



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission
Held June 15, 2021 by Zoom**

Present: Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano) – Chairing; Deb Goldman (Mayne); Paul Brent, Treasurer (Saturna).
Staff: Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Melody Pender, SGI Liaisons: Katie Dentry (Saturna), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne), Emma Davis (Galiano) - recorder
Participants: Ed Andrusiak; Randy Cunningham, SGITP; Allister Hain, CRC
Absent: CRD Director: David Howe, Commissioner Ian Elliott

The meeting was called to order at 1:08pm

1. Approval of Agenda

Amended to add one item under new business: brief discussion on Islands Trust draft policy statement.

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brent that the agenda of June 15, 2021 be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

2. Adoption of Minutes of May 18, 2021

Amendment from Deb to include 'Mayne Island Housing Association' - 2nd bullet under new business- re collaboration between GIGHARS and Mayne Island Housing Society on Sector Transformation project.

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brent that the minutes of May 18, 2021 be approved as amended . **CARRIED**

3. Financial Report

\$87,210 remaining, Commissioner Brent reported the year to date budget reflects 51% of budget remaining as of the end of May.

MOVED by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman to receive the report as presented. **CARRIED**

Commissioner Goldman requested circulation of DRAFT May and YTD 2021 Revenue and Expense report

4. Southern Gulf Island Tourism Partnership (SGITP) Society Update– Randy Cunningham, Chair

- Report circulated. Randy presented on the progress of SGITP. SGITP has hired a GM, Jacqueline East, as of Jan 2020. COVID shut things down. Summer and fall of 2020 was a near-bounce back of tourism businesses after the spring of 2020. SGITP revenue wasn't as low as feared. Worked on awareness raising during COVID 'wish you could be here'. Ambassador program for social media on each island. Newly revitalized website at southerngulfislands.com. Strat plan focuses on dispersing summer visitors across the sector but main focus is generating activity in shoulder season. Currently working on Wayfinding research pilot project on Mayne Island. Looking to expand it across the region. Main source of funding for SGTP comes from MRDT and Co-op marketing, which total 90% of income. Meant to be spent on marketing. They were also awarded a couple of grants this year.



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- Ed added background on AquaLink pilot transportation project, led by Chris Hall on Pender. He's put together an approach for small boat linkage from Ganges to Miner's Bay over to Port Browning, Montague Harbour and Lyle. There will be morning and evening runs. It will bring people to these different ports to experience the different islands. The reservation system also allows you to book other tourism attractions. It is currently in planning stages and will hopefully contribute to CRD SGI Transportation Integration Plan (TIP).
- Justine updated that her team has been working quite closely with Chris Hall to coordinate to provide understanding of the scope of the fall project and how we can learn from that for the TIP.
- Discussion regarding links with land transportation.
- Discussion of TIP and the linkages to SSI, which is currently involved in the TIP.
- Discussion of Mayne Island Wayfinding project, and expanding it in the region.

5. Food and Ag update – Ed

- Presentation and update from Ed on Food and Ag initiatives in the region.
- Discussion about funding for equipment.
- Discussion about funding for Knowledge Transfer from BC Ministry of Ag.

6. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine/Liaisons

- Justine gave an update for the TIP.
- Update on Housing. Discussion about Housing Strategy.
- Update on Connectivity.
- Update from Liaisons on the islands.

7. Old Business

No items

8. New Business

Discussion re proposed joint motion with SSI CEDC for permanent rural status as requested by SSI CEDC Chair Francine Carlin.

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel that "Therefore, the request is for the Province to designate Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands as permanently rural, (currently we have an 'exception') so our Electoral areas are in alignment with programs that are intended to help rural communities." **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman. **CARRIED**

- Discussion about Rising Tides Launch.
- Presentation by Commissioner Brent re Islands Trust Draft Policy Statement.
- Discussion about impact on SGI communities.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman that the meeting adjourn at 2:46pm.

10. Next regular meeting – proposed Tuesday, July 20th, 2021 at 1pm.