

**SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14th, 2019 at 2:00pm

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**#31-4605 Bedwell Harbour Rd,
Pender Island, BC**

SGI CESC Commissioners: Deb Goldman, Chair (Mayne) Ian Elliott, (Pender) Mike Hoebel (Galiano), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna), David Howe (SGI Director), Justine Starke (CRD Staff) Community Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Jean-Daniel Cusin (Mayne), Katie Dentry (Saturna), Melody Pender – Recorder

1. Approval of the Agenda as presented by consent
2. Adoption of the Minutes December 9th, 2019 Ian moved, Mike Seconded **CARRIED**
3. Treasurer Report
 - Strategic Plan Spreadsheet – Ian
 - Went through the worksheet of allocations
 - There is \$9,000 uncommitted of new money
 - Reserve Account review – deferred
 - Community Liaison’s office rent contribution
 - Of the \$9,000 remaining of the new funding \$4,800 could go to the rent contribution. That would leave \$4,200 remaining to support the remaining initiatives or the new initiative affordable housing and transportation.
 - It was decided to table the discussion on the remaining \$4,200 for another meeting when more information can be gathered, and the final SGI budgets have been approved.
 - David Howe moved approval of \$4,800 to cover the required rent contribution for Mayne and Saturna Island offices. Ian Elliott seconded.
CARRIED
 - Social Finance Investment Readiness – federal gov’t has allocated 750mil for social enterprise. There is a 50mil grant due by Feb 8th to prepare a business case for future social finance projects and an additional 50mil for first nations initiatives. Dave would like to go after some of this funding for some SGI economic opportunities.
 - RIEP support payment of \$2,000 – Melody will send the invoice with the motion to finance this month. This initiative is moving forward with out the RDF funding. They are seeking alternate funding to make this happen.
4. SGI Connectivity Plan update
 - Justine sent the report yesterday for review. It represents the summary of the consultation process as a result of the surveys. It has an executive summary, conclusions and recommendations that they would like to have the commissioners

to review and give feedback. It is a DRAFT and has been submitted to CRD management for their review and feedback. Please review the next steps and ask any questions and provide feedback. Thank you to all the SGI Liaisons for all their work on it. Justine would like a quick turnaround to finalize the report. Once the report is finalized an expression of interest will go out to CRTC Broadband fund and Connected Communities. They need to find an ISP provider to partner with them.

5. SGI Housing Strategy update- a report was circulated by Justine. It directs staff to draft a housing strategy for SGI's, there was no budget but the CRD Staff can support it and Justine will write the report. May want to consider an overall strategy and plan for future years. She suggests a meeting focused on the housing strategy in the near future. CRHC says there is no funding for the purpose-built housing and won't be the focus of Justine's report. CRD Regional Housing Board which the SGI pays into yet there are no funds available to us. Affordable Housing Trust Fund – there is no money there.

6. Proposed motion: Rural Home Owners Grant

Whereas:

The BC Home Owners Grant related to property tax is larger if a person(s) lives in a rural area. Unfortunately, the five Southern Gulf Islands do not receive the 'rural' grant because the CRD is excluded from the rural grant. This is another example of the rural Southern Gulf Islands being penalized by the Province for being incorrectly designated urban due to CRD inclusion.

Whereas:

All taxpayers, especially seniors, over 30% residing in the rural Electoral Areas of Salt Spring and Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Saturna, receive less Home Owner Grants than similar rural areas because of the CRD-urban designation. This is unfair and inequitable.

Therefore, **Be It Resolved:**

To call upon the Electoral Area Directors Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands to move forward a resolution for the CRD Board to lobby the Minister of Finance and Premier Horgan, specifically to OFFICIALLY declare the five Southern Gulf Islands RURAL. Correcting this inequity for 2020 and beyond will ensure that the five rural Southern Gulf Islands receive their rightful allocation of the Home Owners Grant due rural Home Owners. David Howe moved, Mike Hoebel seconded. **CARRIED**

7. Shared Business Services: Leveraging Economies of Scale

Deb has asked Mike to be the representative for the CESC and he has accepted. Justine feels there are many benefits for the SGI to be involved and piggyback on the successes of the SSI CEDC such as the Rural Business Accelerator program. Southern Gulf Islands need to participate and be represented at the table.

Francine Carlin joined the call at 3:25pm

- Provides support for Islands producers to market their product not just locally but Canada wide

Francine left the meeting at 3:39pm

8. Island Economic reports

Pender: Economic opportunity seems to be continuing brisk, building trades are going strong, real estate transactions are brisk, inventory is down, and overall increase in property values is 4% across the board with larger increases in certain sectors.

Galiano: Mike reported things are slowing down, lots of community activity, tourism is much quieter, Galiano Inn has a new manager from the local community, GI Conservancy changed a new ED both local people and is viewed very positively by the locals. Lots of building activity and real estate is selling. Ed mentioned tourism is still the major employer and suggest the commission needs to be more involved in the management of it. Ed will be attending the Impact and sustainability conference Jan 19-22nd and will bring back some good information to the commission. Emma mentioned there are several smaller building projects happening as well.

Saturna: Priscilla reported seasonal slowdown, the builders have plenty of work and real estate is still going strong. It was crowded during the holidays which was very encouraging to see. Still working with the Parks Canada and there is a sanctuary zone workshop coming up. Saturna Island Parks and Rec is acquiring some land close to the general store to have some trails from the ferry for people to have access to nice trails. On the docks the First Nations folks have applied for the wharfinger position. Sea Star winery continues to expand their presence. Things are looking quite good.

Mayne: Deb reported the Real estate sector is also busy, property assessments were varied some up and some down. She noted that MI brewery is winning awards which bodes well for the island. Outreach optometry is a new service that has come to Mayne Island. Nomad Essentials is closing its doors (loss of a storefront unfortunately) the storefront will become an art gallery. Garbage collection is a major problem on the island. Mayne Island Improvement District is taking over and will be providing curbside service with new people. Deer hunting has become a problem with hunting getting too close to residential areas. MI Housing has started fundraising to buy some land. Designing The Future has developed the strategic plan and developing a committee of champions to bring the strategic plans in to action.

9. New Business

- Deb nominated Mike Hoebel to take on the position of Vice Chair, Priscilla seconded. Mike accepted. **CARRIED**
- In the last meeting we had discussed developing a more formal agreement with the CRC and Deb would like to move this forward. To start with developing a contract it was discussed that we need someone to represent the CRC and Justine to represent the CESC. Ian will help and be a part of the subcommittee.
- Ian would like to know if a meeting could be set up with the different authorities in February with CESC, CRD and Islands Trust. The meeting should include SGITPS. It will be looked into.
- Deb noted in the strategic plan there is provision to support tourism in the SGI's.

10. Next meeting – Feb 18th 9am Dave suggested a face to face with Lia and Justine to go over budget numbers – Melody to check Adam Olsen's office and will confirm if CRD Staff are available at that time.

11. Meeting adjourned at 4:21pm