

**SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING of Monday FEB 9 2015  
TIME: 09:00  
PLACE: Panorama Rec Center**

1. Attendance. Members: Ian Dow, George Harris, David Howe (SGI Dir.), Leigh Pullen, Priscilla Zimmerman  
Guest: Paul LeBlond (SGI Dir. Alt.)
2. Approval of agenda. M: Leigh; S: Priscilla. Carried.
3. Membership: Ian Dow presented his resignation from the EDC . Too busy with other activities on Mayne Island and family.  
Leigh Pullen was nominated as chair. M: Priscilla; S: George. Carried and elected
4. Minutes of Jan 15 meeting adopted with minor correction (LeBlond's name omitted from attendance).
5. Informal discussion of FORUM, the facebook forum on Pender. Should there also be a facebook page for the EDC? Reference to book by Parker Palmer ( *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit.* ) by Priscilla.
6. Overview of the governing bylaw of the EDC (# 3803). Status of advisory groups on Gulf islands: need to be restimulated. Leigh suggests perhaps the Chambers of Commerce, who have a strong economic interest, could play the role of local advisory committees. Members to approach their CoCs.
7. The issue of **hiring of a consultant** to establish a "transportation authority" in support of ETGI and other EDC activities is under consideration by the CRD and will be brought to the EASC for approval.
8. **Financial issues.**
  - 8.1 The budget for the EDC was not discussed.
  - 8.2 MOTION: "That the EDC request the CRD to approach the Minister of Transportation to instruct BC Ferries to collect \$0.25 from each passenger travelling through Active Pass to create a legacy fund for the Gulf Islands". M: Priscilla; S: George.  
Discussion included proposal to charge only cars or to approach commercial users directly.  
Original motion: Carried.
9. **Community broadband.** David has arranged for James Van Leeuwen to speak to people in VanCity Savings regarding setting up small community broadband network(s).
10. **Recycling.** Island recycling centers foresee a collective deficit over the next 4 years and seek continuing CRD support. Discussion favours enterprising initiatives on the part of recycling centers. Some support favoured.
11. **A Master Plan for the Islands?** Priscilla introduces the idea of an all-encompassing website documenting the resources, attractions, features of the islands. Perhaps the Sustainable Islands website could be broadened to perform this role as a portal to existing (Chamber of Commerce, tourism, etc...) and new sites .  
MOTION: "That a project manager be hired to transform the Sustainable Islands website into a portal accessing SGI information and resources." M: Priscilla; S: George. Carried.
12. Leigh raised issues for discussion on matters of government effectiveness, First Nations, and a variety of impediments to economic development. He also proposed ideas on:
  - 12.1 Enhanced inter-island activities: e.g. music festivals, farm contests,.... the idea was supported by tabled for further discussion;
  - 12.2 Setting up a dispatch system for inter-island water transportation.

MOTION: "David and Leigh will work towards developing a dispatch system". M: David; S: George. carried

13. Affordable housing. George will circulate to other members information concerning Galiano Green, the proposed Galiano Island affordable housing proposal.

14. The meeting adjourned at 12:00.