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April 20, 2020

Mayor Helps and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Sent via email to mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

Re: GVHA Board of Directors – Marianne Alto - Director Term

I write this letter on behalf of the GVHA Board and Management Team to let you know how very grateful we are to have Marianne Alto sitting as the City of Victoria Member Agency Director. We have, as you know, been without representation from the City for well over a year now and as a key member of the GVHA we value having the City at the table. The GVHA governance structure ensures that all Directors meet the needs required by the organization to support the management of the assets under our care. Importantly, Marianne's skill set is ideally suited to support the GVHA's complex Board oversight requirements, as well as facing the extreme challenge of pandemic rescue and recovery. Her experience in governance, aboriginal relations and strategic planning, as well as her time served on the Board of Destination Greater Victoria, will serve the GVHA well during our anticipated multi-year recovery.

We look forward to the informed presence and continuity that Councillor Alto is already bringing to her role as a GVHA Director while we suspend all capital projects except for one. That being the business case and feasibility study regarding shore power which represents a significant investment for the organization. Now more than ever the GVHA will need stability and steadiness from its Board and we are grateful to have Councillor Alto representing the City of Victoria.

The global situation as it relates to the cruise ship industry and therefore the decline in projected revenues for the GVHA dictates that we be fiscally responsible on all fronts including our Nominations and Director Orientation process. Much like a municipal byelection, the recruitment and on-boarding of a director is a significant undertaking. To that end we request that Councillor Alto remain the City of Victoria Member Agency Director for her entire term. Given that we have recently invested in her training and on-boarding process, for board continuity, it is critical that the GVHA be able to benefit from Councillor Alto's experience and balanced perspective for a minimum of one full term and preferably at least one re-appointment. In fact, she is eligible to serve up to three four-year terms. Moving forward, we have determined that all Director Terms, will need to align with the terms of the GVHA organization.

To that end we will be working with all our Member Agencies to dovetail Director terms ensuring that the GVHA realizes the greatest benefits for its' future success.

We look forward to working with Councillor Alto and Council in the coming months and years to support Victoria's Working Harbour and its waterfront amenities that Victorian's have come to use and love. Should you wish to further discuss what our Board feels is an extremely important appointment to the GVHA governance team, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Starr McMichael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

V. Starr McMichael
Governance & Nominations Chair on behalf of GVHA Board

cc: GVHA Board of Directors

