

SGI Economic Development Commission
Meeting July 22nd, 2013

In attendance:

CRD representatives – Marg Misek-Evans, Malcolm McPhail

BC Transit Representatives – Myrna Moore, Tania Wegwitz

Islands Trust representatives – Ken hancock, Kris Nichols

Galiano reps – Commissioner & Chair Michael Hoebel, Ed Andrusiak, Arnie Bell,

Mayne rep – Advisory Chair, Brian Crumblehulme,

Pender reps – Commissioner Wendy Gardner, Marty Swan

SGI Director David Howe

Minutes – Ina Timmer

Regrets – Derek Masselink, Justin Stephenson, Brian Dearden, Larry Peck

Introductions all round.

Motion to adopt minutes of last meeting by Brian Crumblehulme, seconded by Arnie Bell.
All in favour. Passed.

CRD Regional Transportation Plan presentation by Marg Misek-Evans & Malcolm McPhail – the powerpoint and workbook (see attached) that were presented are regional in nature but can be built on and adapted to reflect the needs of the Southern Gulf Islands. The SGI needs to identify its priorities by going through the workbook provided and submitting to CRD by August 8th. 2013. It was suggested that all books be sent to Melody when completed so she can send them in altogether. Dave Howe asked about usage of CRD docks. Ed Andrusiak said that we need to have an overlay for all water transport to reconnect islands as they once were. Ken Hancock reminded us that the old ferry system centred around the old docks. Marg replied that discussions on that topic and others will result from what the SGI identifies in the workbooks.

BC Transit – Marg said that CRD has met with BC Transit and representatives from SGI transportation committees and there was a consensus to pursue a pre-feasibility study. There is an MOU with BC Transit for a study in the fall....this will have a cost involved. Myrna Moore, from BC Transit handed out a service discussion document that needs to be filled out by each island and handed back to them as soon as possible. Ina volunteered to lead this on Pender, Michael on Galiano, Brian for Mayne and we will ask Larry Peck on Saturna.

ETGI – Ed gave a project update on the trails concept, and next steps (see attached).

Local Food & AG Plan – (see attached) – Ed said that there is a resurgence of agriculture on Galiano thanks largely to projects at Cable Bay Farm. Brian asked if we have any idea of what the AG plan will look like? Marg said that Derek Masselink will give us more information. The plan needs to be looked at as more than an economic entity....it should reflect the cultural heritage, tourism, preserving land, complement the ETGI and identify

what is important to island residents. Ken suggested that this needs to be done community by community since each island has its own profile. Brian agreed with Ken. He has met with San Juan Islands council who have farm plans and have defined farming as an important characteristic of their area. They have been very successful. A big challenge is how to get 'local buy-in.'

Inventory Project – Ken suggested that our islands are laboratories for great ideas but we have no baseline and no understanding of our basic economy. We need to have discussions about our carrying capacity and development issues. The EDC needs a foundation of facts to build on. Ken spoke about the Florida methodology of benchmarking.... ..talent, territory, tolerance and technology. By doing an inventory of economic assets and opportunities we may achieve a similar result. Michael Hoebel has identified a student, Brent Peterson, who has volunteered to work on this with us, under the supervision of both Michael and Ken. They have both met with Brent and given him an overview of the governance and the project. Brent will also work with CRD and liaison with Marg to get statistical data. Marg suggested that we will need a formalized agreement with Brent. Michael thanked Ken for taking this forward.

Senior Services and Housing – Wendy Gardner motioned that we adopt Seniors Services and Housing as an initiative of the EDC. Seconded by Dave Howe. All in favour. Passed.

Updates from islands:

Pender has 2 proposals being worked on – an elder village adjacent to the Driftwood centre and the idea of Elder pods, which would re-purpose existing housing.

Mayne seniors – Brian commented that an application has been received by the LTD for a rezoning for a private residence for their seniors at Oceanwood.

Galiano – Ed said that they have spoken to a contractor/builder about expanding Galiano's existing senior's housing. They are looking to the community to set up a Community Contribution Corporation (CCC) for funding.

Communications – Wendy updated us on the website and Facebook. We are getting more submissions to the site but we need to keep generating traffic and 'liking' Facebook. Businesses should be linking with each other. We should have an EDC table at all the island fall fairs. Basecamp is also being used project by project and more and more people are signing up to use this platform.

Online Portal – Arnie presented a PowerPoint outlining what is being created on Galiano regarding inventorying artists, accommodations, dining etc. the website is multi layered and can be expanded to include all the SGI's. This will eventually be a very large platform and will require much work and maintenance but will be a valuable tool for the islands.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting was not decided.