financial performance were presented both with favourable results. The committee discussed the 2026 property tax assessments and approved the proposed cruise tariff for 2027.

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

FNED reviewed the First Nations Revenue Contribution Fund which is 1% of GVHA's revenue that is allocated to the Songhees Nation and xwsepsəm Nation. Changes to the program were recommended to allow easier access to the funds for the Nations as well as ensuring the funds are split equally between the two Nations. The committee also discussed how GVHA, xwsepsəm and Songhees leadership can strengthen relationships and move forward on economic development initiatives.

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

HRGC reviewed and approved the labour budget and board budget prior to being presented for board approval. The committee reviewed several governance topics that require attention including the skills matrix, risk register, board policies, and director recruitment. It identified five bylaws that require updating and will be presented at the AGM. Timing of director recruitment was discussed and options to alleviate the strain of a heavy recruitment year which may coincide with onboarding a new CEO.

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

IPAD received a report from staff on the status of capital projects and challenges to complete some projects before the cruise season starts. Current projects underway include the Pier A fender replacement, Pier B breasting dolphin and the warehouse roof fall restraint program. There was a discussion on the process around project management. The committee received an update from staff on the Integrated Planning project.

Joint IPAD and AFC Committees

The IPAD and AFC Committees held a joint meeting this quarter to review the capital budget for 2026/27.

Sustainability Committee (SC) Barb Desjardins, Chair

SC reviewed and approved GVHA's Sustainability Plan prior to it being presented to the Board. Staff provided updates to the committee on current sustainability initiatives including: Clean Marine, Green Marine, underwater noise monitoring and the PNW2AK Green Methanol Feasibility Study. Under Destination Greater Victoria's Circular and Sustainable Drinking Water program, GVHA will be installing two refillable water bottle stations on GVHA properties.

Recent Events

- **February 10, 2026:** GVHA, in collaboration with Destination Greater Victoria (DGV), hosted a gathering to mark the completion of the x^wsəyq^wəm (whu-sey-cum) "Place of Mud" storytelling site, and to recognize the artists and cultural contributors involved in GVHA's broader placemaking initiative. The area formerly known as Juggler's Pitch on the lower causeway has been renamed əy? k^wəns tɛčl ə tθə x^wsəyq^wəm, meaning "Welcome to the Place of Mud."

Upcoming Events

- April 10: First cruise ship of 2026
- May 7: Royal Caribbean's Voyager of the Seas inaugural call
- May 9: Star Princess inaugural call
- May 10: Virgin's Brilliant Lady inaugural line call
- May 10: Silversea's Silver Nova inaugural call
- May 10: First Ship Point Market of 2026
- May 15-16: PODIUM choir performances in Inner Harbour
- May 17: MSC's Poesia inaugural line call
- May 21-24: Swiftsure Yacht Race
- May 31: World Oceans Day: Fisherman's Wharf
- May 31: Amazura Pursuit inaugural call
- June 15-17: Race to Alaska
- August 8, 2026: GVHA is excited to be the official harbour event partner for the David Foster & Friends 40th Anniversary Concert in support of the David Foster Foundation.