

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of a Meeting held March 14th, 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), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna Island) June Klassen, SGI EDC Support

Regrets: Liz Montague (Pender Island), George Harris (Galiano Island)

Guests: Ed Andrusiak, Michael Hoebel and Derek Masselink

1. **Approval of Agenda.**

MOVED by Brian Crumblehulme, **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman that agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. **Adoption of minutes of Jan 25, 2016 minutes.**

MOVED by Brian Crumblehulme, seconded by Priscilla Zimmerman that the minutes of Jan 25th, 2016

CARRIED

3. **Reports:**

a. **Director's Report:** Director Howe expressed appreciation for the work done by June Klassen on behalf of the Commission, formulating an action plan and clarifying priorities, with current emphasis on Experience the Gulf Islands, Transportation and plans for restructuring the Commission into an operative agency.

b. **Commissioners' reports.**

Brian Crumblehulme reminded the members of the planned meeting with San Juan county, scheduled for April 29, in Sidney. Ideas for collaboration welcome. He also expressed and solicited support for the "Protect the Salish Sea" initiative led by Stephanie Buffum. He also reported that Beacon Wireless will soon be erecting an antenna on Mt. Parke, improving internet service to Mayne and Galiano Islands.

Priscilla Zimmerman reported on the progress of the ecotourist facility underway near the Lyall Harbour dock, as well as an effort to expand hiking trail network on Saturna Island. Paul LeBlond suggested collaboration with the Gulf Islands Trails Society; Ed Andrusiak pointed out the BC Marine Trails Network Association might be interested in joining forces with San Juan Islands in a mapping endeavour as proposed by San Juan County representatives at the last joint economic meeting in Sidney.

4. **Presentations:**

a. **Solar Power:**

Tom Mommsen presented an overview of solar power installations (80 kW worth) and plans on Galiano Island. He referred to a copy of a "BC First Nations Renewable Energy Toolkit" publication and pointed out various obstacles to expanding solar power installations, including relations with BC Hydro and costs of permits.

Comments including a suggestion for the creation of a network of solar power advocate groups for mutual support, funding and information. Might return to the EDC for financial support.

b. Festival Active Pass:

Michael Hoebel presented an overview of the 2016 event, this year centered on Galiano Island, encouraging Commission members to spread the word in their communities.

ACTION: Place a link to the festival on the EDC's Sustainable Islands website.

5. Name change for the EDC:

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Priscilla Zimmerman, **SECONDED** by Brian Crumblehulme that the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission be renamed the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission.

CARRIED

6. ETGI Concept Plan and Integrated Service Review Requests for Proposals:

June Klassen reported that the RFP for the ETGI Concept Plan has been posted on the CRD and BC Bids Website. She also reported that \$50,000 had been granted to the CRD for a service review of SGI and SSI Services by the Union of BC Municipalities.

After some discussion as to where the focus of this review should lie a motion was made:

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Brian Crumblehulme, "That Request for Proposal be issued for \$50,000 for a Community Bus Service and Inter-island Passenger Ferry Service (encompassing all Southern Gulf Islands, Saltspring Island and the Town of Sidney), with consideration of the most suitable links to initiate a pilot project." **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman.

CARRIED

7. EDC Action Plan draft:

June Klassen summarized the draft Action Plan previously circulated to the Commission's members and invited comments. The document was well received and it was suggested that its contents should eventually be shared with Islands Trust staff.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Brian Crumblehulme and **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman that the draft report be received and that a future meeting be devoted to a discussion of its contents.

CARRIED

8. Social Finance and EDC restructuring study:

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Brian Crumblehulme that the EDC approve the draft scope of the work to be performed by consultant Larry Alexander, as defined in sections 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0 of the "Social Finance Organizational Structure for the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Development Commission - Draft Feb 2016" document, as previously circulated to members by June Klassen, **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman

CARRIED

MOTION: It was also **MOVED** by Priscilla Zimmerman that the motion approved at the August 27, 2015 meeting, namely that the Commissioners approve \$25,000 budget to implement the TOR based on Transportation as the impetus behind inter ISLAND CONNECTING, AGRICULTURE, VIRTUAL BUSINESS, ETGI ETC. SSI EDC will not at this time participate as they have a developed transit system Ian Dow moved, George Harris seconded – motion carried be rescinded.

SECONDED by Brian Crumblehulme

CARRIED

9. **Tour des Iles 2016** -- deferred to next meeting.

10. **SGI Tourism Consortium Request for \$8,000 funding.**

Funding was approved at the Jan 25, 2015 meeting. June Klassen to contact Janet Clouston at the SSI Chamber of Commerce.

11. **New business:**

Derek Masselink reported on a meeting on Mayne Island where environmental education featured prominently and First Nations were in the forefront as conservation partners, interested in economic development. The SGI are an "educational platform" likely to attract the interest of academic institutions wishing to expose their students to rural communities and conservation practices.

David Howe pointed out the availability of accommodation in hotels and inns during the winter season, as possible "campuses" on the islands.

Priscilla Zimmerman spoke of "edu-tourism" and of the opportunities presented by existing organizations like the Saturna Institute for Marine Education and Research (SIMRES), the Gulf Islands Centre for Environmental Education (GICEL) and the Galiano Conservancy's Learning Centre.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Brian Crumblehulme and **SECONDED** by Priscilla Zimmerman that the EDC direct staff to prepare a project scope for a \$60,000 RFP to explore the opportunity to develop education programs using the existing island accommodations and facilities, as well as existing programs and potential contributing institutions, focusing on the Preserve and Protect theme of the Islands Trust.

CARRIED

12. **Next meeting:** April 18, 2016, Galiano Inn; 08: 30-11:00

13. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:10.