

# **GOLD RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2022

7pm at the JCC, room 116, as well as a Zoom connection

**Call to Order:** 7:04pm

**Attendance:** **In Person:** Linda Vandenberg, Cathy Nesbitt, Serena Ross, Adam Johnson (Gold River Housing Society)

**Via Zoom:** Chris White, Georgie McKenzie, Anita Lawrence, Candice Baker, Dawn Dakin

**Approval of minutes from April 21, 2022** – *Motion to Approve: Candice, Second: Cathy*

**Approval of Extra Ordinary Meeting Minutes April 21, 2022** – *Motion to Approve: Cathy, Second: Georgie*

**Additional Items to add to Agenda:** 8) Domain Renewal, 9) Gold River Housing Society  
10) Attendance Bylaw for Directors, 11) Bursary

## **Directors and Officers Reports:**

**President -Linda** – Meet and greet was a great success – thanks to all who attended. President's letter was sent out to the membership along with some photos.

**Membership -Linda** - still 8 people left to pay – 2 possibly not renewing.

**Treasurer -Anita** – PayPal is not going to be an option for payment – too many fees/wait times associated. Linda and Anita will work to set up an email for EMT as an alternate option.

Closing balance date was stated as March 24, 2022 on May's report. In meeting Anita amended this to state the correct date as May 19, 2022. *Anita motioned for this change, which was Accepted by Serena and was Seconded by Dawn.*

**Social Media -Anita** – First Gold River video is up on YouTube. Our “Member of BC Chamber of Commerce” logo has been updated on the website. Paul and Anita have been working on updating business listings. Anita will confirm with the chamber list to ensure all businesses are up to date and current. Discussion brought forward about listing photos of the winners of the April Holmes Bursary, was decided we will start posting these photos for 2022 onward, but we will not go back to find the previous winners' photos.

**EDC – Cathy** - EDC is looking for new members for next year to take on a 4-year term. Would be working on grants and volunteer work around town as well as a once monthly meeting. Contact Brenda Patrick if interested

Info Center has hired its summer employees and is opening Saturday May 21, 2022 for the season.

Lots of talk on Wayfinding. New signage ideas have been discussed for directions and how to get places around town (parks etc.). Updates suggested: rec center sign should actually say “Rec Center”, new village square sign, golf course/camping signage, and possibly shifting or moving the “Welcome to Gold River” Chamber Sign that is at the info center, as it is hard to see when you are driving into town.

New Businesses – Georgie – VIRL given an application, Jazzy at Fynn’s and Mrs. J’s Air BnB on Eagle were given a letter and small gift. Will look into talking to the new lady in town who is doing Lashes, and John Cazander’s Life Coaching business now in the plaza.

### **Business Items**

- 1. Spring Social Followup:** overall things went very well. Some seemed a little hesitant at first, possibly thinking we had an intention for the event besides the socializing aspect. As the evening went on that opened up and got better. Golf Course staff was amazing and was overall a positive event. A note for next time, more tables out on the floor to encourage people to walk amongst them and socialize more!
- 2. Job Fair Follow Up:** 11 businesses participated with 60 positions available between them. Had about 30 people come in to chat with participants. Nice to see people of all ages and positions and seemed to have really good spread/outreach. Job fair made \$225 revenue, so we did end up funding the program. All agreed that it was well worthwhile and we hope to make it a yearly event.
- 3. Business of the Month Display:** Three new businesses are now up: Vandenberg Excavation Ltd, Air Nootka and Uptown Capaccino. Will call out this month to really try to get ahold of some non-chamber businesses and get them in there for next month. Will aim to be changed every 6 weeks.
- 4. Summer Events:** Want to get word out to local businesses about these events and when they will be happening to accommodate extra people in town at the restaurants etc. Linda will talk to the village about what to put out. GR 200 will start and finish at the Ridge Father's Day weekend. Going to look into if they are getting a welcome package for the event. If so, we are hoping to include letter from the chamber welcoming people to town. New maps of town will also hopefully be done by then so we can include those. No more word from the White-Water Rafting Group.  
  
Gold River Days is being run by Christina Hodgkinson-Crook. Linda has been in touch with her and will give us an update at next month's meeting.
- 5. Quarterly Presidents Letter:** Letter is attached to these minutes. Anita will condense the letter into a paragraph/blurb to be included in the EDC mailout – should be ready to go out by the end of May.
- 6. Shop Local Grant/Videos:** 3 more videos will be completed by the end of June and will be uploaded to the COC YouTube. These will be on 1) recreation/outdoor activities, 2) retail and accommodations, 3) food!

- 7. New Signs up at the Info Center:** New sign is up and Ridge Sign was replaced. Linda will be in contact with Stacy Last about the new sign for the Uchuck and MMFN for their sign as well
  
- 8. Domain Renewal:** will cost us \$22 per domain (webpage address) per year, so a total cost of \$44 to secure these sites. This would benefit us in lessening any confusion and reduces the chance of competition if we own them all. *A vote was put forward in favor of renewing these domains. All voted in favor with none opposed. Motion was carried forward by Anita and Seconded by Chris.*
  
- 9. Gold River Housing Society:** Adam was present to give the directors some information on the “Rural Immigration New Stream Program”. This program allows Immigrant families the option when moving to Canada to invest \$150,000 into a new or existing business, and prove this investment to the Canadian Government, they can get permanent Canadian status. There is a lawyer from Campbell River who is involved in this program and would like to do a presentation June 6, 2022 in Gold River to see if anyone may be interested in the program. *Adam made a motion for the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor and hold this event, which includes renting the space, advertising the meeting as well as talking to the village for permission for such a program. A vote was done with all in favor, none opposed, and was carried.* Linda and Anita will be in touch with Adam and get plans in motion for this to happen.
  
- 10. Attendance Bylaw:** Linda had noted that Vienna had missed 2 meetings and wanted to confirm with the bylaw what is the policy here. Linda will check the bylaws and update the directors via email, as well as contact Vienna and let her know.
  
- 11. Bursary:** 3 students applied this year, with two applications being “incomplete”. Anita wanted director's opinions if we should allow those two candidates the chance to complete their applications, or if it should just be given to the one student who did complete the application. Zoom unfortunately disconnected on us and discussion was taken up via email. This will be reviewed and discussed at the June meeting

**Meeting Adjourned 8:30pm**

**Recording Secretary Serena Ross**