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

Tuesday, March 21, 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: Stephen Henderson – Senior Manager, Real Estate and SGI Administration; Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender Liaison; SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne); Katie Dentry, Liaison (Saturna);

Guests: Ed Andrusiak (Galiano) and Janey Rowland (Pender), Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society

Regrets: Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Chair Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added to the Agenda under **New Business:**

c) RIEP Forum

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

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes from February 21st, 2023.

MOVED by Commissioner Zimmerman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Piskor to accept the minutes of February 21st, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented to the Commission. The carry-forward amount was approved as indicated in the Report.

MOVED by Commissioner Piskor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman that the Commission receive the Financial Report for information.

CARRIED

5. SGI Liaisons Update –Liaisons

Emma Davis (Galiano) – Spring Break for students this week and next, Galiano activity centre is operating a program to provide childcare for working families over the break three days/week. Meet your maker and grower trade show annual event was a success with local businesses and growers. Island Health inspections are occurring today.



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Numerous business spaces are still up for sale. Galiano Community Daycare is closing at the end of April due to lack of staff. Difficult to attract staff without housing.

Katie Dentry (Saturna) – School District 64 has applied for funding for a daycare and strong start space at Saturna Elementary. Saturna Parks and Rec is funding a lot of arts and sports programs for youth this Spring. Saturna’s medical clinic is no longer walk-in, so new residents have no access to healthcare services on-island. Waitlist for the medical clinic is long and medical needs are not being met for islanders on or off island. Telus services are also lacking right now. Spring programs and events like Seedy Saturday are coming up.

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – Similar issues to Galiano and Saturna, lacking daycare staff and medical services. Ambulance volunteer staff is limited as well. Pub has reopened for dine-in service until October 2023. A popular business closed unexpectedly due to landlords wanting to open their own business in the space. Housing continues to be a major issue. Dinner Bay activity loop is going ahead.

Melody Pender (Pender) – Housing is a critical issue on Pender, community is also looking for solutions to wifi networks and medical clinic staffing. Community Resource Centre is losing WorkBC contract due to lack of clients but hopeful an alternative solution will be found. Construction on The Dip is happening soon!

6. **Housing Now – Janey Rowland, Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre**

The Housing Now survey report was previously shared with the Commission. There was discussion on the various potential housing strategies. Housing Now is working with local chambers of commerce to connect employers with possible housing solutions. There is a challenge to meet the demand for immediate housing now vs developing a smaller pilot project that may open doors for larger projects in the future.

ACTION ITEM: Commissioners Piskor and Fenton to collaborate on co-ordinating volunteer base for light construction/landscaping for future housing projects.

7. **Sustainable Funding Initiative – Ed Andrusiak, Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre**

The Sustainable Funding Initiative report was previously shared with the Commission. Grant opportunities and grant support services were the most requested services by non-profit organizations. In year three of this program, the goal is to build on the momentum and expand services to support small businesses as well as non-profits. Curated grant support for the SGIs is a valuable service on the islands.

MOVED by Director Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Piskor that a statement of work and a funding request for year three of the Sustainable Funding Initiative, as well as the previous year’s financial report, be presented to the Commission at the next meeting.

CARRIED

8. **Old Business**

None to report.



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9. New Business

a) Island Coastal Economic Trust – Director Brent

The SGIs only became eligible for ICET funding two years ago. The program only has enough funding through 2024 and will likely be dissolved adequate funding is not forthcoming. Other rural islands in BC have access to other sources of government funding that the SGIs do not.

MOVED by Director Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the Commission request Minister Bailey send correspondence to the Government that the Island Coastal Economic Trust is a critical program for rural communities and that the Community Economic Sustainability Commission urges the Government to fund this trust properly.

CARRIED

b) VIHA and CRD Inspections – impact on SGI economies

VIHA has shut down local food stands for not meeting urban food production standards. VIHA water inspections have also shut down a restaurant for now on Galiano. Building inspections, especially for commercial businesses, is a main source of complaints and stress on the SGIs. The lack of support from inspectors is not beneficial to the islands. Director Brent is meeting with VIHA and the CRD April 11th to discuss these issues.

MOVED by Commissioner Fenton, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Zimmerman that the Commission meets with the CEO, the chief building inspector and management services to deal with the concerns of commercial builders and community organizations getting permits approved in a fair and timely manner.

CARRIED

c) RIEP Forum

Reminder that the Forum is happening on Gabriola April 25-27, early registration deadline is around April 7th. Please spread the word and please register.

Proposal to cover travel expenses and registration fees in the Commission's budget. To be investigated further by Melody Pender and Commissioner Piskor and reported back to the Commission.

Melody Pender requested a letter of support from the Commission regarding the continuation of the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre's WorkBC contract from Beacon Services.

MOVED by Director Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the Commission write a letter in support of the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre recommending that Beacon Services keep their WorkBC contract for the remainder of the



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year so that employment services can continue to be offered in the Southern Gulf Islands communities directly.

CARRIED

10. Next proposed regular meeting April 18th, 2023

April 18th, 2023 meeting date approved by consensus.

11. Meeting Adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fenton that the meeting be adjourned at 3:10pm.

CARRIED