



**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE
HELD FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022
BY ZOOM**

IN ATTENDANCE: Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, President
Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo, 1st Vice President
Director Vanessa Craig, RD of Nanaimo, 2nd Vice President
Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley RD, Past President
Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast RD, Electoral Area Representative
Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis, Director at Large
Director Travis Hall, Central Coast RD, Director at Large
Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke, Director at Large

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Theresa Dennison, AVICC Executive Coordinator
Glen Brown, UBCM General Manager, Victoria Operations

President Cote called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

a. AGENDA

On motion by 2nd Vice President Craig, seconded by Past President Morrison
THAT the agenda for the October 28, 2022 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

b. MINUTES

On motion by 2nd Vice President Craig, seconded by 1st Vice President Geselbracht
THAT the minutes of the June 24, 2022 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cote congratulated the AVICC Executive on their election victories. Theresa Dennison started as the new Executive Coordinator for AVICC on October 24, 2022. President Cote thanked Mr. Brown and Past President Morrison for working with her to recruit for the position. There have been some discussions about doing advocacy work, although this has not been actioned since Ms. Cookson changed roles within the UBCM. The current focus is on the upcoming 2023 AVICC AGM and Convention.

The UBCM annual convention experienced a great turnout. At the AVICC luncheon, the Premier was in attendance as well as several Ministers, and this shows our members how invested we are in our communities.

On motion by Director Fowler, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the President's Report be received was CARRIED

3. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Post-Election Procedures

Theresa Dennison advised that since all members of the AVICC Executive were re-elected or acclaimed in the local government elections on October 15, 2022, that there are no post-election procedures required as a result of a vacancy on the AVICC Executive Board.

On motion by Director Fowler, seconded by 2nd Vice President Craig THAT the Post-Election Procedures verbal report be received was

CARRIED

4. CONVENTION

a. 2023 Convention Sponsors

Theresa Dennison initiated a discussion regarding the 2023 AVICC AGM & Convention sponsorship opportunities, including the history of the sponsorship at the convention, the list of 2022 sponsors, and the AVICC Executive Policy for sponsorship.

There was a discussion regarding the speaking opportunities for sponsors at the AVICC convention from “for-profit” organizations. Concerns were voiced regarding the type of messaging presented. The Executive considered several ideas, including limiting speaking opportunities for event sponsors overall, and restricting speaking opportunities for “not-for-profit” and government agencies. The suggestion was also made that we move forward with the list that was assembled, but that rather than have the organizations speak themselves, that they submit their speaking notes for approval, and that a member of the Executive or one of the Table Officers present the information at the convention. Concerns were expressed about this idea, as there was the potential that the AVICC Executive would be perceived as supporting the sponsor’s organizational values, and that it may be inappropriate for the AVICC Executive to edit the sponsors’ statements.

Director Hall joined the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

The AVICC AGM and convention does benefit from sponsorship from organizations that could be deemed as controversial. Restricting sponsors’ access to the convention delegates at the convention may impact sponsorship revenues, and it is difficult to predict the outcome.

Director St-Pierre joined the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

It was acknowledged that the for-profit companies pay municipal taxes, and that many provide services that our communities need. The Executive considered the option that all eligible sponsors would have a limited speaking opportunity to include only a short welcome and introduction.

The UBCM policy on sponsorship presents sponsorship packages that define the privileges and opportunities for sponsors that are tied to the different levels; Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. There is the ability to customize the packages. UBCM has also had conversations regarding the nature of specific sponsors and decided to make this a membership decision rather than an Executive decision.

In the AVICC Sponsorship Policy, there are three groups of sponsorship: Group 1 includes governments, government agencies, and crown corporations, Group 2 includes associations and non-profit organizations, and Group 3 includes private for-profit corporations. There was

consideration given to the idea that Group A be offered speaking opportunities, Group B be offered limited speaking opportunities, and Group C be restricted from speaking.

There is a long history of support from private enterprise to support government conventions, and restricting their access may discourage their participation. It was determined that the process to bring this to membership would be through a special resolution to be brought to convention. This wouldn't impact this year's sponsorship program, but would amend it for future years.

Historically for-profit companies have had the opportunities to speak. There are opportunities to get exposure in other ways. There are also many advocacy groups that are for profit. It gets complicated to restrict some and not others. We are too far along in the convention planning process to do something that would impact our conference this year.

It was discussed that if we overlay the organizing levels of the three "groups" of sponsorship, we could roll this out without too much disruption. Sponsors generate revenue for the association, and keep dues lower for members. The cost to deliver conferences is increasing dramatically.

On motion by 1st Vice President Geselbracht, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT speaking opportunities are eliminated from the sponsorship benefits packages was
DEFEATED
(all opposed)

On motion by 1st Vice President Geselbracht, seconded by Councillor St-Pierre
THAT AVICC offer sponsorship by 3 categories:
Group 1: governments, government agencies, local government associations and crown corporations;
Group 2: non-local government associations and non-profit organizations; and
Group 3: private for-profit corporations; and

THAT speaking opportunities are available to Group 1 only was
CARRIED
(opposed President Cote, Past President Morrison)

b. 2023 Resolutions and Nominations Deadline

The Executive considered the proposed deadline for resolutions and nominations to be submitted by AVICC members, and reviewed the timeline for the process of review and preparation of comments from UBCM on the resolutions. The 2023 convention will be held later than the 2022 convention and the recommended timelines have been adjusted accordingly.

