

**SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Minutes of a Meeting held January 25th, 2016
at the Galiano Inn 134 Madrona Drive, Galiano Island, BC

Present: **Director:** David Howe, **Alternate Director:** Paul LeBlond
Commission Members: Brian Crumblehulme (Mayne Island), George Harris (Galiano Island), Liz Montague, Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna Island) June Klassen, SGI EDC Support

Regrets: Liz Montague (Pender Island)

Guests: Ed Andrusiak, Michael Hoebel, Andrea Mills and Darryl Martin

Public: Ina Timmer

The meeting came to order at 8:40 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Paul LeBlond, **SECONDED** by George Harris that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes of October 23rd , 2015

MOVED by George Harris, **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman, that the minutes of October 23rd, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Reports:

a. Director's Report: It had been discussed over time that the Commission needed to have a "Champion" in the CRD that could help us get things accomplished in the SGI's. The CRD has appointed June Klassen to work with SGI EDC Commission. She will spend two thirds of her time on this commission and has identified 3 of the EDC's initiatives on which to focus.

b. Commissioners' Reports: No reports

4. Presentations – June Klassen – EDC Initiatives Discussion.

a. Discussed the need to have the Vision and Objectives agreed upon. Ed Andrusiak has already started a Draft Positioning Statement previously, which June has used as alternative wording in her workbook. June recorded all the possible changes and requested everyone to forward their draft wording of the vision to her and she will reformat the vision/objective for further discussion. Ultimately this will answer the questions as to why we are doing it and what we want to achieve.

- b. There was discussion on renaming the Commission as the word “development” suggests bricks and mortar and has a negative connotation. Need a more positive flavor. Darryl Martin mentioned that the SSI EDC is also looking at changing their name.

MOTION: George Harris motioned to change the title and replace the word “development”. Seconded by Priscilla Zimmerman.

CARRIED

Once the new title is established then June will amend the bylaw.

- c. Discussed the Rationale, Guidelines and Principles taken from the Draft Positioning Statement by Ed Andrusiak. After much discussion June has recorded the additional wording and deletions and will update the document.

- d. June will focus on 3 specific initiatives
 - 1.) Transportation
 - on island and inter island, looking at community buses and inter-island passenger ferries and its implications on harbours and parking, the infrastructure, for community buses she’ll need to look at the structural requirements. When you have a schedule for either bus or ferry you need to have continuity – those schedules need to be met.
 - June will report back once she has all the info required on what the opportunities are, consequences, what needs to be in place for long term success and what the choices are whether jointly or separately.
 - 2.) ETGI
 - want to get concept plan done, she’s prepared a project charter and has a report to present to the EASC for a portion of Gas tax funding from both SGI and SSI. Hope to present at the February meeting. Next step is to hire a Tourism Consultant, maybe an expression of interest with a funding range. Need to ensure the other agencies involved are on board from the beginning, i.e. integrated water, harbours etc.
 - 3.) EDC Organizational Structure
 - community profiles, implications of remaining under CRD or going independent etc.

June gave a brief run down on each of the other initiatives.

Brian Crumblehulme commented on several items: i) Water management is a land use issue and up to each local trust committee, ii) Building inspection is CRD. The Province is looking at standardizing the building code and SSI is looking at a code standardization for the Islands, all islands looking for more flexibility in the code. iii) Senior housing again comes under the Trust and land use, it is under the umbrella of Affordable Housing. iv) Broadband is a mish mash. We have been working with Beacon and finally as of last year secured matching fund of up to \$350,000. Beacon will be purchasing new updated equipment and expanding service on the islands and beyond.

Brian Crumblehulme motioned to accept the draft report subject to some fine tuning and

to add the three initiatives to the priority list of Transportation, ETGI and the EDC Organizational structure be approved. Priscilla Zimmerman seconded.

CARRIED

e. Open Discussion:

ETGI and the Transportation initiatives need to have a tighter schedule and proposed timeline for meetings so action items especially those tied to funding can move forward. Everyone understands things take time due to internal administrative procedure but need to know what that time frame looks like.

Darryl had 2 comments: i) SSI has already gone through the same things our islands are facing and many of the pioneers are still around and may be excited to share with the other islands. It would benefit us all to work together. ii) CRD has a structure to deal with million dollar projects and unfortunately that same process is applied to \$25,000 projects. The CRD has to answer and be accountable for how they spend the tax payer's money. It seems like a barrier but they are held under close scrutiny.

There are difficulties in raising funds for the community bus project when they are not eligible to issue tax receipts. It was mentioned that money could be donated to CRD through the GIA program, designated to a Pender project, the society would apply for that Grant in Aid and Director Howe would approve the designated money. CRD would be able to issue a tax receipt in that way.

- 5. Correspondence:** Received a letter from the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Consortium made up of the regional group of Chambers, SSI, Pender, Galiano, Mayne and Saturna requesting funding for their application to Destination BC for tourism marketing for 2016/17. The strategy is based on the ETGI program. They are looking for a contribution of \$2,000 per island which amounts to \$8,000 from SGI EDC for and \$2,000 from SSI EDC for a total of \$10,000. George Harris motioned to approve up to \$10,000 for the SGI Tourism Consortium based on grant application approval. Brian Crumblehulme seconded.

CARRIED

6. New Business:

- a.** Tour de Isle: lots of interest but need an organization or society of all island reps. Have willing funders but need somewhere for it to go. Darryl from SSI has agreed to stand on the Inter Island Transportation Society, Andrea Mills from Pender, Galiano and Mayne will find a Director and submit the names. Director Howe suggested Melody Pender to help administratively and oversee the Islands coordinators. Ina offered to set up the society.
George Harris motioned to support the creation of an Inter-Island Transportation Society. Seconded by Brian Crumblehulme.

CARRIED

- b.** Island Trust policy stipulates local trust committees will collaborate with economic development. Need to keep local trust committees informed of the EDC meetings.
c. Mike Hoebel wanted to announce that the 2nd Annual Active Pass Festival is on April 22nd – 24th hosted on Galiano.

- d. Ina Timmer asked all the Commissioners to please submit information to Melody for the SGI EDC website to keep it fresh, each island will have their own designated page.
- e. Last comment from the Director to make everyone aware that when CRD gets involved, often time it leans toward an increase in taxes. If it moves towards a service it is most likely moving towards a referendum if CRD gets involved. There are other options but we all need to be aware.

7. Next Meeting – TBD

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.