

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2015 draft#3

Galiano Inn, Galiano Island

1. Attendance. Chairman Leigh Pullen called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Commissioners Ian Dow, George Harris, and Priscilla Zimmerman were present as well as Paul LeBlond as alternate for David Howe. Also in attendance were David Book, to assist with budgeting, Richard Dewinetz vice-president of the Galiano Chamber of Commerce, and Ed Andrusiak, animator of the Experience The Gulf Islands (ETGI) initiative.

2. The agenda was **approved** as circulated with the addition of David Book's presentation of budget estimates and ensuing discussion. **M: Paul; S: George.**

3. The minutes of the April 9 meeting were **approved** subject to an amendment as follows: Item 7 should read: "Ian Dow reported on dock repairs. His estimate of \$700,000 to repair all SGI Harbours Commission docks was based on engineer Hugh Tuttle's report on the Miner's Bay dock. Mayne and Saturna docks currently being worked on." **M: Ian; S: George.**

4. Budgetary discussion,

David Book distributed budgetary information for discussion. He informed us that David Howe had recommended a 2% increase in our total funding; also that ETGI and the Agriculture Project were both receiving \$60,000 from gas-tax money, separately from our budget. He noted that someone (s) had to be appointed as responsible for financial oversight over expenses.

4.1 The Commission appointed Ian Dow as commissioner responsible for oversight of all expenditures, including gas-tax funding. M: George; S: Priscilla. Carried.

On specific items:

4.2 \$25,000 for SGI/SSI Service Review. Paul mentioned that he had heard from David Howe that SSI's contribution would likely be \$15,000. Leigh expressed continuing doubts as to utility of such a review. Ed pointed out that the town of Sidney wishes to be a player in the inter-island transportation network and that their participation should be considered. Ed also discussed the need for CRD senior staff and politicians to find a "home" for items like inter-island transportation, broadband, ETGI, economic development, recycling on the SGI, and other items that could become a service with a number of functions for the SGI. A study would determine a structure and "home" in a CRD department with a general manager that would facilitate budget development and oversight of funds raised and spent providing the services requested by islanders. He is strongly in favour of such a study as it should result in a management and administrative structure that will facilitate delivering services to the SGI.

MOVED (Ian), Sec: (George) that the EDC's final financial decision take into consideration SaltSpring Island's decision to participate and also consider Sidney's participation. Carried.

4.3 Office rentals: no office rental required on Mayne or Saturna. Remove \$13,000 from cost estimate.

4.4 Contracts: too early to tell how much will be needed.

4.5 Tour des Iles. \$2,500 was allocated in a resolution without meeting circulated by e-mail April 10.
(copy attached)

4.6 David Book will redo the budget so as to balance as per above discussion and will resubmit for final approval at next meeting. **M: Ian; S: George. Carried.**

5. Web site. Priscilla to confer with Melody.

6. George's idea of naming a "village" on Galiano -- deferred.

7. Galiano Chamber of Commerce. (CoC)

Richard Dewinetz outlined some of the economic issues on Galiano, very similar to those found on other Gulf Islands :an aging population, few employment opportunities, expensive and insufficient housing, especially for young families, poor internet connectivity, an important but seasonal tourist industry, and restrictive zoning regulations . To stimulate tourism in the off season, the Galiano CoC is adopting the slogan "An Island for All Seasons", which could well be extended to all the SGI . On the subject of internet access, Richard said he would be happy to help with locating a repeater and would contact Sig Luft of Beacon. An update on progress in developing broadband internet access in the SGI will be circulated.

8. ETGI.

8.1 Ed Andrusiak reviewed progress of the ETGI initiative; the proposal document, completed; the need for the next step with explicit priorities and funding allocations; specific initiatives such as the recent Active Pass Festival; the Mayne Island demonstration trail (underway). The need to be seen as a larger target (archipelago rather than individual islands) to attract global geotourism.

