

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

Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00pm**

**Held by Zoom Video Conference**

**SGI CESC Commissioners:** David Howe (Director), Ian Elliott, Chair (Pender) Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Paul Brent (Saturna), Deb Goldman (Mayne),

**Staff:** Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Melody Pender – Recorder

SGI Liaison: Emma Davis, Katie Dentry, Kat Ferneyhough; **Guests:** Ed Andrusiak

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1. Meeting called to order at 10:05am
2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair  
Director Howe called for nomination for the position of Chair
  - Commissioner Hoebel nominated Commissioner Elliott for Chair, Deb Goldman seconded. No other nominations were put forth; Ian Elliott accepted and was voted in by acclamation – it was noted that Ian expects to be away a fair bit the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the year depending on pandemic restrictions
  - Commissioner Brent nominated Commissioner Hoebel for Vice President, Commissioner Howe seconded. No other nominations were put forth; Michael Hoebel accepted and was voted in by acclamation
  - Commissioner Goldman nominated Commissioner Brent for Treasurer, Commissioner Hoebel seconded; No other nominations were put forth: Paul Brent accepted and was voted in by acclamation
3. Approval of the Agenda  
**MOVED** by Director Howe, **SECONDED** by Director Brent that the agenda of January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved. **CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
**MOVED** by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Director Howe that the minutes of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be approved. **CARRIED**
5. Financial Report
  - Review of December and Year End 2020 Revenue and Expense report
    - Surplus was higher than expected, \$2,700, \$1,700 already earmarked to the 2021 balancing of the budget and \$1,000 rolls forward
    - **MOVED** by Director Howe, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to receive the report **CARRIED**
  - **MOVED** by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Director Howe to pay phase 2 of the GIFC project. **CARRIED**
6. Community Communication – there was discussion on writing a quarterly article for the monthly periodicals, it was suggested to have the island and initiative updates regionally. It was also mentioned to possibly have a more public meeting quarterly to engage the communities and a more open dialogue. There is a gap in knowledge as to what the CESC is doing and the connection to the Community Resource Centre as the execution vehicle for the CESC. Commissioner Elliott put himself forward to coordinate the first article for March. Melody suggested the Island updates be submitted by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month giving us time to put it together. In an effort to highlight the work of the CESC it was suggested that an

initiative be detailed in the article. It was recommended that a first public meeting be held in April and facilitated by Commissioner Brent on a zoom platform until in person meetings are once again allowed.

7. Food and Agriculture update - Ed Andrusiak gave a progress report. He has held discussions regarding Community Work Funds pre-screen and the best approach for moving forward on the \$30,000 Community Work Funds (CWF) and other possible funding opportunities. An invitation went out to various food and agriculture groups for proposals that may fit within the CWF to be received by January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ed held discussions with Galiano Food Program regarding a proposal on documented learning and priority issues gleaned from engagement processes on Galiano that may be shared on other islands. He has reconnected with Derek Masselink, author of the Food and Ag Strategy report, who reiterated the need for public engagement and to find champions for advancing the agriculture strategy. He also met with Roz from Gulf Islands Food Coop about her preliminary list of projects being worked on with Kwantlen Ag program to possibly bring a demonstration farm and healthy soil initiatives on the Southern Gulf Islands.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman that the SGI CESC allocate \$2,000 from program development for furthering the agricultural initiative.

**CARRIED**

#### 8. Old Business

- COVID restart strategy – last meeting it was discussed the CESC would like to identify businesses who are still hurting and offer one on one help by directing to the right resources. The CRC proposal would be to have discussion groups and possibly a survey to identify the current challenges. Who has used the support, which ones, who hasn't and what were their challenges, how can we help. What are the businesses really needing? It may just be as simple as reminding them what is available and pointing them in the right direction for example the small businesses grant – we need to make them aware of the opportunities. More community awareness. Rural Island info hub is a great resource for funding.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the CESC earmark \$1,000 for the CRC to support additional COVID restart support for our communities.

**CARRIED**

- Transportation update – The RFP closes Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Justine and Emma are putting the final touches on the technical advisory committee then reach out to them and reconvene. A reminder of the Broadband 101 for Connectivity tomorrow, it will be recorded.
- Commissioner Goldman questioned why Mayne Island is not part of the Connected Coast project. Commissioner Hoebel was able to inform the group that he had some good news that he understood that they are looking to include Mayne and Galiano. More information can be found on the CRD website on the January 13<sup>th</sup> Electoral Areas Committee staff report and the City West proposal.
- Director Howe discussed the housing issues on the islands. It was confirmed that a housing strategy would be produced in 2021 and staff will follow up. Further housing discussion included more flexibility for smaller homes on properties and building incentives. The Commissioners need to start thinking what they would like to see in the housing strategy so they are prepared when CRD is ready to engage. Commission Elliott recommended a housing working group be formed to collect the supporting documentation to start a portfolio and demonstrate the need for housing on the islands.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Goldman and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to

create a housing working group.

**CARRIED**

- In 2020 the SGI CESC provisionally earmarked \$2,500 for RIEP for an Economic Forum and Commissioner Elliott reaffirmed the CESC commitment.

Commissioner Elliott in lieu of a year end report the CESC has met its duties and responsibilities with in our bylaws:

A) The preparation of an economic development strategy to achieve a triple bottom line sustainable local economy; this includes tasks such as:

- i. Analyzing the current economic base by profiling the commercial, industrial and other business activity on the Southern Gulf Islands;
- ii. Assessing the Southern Gulf Islands' advantages and opportunities for current and prospective residents to establish viable businesses
- iii. Identifying resilient and year-round business opportunities that diversify the range of locally available products and services;
- iv. Supporting training and technical assistance to existing and potential local businesses, including but not necessarily limited to: apprenticeship, mentoring and entrepreneurial programs;
- v. Exploring and explaining the potential for Social Enterprise approaches for existing business and potential for establishment of new Social Enterprises that provide meaningful employment while meeting social and environmental needs of the islands.

Commissioner Elliott thanked the CRD Liaisons and Melody, the CRC and all the CESC partners for all their support of the good work that's been done. He also wanted to recognize and thank Director Howe for all the support he has provided to the CESC and the SGI's. We are all grateful for his unwavering support.

9. New Business: Commission Hoebel attended a meeting to discuss how the Southern Gulf Islands' (SGI's) can apply for federal programs such as the Relief and Recovery Fund where you need to apply through a community futures office that does not recognize the SGI's within their catchment area. At the meeting the plight of the SGI's was recognized and the senior government officials attending committed to fixing the issue.
10. Next regular meeting – proposed Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1pm.
11. Meeting was adjourned at 12:19pm.