

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

Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:00am**

**Adam Olsen's Constituency Office**

215-2506 Beacon Ave, Sidney, BC V8L 4T9

**SGI CESC Commissioners:** Deb Goldman, Chair (Mayne) Ian Elliott, (Pender) Mike Hoebel (Galiano), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna), David Howe (SGI Director), Justine Starke (CRD Staff) Lia Xu (CRD Staff) Melody Pender – Recorder

Guests: Aaron Smith, Ed Andrusiak, George Harris

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1. Approval of the Agenda as amended by Director Howe moved, Michael Hoebel second, **CARRIED**
2. Adoption of the Minutes January 14<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Dave moved, Ian seconded **CARRIED**
3. Directors Report
  - Introduction: George Harris, former CESC Galiano Commissioner and Islands Trustee here to speak about affordable housing
  - Introduction: Aaron Smith – contracted to do the Salish Sea Registry with Derek Masselink – here to speak about Social Finance and Investment Readiness Program for social finance.
4. Treasurer Report
  - Introduction of Lia Xu – finance manager for Electoral Areas of SGI, SSI and JDF and Planning and Protective Services.
  - Ian presented the updated budget vs actuals working from the provisional budget which should be finalised by the end of the month
    - The roll up is completed for 2019 with a \$6,952 surplus and as per the commission motion it will be carried forward under program development for use in 2020.
    - Ian would like to use the same format and process to start 2021 budget to have the draft ready by end of May beginning of June. Deb mentioned it will be on the Agenda in May. Ian will have the draft ready by the end of April for the commission.
    - Lia commented she should have the assessments in the next day or so.
    - David Howe moved to receive for information. Mike Hoebel seconded **CARRIED**

Lia left the meeting at 9:37am

5. SGI Updates – Justine
  - Connectivity report has been approved and updated to the website, next step is partnership with an ISP to invest in. There are several grants available but the funding deadlines are just too close, the ISP would have to make the application.

Justine has met with Shaw and will meet with Telus, Beacon Wireless and Islandnet etc. She will also speak with Connected Coast.

- Dave discussed the rural vs urban designation that requires a legislature change by the Province. It requires more advocacy and community support.
- **Action:** George and Michael will work on a press release on behalf of the community members.
- Transportation: motion being presented to the EA and board by Director Holman and Director Howe. Andrea Mills has gathered the information for the Community Bus Assessments for the islands and is working on the final report. They still need to build a sustainable business case on a privately or publicly funded transportation system.
- Deb feels there are a lot separate pieces and she recommends a meeting with island stakeholders, ie: SGITPS, CESC, CRC, FN, rep from SGI Harbours Commission and island representatives to avoid duplication. Suggested date Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- **Action:** Ed and Justine will talk and bring back information at the next meeting.
- Affordable housing – Justine is working on a report of SGI needs assessment and the possible ways the CRD can support it.
- George questioned the CRD role in the SGI affordable housing situation. It was mentioned SGI's don't qualify under the current criteria which is based on First Nations, Violence and Homelessness. Housing First Fund – no money for the SGI's based on the 70 home housing project vs a 3 home project on the SGI's.
- Ian, Justine and Everest Macdonald will have an initial conversation and review her housing projects.
- Mike gave a background on tourism impacts on the different islands and the different discussions going on. Mike would like to see the CESC take on a convening role/facilitating role to engage the community on their view of tourism impacts on their islands. SGITPS has a survey asking for feedback currently on Pender. Is there a role to facilitate community consultation on this topic?
- Aaron asked if there has been a report done on the value of a visitor and the economic impact. The role of the CESC could be to share the value proposition of the visitor. Ian suggested a round table discussion with SGI CESC and SSI CEDC discussing what the role should be of either of the Economic commissions. Ed feels the CESC should be leading this based on the economic mandate of the commission and to fill this gap. Aaron talked about shifting the narrative showing the positive economic impact.

#### 6. Rural Islands Economic Partnership update – Mike Hoebel

- Economic Forum that brought together 16 rural islands at Poets Cove. As a follow up to the Forum a new organization was formed, the Rural Islands Economic Partnership Society rural islands economic resilience fund. There is a zoom meeting to give an update on all that is happening on Thursday morning. Advocate/facilitator/providing platform for economic development for the rural islands. RIEP has applied for the IRP for \$60,000, the second grant it to build the strategic and business plan and the next economic forum in 2021.

#### 7. Social Finance – Investment Readiness Program – David Howe

- Aaron shared the background of the IRP and his role. You need to sell them on the concept and the expertise to deliver.

- Having the FN at the table is imperative for federal funding.
8. Island Economic reports – previously distributed
  9. New Business
    - CESC operating agreement with CRC – Deb Goldman
      - **Action:** Ian Elliott recommends a working group is formed to create the operating agreement with the CRC and have a draft ready for submission by the end of the month. Consisting of the 2 treasurers, Justine, to other board/commission member and Melody. It would be a contract for services.
    - Mike moved that the CESC contributes to the CRC Zoom count for \$100.00. Ian seconded.
    - Tourism Engagement – Mike Hoebel (see #5)
    - Notice of motion in regards to Affordable housing.
      - CESC request finance to help develop some options for a fund that can be used to help to get affordable housing on our islands. – Mike will bring the motion back at next meeting.
  10. Next meeting to be determined.