

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of a Meeting held October 23rd, 2015
at the Galiano Inn 134 Madrona Drive, Galiano Island, BC

Present: **Alternate Director:** Paul LeBlond
 Commission Members: Ian Dow Chair (Mayne Island), George Harris (Galiano Island), Liz Montague (Pender Islands), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna Island)

Regrets: David Howe, Director, June Klassen, SGI EDC Support

Guests: Ed Andrusiak, Michael Hoebel, Andrea Mills, Peter Paré

Public: 0

The meeting came to order at 9:00 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Liz Montague, **SECONDED** by George Harris that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes of September 22nd, 2015

MOVED by Ian Dow, **SECONDED** by Liz Montague, that the minutes of September 22nd, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Reports:

3.1. Director's Report: Alternate Director Paul LeBlond reported on a conversation with Director Howe earlier in the day, wherein Director Howe reiterated his emphasis on the recently expressed vision statement for the EDC ["*A clean, carbon free, knowledge based economy for the permanent residents of our archipelago, under the protection of the Islands Trust preserve and protect umbrella*"], mentioned that the EDC should soon consider progress of its agricultural initiative, and that members should quickly focus on the questions raised on J. Klassen's workbook.

3.2. Chair's Report: Ian Dow reviewed some of the initiatives of the EDC and emphasized the need to bring private business into play as an important participant in achieving the EDC's vision.

3.3. Commissioners' Reports

- 3.3.1. Priscilla Zimmerman reported on her support of a group on Saturna Island working towards providing an extension to the Lyall Harbour dock and adjacent camping facilities.
- 3.3.2. Liz Montague reported on a recent presentation on Pender Island by hydrologist Jim Henderson ["Truths and Misconceptions about Pender Island's Groundwater: Planning for the future" see links on penderconsrvancy.org]. There followed a short discussion on water storage and the use and regulation of grey waters which led to a **MOTION**

MOVED: by Liz Montague, **SECONDED** by George Harris that the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission consider making water management one of its initiatives.

CARRIED

- 3.3.3. George Harris reported on parking issues on Galiano, on his participation in a recent meeting of the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission, and on ideas for cross-border connections with San Juan County in a 2016 Tour des Iles event.

4. Delegations:

- 4.1. **Pender Bus:** Peter Paré and Andrea Mills presented the plans and progress towards creating a bus service on Pender Island. Discussion led to a **MOTION**.

MOVED by George Harris and **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman that the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission request the Mayne Island Bus Society to investigate expanding their realm of operations to neighboring islands. Commissioner Dow abstained from the vote.

CARRIED

- 4.2. **Broadband:** Michael Hoebel reported on recent developments in electronic communication in the Southern Gulf Islands, noting significant progress in some areas but with significant gaps in others.

- 4.3. **Future of the EDC:** Ed Andrusiak offered some ideas on how to move towards the goals expressed in the EDC's vision. A first step would be to work closely within CRD standards, benefiting from June Klassen's support. Introducing the vision to small informal coffee-table groups will help in gathering support and in refining the

vision through the feedback obtained. Consider a 10 year horizon and establish an implementation team.

In his role as manager of the Experience the Gulf Islands initiative, Ed Andrusiak reported on funding commitments towards the concept plan. Approval took the form of a resolution as follows:

MOVED by George Harris, **SECONDED** by Ian Dow that the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission support the joint funding for the preparation of the concept plan for the Experience the Gulf Islands initiative with \$35,000 from the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area and \$25,000 from the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area for a total of \$60,000.

CARRIED

5. **Correspondence:** June Klassen's "workbook" to document the work of the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission has been distributed to members of the Commission.
6. **Priorities:** Completing the information required in the workbook is the EDC's first priority.
7. **New Business:** arising from this meeting for future consideration:
 - 7.1. water management
 - 7.2. regional bus initiative
8. **Next Meeting** – Friday, December 4, 2015 on Mayne Island
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.