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

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 1:00pm

Held by Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

SGI CESC Commissioners: Paul Brent, Director, Chair (Saturna), Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Richard Piskor, Treasurer (Pender), Deb Goldman (Mayne), Priscilla Zimmerman (Saturna), Rob Fenton (Pender)

Staff: Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Liaison; SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)

Regrets: Katie Dentry (Saturna); Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Chair Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following amendments were made to the agenda under 8. New Business:

- a) Territorial acknowledgements discussion – Richard Piskor
- b) Election of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman to accept the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes from December 13th, 2022.

MOVED by Commissioner Piskor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Zimmerman to accept the minutes of December 13th, 2022 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report

Final updates to the 2023 budget will be presented at the next meeting.

5. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine Starke/Liaisons

Justine Starke - SGIs sought approval for Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) eligibility and approval was granted. SGIs have completed the application for Last Mile by the January 4th deadline for Galiano and Saturna. The application was also endorsed by the CRD. A CRD commissioner orientation is scheduled for the first week of February and CESC commissioners are welcome to attend.

Emma Davis (Galiano) – Monthly notice of all CRD meetings that pertain to the SGIs will be shared with the SGI communities.

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – Community Chat on Mayne on January 22nd, Paul Brent and trustees and other local organizations will be coming to meet with the community.



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6. Affordable Housing Update

Commissioner Fenton – shared an email about affordable housing initiatives in Nova Scotia and is looking for feedback or comments about relevancy to the SGIs from the Commission.

Chair Brent – discussed the SGI Forum meeting. Laura Patrick is pursuing tiny home initiatives for the SGIs with a goal of the SGIs collectively going to the province to explore alternative housing options.

Justine Starke – also investigating housing solutions for the SGIs and working with the CRD housing strategy to develop an inter-agency housing approach.

Commissioner Fenton proposed a motion to request that the CRD hold off any expulsion action against owners or tenants of nonconforming dwellings.

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission request that the CRD hold off any existing and future expulsion action against owners or tenants of tiny homes, trailers and other nonconforming dwellings unless life safety is compromised, and take steps towards allowing them.

CARRIED

7. Old Business

None to discuss.

8. New Business

a) Territorial Acknowledgement discussion – Richard Piskor

Commissioner Piskor led a discussion about respectfully acknowledging the affiliated indigenous groups in a way that emphasizes actions, not words. The territorial acknowledgment used by the Commission has been approved by local indigenous groups and is supported as a meaningful way to show respect. The Commission is also seeking an indigenous Commissioner to broaden the perspective of the Commission.

b) Election

The following candidates were nominated:

Paul Brent – Chair

Nominated by Commissioner Hoebel, 2nd by Commissioner Zimmerman, 3rd by Commissioner Piskor

Acclaimed

Mike Hoebel – Vice Chair

Nominated by Commissioner Zimmerman, 2nd by Chair Brent

Acclaimed



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Richard Piskor – Treasurer

Nominated by Commissioner Goldman, 2nd by Commissioner Zimmerman

Acclaimed

All elected candidates agreed to serve.

c) Building Inspection – Paul Brent

Completing building inspections is extremely complex and there is a staffing issue with limited inspectors available. The demand for inspections cannot be met with the current capacity. Chair Brent is proposing a policy that building permit inspections should be prioritized for local businesses, commercial enterprises and community support services. Chair Brent is also requesting suggestions about possible alternative solutions or changes to regulations that may help reduce the backlog. Virtual inspections may be a possible solution in some cases.

9. Next proposed regular meeting February 21st, 2023

February 21st, 2023 meeting date approved by consensus.

10. Meeting Adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Piskor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Zimmerman that the meeting be adjourned at 2:18pm.

CARRIED