Because of the newly-elected officials resulting from the 2022 local government elections, there will be inexperienced resolutions submitted that will require additional edits and feedback by staff. The resolutions package should encourage members to be explicit about what kind of action they are asking for from AVICC. It was recommended that this can be a session at the 2022 convention.

On motion by Director St. Pierre, seconded by Past President Morrison
THAT the Executive determine the Resolutions and Nominations deadline for 2023 given the considerations discussed in this report, and that the deadline be set at Thursday, February 9th, 2023 was
CARRIED

Past President Morrison left the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

c. 2023 Convention Keynote Speaker and Workshop Planning Update

Theresa Dennison referenced the report presented to the Executive at the June 24, 2022 meeting regarding convention planning, and highlighted that she is requiring direction from the Executive regarding potential keynote speakers for the 2023 convention. It was recommended that she review the list from last year. In addition, the following keynote speakers were identified:

- Tomson Highway, Author, *Permanent Astonishment*
- Diane Kalen-Sukra, Author, *Save your City*
- Andrea Reimer, Canadian Politician
- Stuart Bergman, Vice President & Chief Economist, Export Development Canada (EDC)
- Khelsilem (Dustin Rivers), Indigenous-Canadian Politician
- Jody Wilson-Raybould (Puglaas), Indigenous-Canadian Politician, Lawyer, and former regional chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations

The Executive was asked to send information about suggested Keynote Speakers to Ms. Dennison by email, and she will do the research and send out to the results by email.

In addition, AVICC will be sending out a request for submissions for workshop topics to members in early November. The Executive suggested the following topics for workshops:

- How to change BC elections process
- Health Networks workshop- open session with a focus on health: Division of Family Practice
- Update on the legislation governing regional districts: a panel on Legislative reform initiative- Don Lidstone
- Panel on housing corporation: opportunities for regional districts to develop housing authority- Panel with BC Housing, Retired CAO of the CRD, Seniors housing advocate
- District of Tofino model of housing
- Development Corporations/Municipal Development Corporation: workshop on reaching development goals
- City of Nelson's electrical utilities: how it was developed and used
- AVICC advocacy: facilitated information-sharing session to allow for smaller breakout groups to identify the big issues facing municipalities and regional districts
- Vancouver Island Regional Library
- Electoral Area Directors Forum, Mayors Forum, Local Government sessions based on population

The Executive expressed interest in making the workshops more interactive using formats such as "world-café" and "speed-dating".

On motion by Director St. Pierre seconded by Director Fowler

THAT the report on Convention Keynote Speaker and Workshop Planning be received was

CARRIED

d. 2023 Convention Planning- Meeting Timing

Theresa Dennison provided a report that outlined the convention planning timeline, as it relates to the rest of the Executive meeting schedule leading up to convention. She recommended that an additional meeting be added in late-January or early-February.

On motion by Director St. Pierre, seconded by 2nd Vice President Craig,
THAT the Executive confirm that an additional meeting date to be called for February 3, 2023
CARRIED

e. 2024 Convention Planning- Host City

Theresa Dennison provided a verbal update that informed the Executive about the current status of the host-city selection process for the 2024 AVICC AGM and Convention. Currently there is space being held on a tentative basis at the Victoria Conference Centre, and they will require that an updated request for proposal be sent as soon as possible. She also indicated that she has reached out to the District of Ucluelet, and they have indicated that their maximum capacity is 200 guests for plenary sessions, and 220 for a Banquet. In 2012, which was the last time the AVICC AGM was held in Ucluelet, there were 263 delegates, and the contact at the District of Ucluelet indicated that that was over their actual capacity. There were 360 delegates in Victoria in 2022.

Given that we now require space for 350 or more guests, the Executive directed staff to reach out to the City of Victoria to discuss the 2024 convention, and that the convention policy be updated to reflect a capacity requirement of 350 delegates.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Craig, seconded by Director St. Pierre,
THAT the 2024 Convention Planning Victoria Host City verbal report be received was CARRIED

5. POLICY

a. Advocacy Framework for Member Direction and Discussion

President Cote provided an update regarding the advocacy workshops as discussed at the last meeting. Since we have had not staff support since that meeting, there has been no further action on this initiative. It was recommended that we may be able to organize a session in 2023, and it was identified that the current focus is on the convention and that staff does not have the capacity to support advocacy workshops at this time.

It was recommended that we have a session at the convention on advocacy framework that is facilitated as a world café, so that we get a sense of what type of advocacy the members require.

On motion by Director Fowler, seconded by Director St. Pierre,
That the verbal report on the advocacy framework be received for information was CARRIED

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive is set for December 16, 2022 in person in Nanaimo and by Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:27, on motion by Director Hall, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the meeting be adjourned was CARRIED