

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Minutes of a Meeting held April 18th, 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), George Harris (Galiano Island), Andrea Mills (Pender Island) June Klassen, SGI EDC Support, Melody Pender, Recorder

Guests: Ed Andrusiak, Michael Hoebel and Larry Alexander

Public: Ina Timmer

1. **Approval of Agenda.**

MOVED by Brian Crumblehulme, **SECONDED** by Paul LeBlond that agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. **Adoption of minutes of March 14th, 2016 minutes.**

MOVED by Brian Crumblehulme, seconded by Priscilla Zimmerman that the minutes of March 14th, 2016 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. **Reports:**

- a. **Director's Report:** no report. Director Howe gave introductions around the table welcoming new commissioner for Pender Island Andrea Mills and Larry Alexander who will speak on the Social Finance initiative.

4. **Presentations:** none

5. **Social Finance Initiative: Larry Alexander**

Mike Hoebel introduced Larry Alexander, he is on board with us and contracted to move the initiative. June introduced the Terms of Reference that Larry fine-tuned according to his plan of action.

Social Finance is one of the initiatives of the EDC and is tied into the long term restructuring of the EDC to move forward with action. Larry went through the TOR and discussed steady state economy and how to move it forward.

6. **ETGI Concept Plan – EcoPlan International Ltd.**

June has done the RFP and had 3 respondents. The selected company, EcoPlan International Ltd, produced a number of sustainable tourism and carrying capacity reports for the southern gulf islands in 2008 as part of a study conducted for the Islands Trust and CRD. Ed believes EcoPlan International has good experience to undertake development of the local tourism concept plan. National Geographic is changing the name of geotourism to local tourism as the name “geotourism” was causing some confusion. It’s time to be developing the engagement plan and reintroducing the ETGI Proposal to get the islands excited again about ETGI. Ed is the project manager and will need to travel with his team to the islands to do this and June would like to request a motion to provide travel money for Ed and his team to manage the team’s travels between the islands.

MOTION: George Harris moved that the CESC provide a sum of \$2,000 for Ed Andrusiak and this team for travel expenditures between the islands for the ETGI project. Brian Crumblehulme seconded.

CARRIED

7. Education Initiative:

a. General Discussion:

Using education as a means of economic development utilizing facilities on islands during off season for cultural or educational tours. Aaron Smith's organization is a purpose tourism company. How do we make it happen using cultural or Edu tourism, marketing to groups that want to learn something i.e. Cultural, historical, botanical, arts etc. To create an educational opportunity around it. What types of financial resources can we put towards this initiative, Community Work Funds cannot be used for this. Need an educator and/or marketer to get it going. It was discussed to apply for funding from the Rural Dividends as they have 3 programs. It was decided it could be reviewed as a backup.

Motion: George Harris motioned to allocate up to \$10,000 to move this initiative forward. Brian Crumblehulme seconded.

CARRIED

b. Teleconferencing Equipment:

Email was circulated regarding costs of equipment. An agreement is in place that allows this equipment to be placed in non CRD buildings or room. Internet bandwidth was a concern for the islands and it was agreed to table this discussion until next meeting and ask June to go back to IT and ask what each island requires to make the teleconference equipment work and to work well.

8. **Status of Integrated Services Review RFPs** – still waiting on Salt Spring EDC for their comment on the scope of work.

9. **San Juan County – SSI – SGI – CRD meeting:** the meeting is April 29th, 2016 from 9am – 12 noon at Mary Winspear. San Juan's are still interested in ETGI and a possible joint venture. Sharing festivals, trail landings, working together on speedier customs between the governments, joint marketing "Islands of the Salish Sea."

Discussion on funding for projects and being designated rural in the SGI's. Juan de Fuca tried for 10 years to get a change, Ed commented now is a good time to pursue it as it is coming to an election year. The Rural Dividend came up and included the SGI and Juan de Fuca. Paul LeBlond wrote a letter to Elizabeth May regarding our Urban vs Rural designation, he did not hear back from her office, he had copied WED and Community Futures, he received a letter from Community Futures saying they would welcome it but it is not their decision. Paul has now taken that letter and sent it out again to Elizabeth May and WED.

10. **EDC Draft Action Plan:** June had handed out the action plan last month for comment and is good with the Draft Action plan as developed. She has enough information for now as Larry's information will most likely be imbedded in the action plan.

Discussion regarding the Rural Dividend, June commented the CRD will be the local government putting the applications through and are developing a staff report for the criteria for the projects and have allowed the applications to be submitted directly to the Board in May and not have to be ready for this Wednesday's meeting. It will accept 2 project applications, one at \$10,000 and one in one of the other categories. So you could get a feasibility study in the first one and the implementation for the 2nd. June

needs to see the criteria CRD is putting out as there are several other groups wanting to apply. Further discussion regarding projects, Andrea Mills and Mike Hoebel are putting forward that they would need an operations coordinator for the summer bus pilot project. It was also mentioned they could apply for a GIA.

11. Tour des Isle Progress report:

- a. George reported the society should be finalized next week. The dates are confirmed at June 24, 25 and 26th. We have a good board. The plan is to have memberships in the society and that membership allows you to travel on the boats. Looking at a \$20 fee with unlimited travel on the boats, there will be a limited amount of memberships. Christian Nalley will be the Technical Coordinator and come up a booking/reservation system. George requires an administrator and would like to ask either Melody or Ina to help with that. Melody agreed to be Administrator with Ina as backup as needed. We are looking to include Thetis Island and Penelakut Island this year.

12. SGI Tourism Consortium request for \$8,000 funding request update:

Contract has just been received, signed and returned. Will have more information next meeting.

13. Correspondence: Community Futures would welcome the SGI to apply outside of their being urban.

14. New Business: Priscilla Zimmerman gave an update on the Kayak dock and eco-tourism facility. Docks are there and being rebuilt with the little building that will be going on it. Had a bit of a glitch with the Islands Trust and resubmitting this week, hopefully it will go through. Trails are on their way to being linked on park land and connect two trails and park lands.

15. Adjournment at 11:05am by Paul LeBlond

16. Next Meeting TBD