



**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE
HELD FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021
BY ZOOM**

IN ATTENDANCE: Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley RD, President
Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, 1st Vice President
Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo, 2nd Vice President
Councillor Carl Jensen, District of Central Saanich, Past President
Director Vanessa Craig, RD of Nanaimo, Electoral Area Representative
Councillor Colleen Evans, City of Campbell River, Director at Large
Director Mark Gisborne, qathet RD, Director at Large
Director Travis Hall, Central Coast RD, Director at Large

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Liz Cookson, Executive Director

President Morrison called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

AGENDA

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by EA Representative Craig,
That the agenda for the October 15, 2021 meeting be adopted as presented was CARRIED

MINUTES

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That the minutes of the September 13, 2021 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Morrison advised the Executive he will be attending the UBCM Executive meeting in November, and has been appointed as a member of the Indigenous Relations Committee and Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee. He noted that the only two electoral area representatives on the 2021/2022 UBCM Executive were himself and Grace McGregor, the UBCM EA Representative.

On motion by President Morrison, seconded by 1st Vice President Cote,
That the President's Report be received was CARRIED

CONVENTION

2022 Convention Sponsors

Liz Cookson reviewed the sponsorship report that outlined AVICC's sponsorship policy approved in 2013. The policy details the criteria and the process for approving sponsorships each year. She advised that 2nd Vice President Geselbracht had contacted her questioning why Fortis BC was included in Group 1 of the sponsor categories that referred to. Group 1 includes "other governments, government agencies and

crown corporations” and under the policy is eligible for automatic approval. Upon review, Fortis BC does not appear to meet the criteria for Group 1 while BC Hydro does. The Executive has reviewed sponsorships annually without automatic approval of Group 1 even though permitted under the policy.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Geselbracht, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That Fortis BC be moved from Group 1 of the sponsor categories to Group 3 was CARRIED

Director Evans joined the meeting following another commitment.

2nd Vice President Geselbracht moved a motion to remove Fortis BC entirely from the list of approved sponsors for 2022. The motion was not seconded.

The Executive discussed the rationale for having sponsors at the convention, including allowing convention fees and member dues to be affordable for smaller members, as well as allowing members to speak face to face with the sponsors about their concerns and questions. There was discussion about including sponsors in workshops on topics related to their organizations.

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by Director Evans,
That all previously approved 2019, 2020 and 2021 sponsors be approved and invited to continue their sponsorships in the coming year with sponsorship categories based on the convention being held as an in-person event was CARRIED

2022 Deadline for Resolutions and Nominations

The Executive considered the proposed timeline for resolutions to be submitted, and go through the process of review and preparation of comments from UBCM on the resolutions. The 2022 convention will be held earlier than usual in-person conventions so timelines will need to be a bit earlier.

Director Gisborne suggested that members be advised that resolutions will be voted on in the order that they are submitted to AVICC, rather than grouped by subject area. There was discussion that AVICC had always been able to complete debate of all resolutions, but that UBCM often ran out of time and the categories listed at the end of the resolutions were not admitted for debate.

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by Director Craig,
That staff explore how a “first come-first served” policy for resolutions could be developed for future conventions was CARRIED

President Morrison will suggest to UBCM that the order of the resolution categories could be flipped or varied each year so that the same subject categories are not considered last or missed.

Reconsider Gold Star Resolution Process

The AVICC Executive introduced the awarding of Gold Star Resolutions for the 2019 Convention. The intent was to improve the quality of resolutions submitted. The Executive decided not to grant any gold star awards for 2021, and resolved to review the process and criteria following the 2021 Convention as the awarding of a gold star did not appear to help with improving the quality of resolutions submitted.

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by 2nd Vice President Geselbracht,
That the criteria and process of awarding Gold Star Resolutions be removed from the resolutions procedures was CARRIED

Past President Jensen raised for consideration whether the requirement for background information on each resolution should also be removed. He noted that some resolutions were straight-forward and did not require background information. There was discussion on the original purpose of the requirement to give members more clarity, and to restrict members from sending in copious amounts of information.

On motion by Past President Jensen, seconded by Director Gisborne,
That the requirement for backgrounders on each resolution be removed was

DEFEATED

2022 Convention Update and Keynote Speaker

Liz Cookson advised she had been in touch with the Victoria Conference Centre and the hotels that would be used in 2022. Planning is going ahead based on an in-person convention, and members will be advised shortly that hotel rooms are available for booking. The call for workshops and speakers has been added to the website, and will also be sent out to members and sponsors.

The Executive then discussed the keynote speaker suggestions, and individually identified their top two or three ranked speakers. There was discussion on whether or not AVICC should continue to have a keynote speaker at the convention to attract delegates and to set the tone for the convention. The feeling was that having a keynote whose address was connected to other sessions during the convention was desirable.

Staff was asked to contact the short-listed speakers to determine their availability and speaking fee.

POLICY

Advocacy Framework for Member Direction: Options

President Morrison advised he was in favour of a strategic planning session to identify priorities to bring back to the membership at the 2022 Convention. He would like to consider hiring a facilitator to run the session, and also to develop the framework for advocacy for member review.

Liz Cookson referred to the discussion from the September 13th AVICC Executive meeting where she was asked to report back on the advocacy work of the other area associations, and how the associations fund their advocacy work. She reviewed her discussions with each area association that were set out in the report.

She presented a comparison of dues that detailed total dues collected as well as relative dues per member local government. AVICC was at the low to mid range of average dues per member. The analysis also included what the dues would be in each of the other associations for a representative local government from one of the four population bands that AVICC uses. She noted that AVICC charges less than the other area associations at the lower population levels, with 11 out of 53 AVICC members only paying the minimum dues of \$245.

There was a wide range in the level of dues for the five sample members. For example, a member in AVICC would pay four times more in one of the other associations, or half as much as they pay to AVICC in another association. To generate additional revenue, each 1% increase in AVICC member dues would generate \$975, and this would not fund significant levels of consulting or contractor resources.

The report also identified four options for varying levels of advocacy that could be the basis of options to take to the members with costings attached to each.

The Executive discussed: the desire to clarify AVICC's role in through a strategic planning exercise; the capacity issue of current revenue sources; increasing member dues and/or seeking grants for advocacy; exploring more internal facing advocacy as a regional convenor; wanting to be in-step and consistent with UBCM's advocacy work; working more closely with UBCM in advocacy on issues of key importance to the AVICC region; adding more educational opportunities throughout the year for members; recognizing that maintaining the status quo of responding to advocacy requests on an individual basis remains an option; and ensuring there are financial costs attached to the advocacy options presented to members in a framework.

Director Evans left the meeting for another commitment.

All Executive members supported an in-person strategy session to be held in the near future, and reviewed travel logistics. Nanaimo was suggested as a convenient location for all members. The session will be planned as a full day session, and November 29th looked to be a date that worked for all members.

President Morrison requested each Executive member to send in their suggestions for a facilitator to himself and Liz Cookson so they would make the arrangements for the facilitator and session and advise the Executive members.

Past President Jensen left the meeting for another commitment.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2022 Budget Direction

On motion by 2nd Vice President Geselbracht, seconded by 1st Vice President Cote,
That the item on direction on the 2022 Budget be deferred until the next meeting of the Executive was
CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 am on December 3, 2021. A strategy planning session may be scheduled prior to that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40 am, on motion by Director Gisborne, seconded by EA Representative Craig,
that the meeting be adjourned was
CARRIED

Ian Morrison
President

Liz Cookson
Executive Director