



LOWER MAINLAND

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE MEETING

Via Zoom

December 7, 2023

In attendance:

Councillor Patricia Ross, President, Chair
Councillor Paul Albrecht, First Vice-President
Councillor Michie Vidal, Second Vice President
Director Jen McCutcheon, Third Vice President
Councillor Elaine Cheung, Director at Large
Councillor Chris Pettingill, Director at Large
Mayor Sylvia Pranger, Director at Large
Councillor Chris Kloot, FVRD rep
Mayor Armand Hurford, SLRD rep
Mayor Nathan Pachal, Metro Vancouver Rep
Shannon Story, Executive Director

Absent:

Mayor Jack Crompton, Past President

P. Ross called the meeting to order at 2: 00 p.m.

1. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Executive recognized the traditional territories that they are located on.

2. AGENDA

A motion was ADOPTED:

That the agenda for the December 7, 2023, Executive Meeting be adopted.

3. MINUTES

A motion was ADOPTED:

That the minutes from the October 19, 2023, executive meeting be adopted.

4. CIVX

S. Story reported on the CivX analytics:

- There were 83 registrations
- 25 of them were Lower Mainland LGA Members
- 59 people logged onto CivX on Day 1
- 33 people logged onto CivX on Day 2
- \$8,500 in sponsorship was received with half going to CivicInfo BC
- The platform and the design of the sponsorship pages costs \$800
- The Lower Mainland LGA made a total of \$3,850 on CivX

A motion was ADOPTED:

That the Lower Mainland LGA skip the CivX event for 2024 and then re-visit whether we want to hold future CivX events in 2025 and beyond.

5. EXECUTIVE PER DIEM

-S. Story reported that she followed up with the other area associations and they all issue T4's to their executive except for one.

S. Story spoke to our accountant, and she agreed that T4's would need to be issued at the end of each year and that she would be willing to do it for our association.

A motion was ADOPTED:

That an executive per diem of \$150 per meeting be given to members of the executive for each meeting that they attend starting with the election of the new board and that the executive be paid twice a year.

And further that the Executive Policies be updated to reflect this.

6. HARRISON HOT SPRINGS AS CONFERENCE HOST

-After we sent a letter informing Harrison Hot Springs of our concerns with the property and the resolution passed by the executive not to hold the 2025 conference there, the resort requested a meeting with us.

-P. Ross, P. Albrecht, M. Vidal, S. Story, and Councillor Leo Facio representing the Village of Harrison Hot Springs met with the GM and Director of Sales on November 14th.

-Harrison admitted that the experience the Lower Mainland LGA and our delegates had in 2023 was subpar and they stated that they are amid a \$18 million renovation and have increased staff.

-Their letter to us that was contained within the executive meeting package states that the renovation of the West Tower is expected to take place in 2024 but we have no guarantee of how much of the hotel would be finished in 2025.

-They have sent us a draft contract which offers the same hotel room rate and conference room rate as 2023.

-The Westin Whistler is very booked up for May 2025 and have quoted rates that are quite high. \$289 per deluxe studio suite. We are paying \$180 for a studio suite for 2024. Conference room rental would be complimentary with a \$65,000 food and beverage spend whereas this is \$57,000 in 2024.

A motion was ADOPTED:

That the Lower Mainland LGA return to Harrison Hot Springs for 2025, however we ensure that our concerns are addressed.

-The board would like to visit Harrison over 2024 and 2025 to conduct site visits and request that our delegates only stay in renovated rooms and those in the newer East Wing before we sign the contract. It is important that Harrison knows that 2025 will be probationary.

-The board also directed that a letter be sent to members letting them know what has been done to address their concerns expressed after the 2023 conference.

7. 2024 CONFERENCE

a) **Theme:** The group voted on the theme and the favourite was "Tackling the Big Issues"

b) **Keynote/Sessions:** The group voted on some session ideas. The most popular were:

- Changing the Tone in Politics
- Lower Mainland Transportation Future
- How to be an Outstanding Leader

The group suggested the following keynote speakers:

- Tomson Highway
- Christine Sinclair
- John Horgan
- Jane Austin

ACTION ITEM: S. Story will ask the executive for other ideas for a keynote speaker and then send a poll around.

-A call out for conference sessions ideas will be placed on our website this week and the board will review them in the new year.

c) AV

S. Story has been working with Encore to secure a contract for AV which is before the executive today for approval. S. Story has negotiated them down to \$24,069.48. AV came to \$23,705 in 2023. Encore did a very good job in 2023 in Harrison and S. Story would like to request the same two staff members to come to Whistler for 2024.

A motion was ADOPTED:

That the executive direct S. Story to enter a contract with Encore to provide AV services for the 2024 Conference in Whistler at a rate of \$24,069.48.

d) Sponsorship Package

S. Story presented the 2024 Sponsorship Package which is the same as 2023 with some sponsorship amount increases.

A motion was ADOPTED:

That the executive approves the 2024 Conference Sponsorship Package.

-The board would like to have a meeting with our members after the UBCM Sponsorship recommendations are released.

8. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION FOLLOW UP

E. Cheung left the meeting at 3:30 pm

S. Story reviewed the follow up document sent by Tracey Lorenson on the Strategic Planning Session.

-The board would like to review the last strategic priority currently called "Sustainable Funding" and look to change it to something along the lines of "Governance".


9. CORRESPONDENCE

That the letter from the Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food dated November 8, 2023, following up on our meeting at UBCM be received.

-P. Ross stated that she received an email from the Climate Action Secretariat that S. Story will distribute to the group.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.



Chair Councillor Patricia Ross,
President



Shannon Story, Executive Director