8.2 Trails are a great attractor of geotourists. Completion of trail networks will most likely require some segments on private lands. Providing adequate recognition of public service for granting passage on private property was seen as requiring more attention. The system used by the Gulf Islands Trails Society and its member components on the different islands, whereby property owners receive insurance coverage against permission to develop and use trails across their land, does not provide further benefits in terms of tax credits or other benefits.

8.3 An ETGI logo is under development. Marketing will proceed under the Destination BC, Community Tourism Foundation plan for the Southern Gulf Islands. . The Community Foundation Tourist Plan for the Southern Gulf Islands is attached. Ed requested that the EDC request that the Chamber of Commerce or Tourism Association on each SGI endorse the Tourism Plan and as he participated in helping to develop the Plan, he offered to present the Plan to each Chamber of Commerce. The advantage in having the Plan endorsed is that ETGI is embedded as a key part of tourism development and that Destination BC has matching funding for marketing of SGI tourism initiatives and products once they are developed.

MOTION: that each commissioner communicate this information to their respective Chambers of Commerce and encourage them to put review and consideration of endorsement of the Plan on one of their meeting agendas. **M: George; S: Priscilla**

3_-->

8.4 Recent news of provincial government support of trails in the Okanagan
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/premier-clark-pledges-72-million-for-okanagan-recreational-trail>
motivated the commissioners to move that:

MOTION: The EDC pursue working with ETGI to approach the Provincial Government for support with trails funding. M: George; S: Priscilla. Carried.

9. Galiano Parking.

George reported on his discussions with highways officials about parking issues on Galiano. Work required to improve parking at Montague CRD Dock requires a geotechnical assessment.

The commissioners moved that the EDC request the CRD to send an engineer to report on the situation. M: George; S: Ian. Carried

10. Tour des Iles.

Funding from the EDC (\$2,500) approved; expect some from SSI; will CoCs contribute?

Search for a coordinator is underway.

Marketing to be via posters; need to spread the word! Island Tides article suggested; a link with ETGI website. ...

11. Mayne breakwater. Ian Dow presented a case for a floating breakwater to protect the Miners' Bay dock, a crucial transportation component in the ETGI project as a gateway to the Salish Sea loop of the Trans-Canada trail. Preliminary cost estimates range from \$300,000 to \$1,500,000 . He moved that:

"The EDC provide up to \$7,500 for funding a study to determine the size and type of a wave attenuator required to solve wave danger and damage to the Miners' Bay dock and to determine the cost of its construction and installation." M: Ian; S: George. Carried.

12. Lyall Harbour dock.

"The EDC supports the expansion of the Lyall Harbour dock, as proposed to the Harbours Commission, as a measure likely to support its ETGI initiative. Ian Dow to approach chair of Harbour Commission. "

M: Ian; S; George. carried

13. Pender Bus.

Leigh presented some information regarding efforts to introduce a bus system on Pender Islands.

"The EDC supports a request to the CRD director to investigate providing gas-tax funds for a study of Pender Island transit." M: Ian; S: Priscilla.

14. Governance.

Leigh expressed some personal views regarding governance on the Gulf Islands, deploring the complexity and burdensome nature of multiple jurisdictions. He hopes the topic would remain one for continuing future debate.

"The EDC expressed itself as supportive of working closely with Island Trustees on matters of common interest.." M: Ian; S: Priscilla.

4-->

15. Other business

Leigh mentioned three items of interest:

1-the forthcoming development of an app allowing ferry riders to hitch a ride when arriving on an island;

2- a need for better coordination of inter-island water-taxis;

3- a need to fix dangerous areas in island roads.

16. Next meeting.

Leigh not available in May; asked Ian to host and chair a meeting on Mayne island. Proposed date = Wednesday, May 27.

attachments:

April 10 resolution (previously circulated)

Community Tourism Foundation Southern Gulf Islands (previously circulated)

Revised budget prepared by David Book --attached.