

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

Thursday, October 19, 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), Rob Fenton (Pender)

Staff: Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender Liaison; SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Katie Dentry (Saturna), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)

Guest: Barbara Johnstone (Pender)

Regrets: Ed Andrusiak – Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society, 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 1:00pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Piskor to accept the Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2023.

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Piskor to accept the minutes of September 26, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report

Rental prices have increased for office space. There is \$12,658.60 remaining in the budget between Contract for Services and Program Development. There may be a carry-forward into next year's budget as Housing NOW and SGI Sustainable Funding Initiative funding will be brought forward.

• 2024 Budget and Initiative Review

There was a discussion on continuing to provide support for the Housing NOW project. All members of the Commission are in support of continuing to provide funding for this project.

Another crucial piece of the budget is to continue supporting grant identification and grant assistance for non-profits on the SGIs.

Proposal: \$50,000 allocated to the SGI Community Resource Centre, split between \$20,000 for Housing NOW and \$30,000 for grant identification and assistance with grant writing for non-profits.

Melody Pender to provide a breakdown of what funding is available to be allocated in next year's budget so that funding priorities can be discussed at the next meeting.

5. CESC Commissioner vacancies and appointments

Commissioner Piskor is stepping down on Pender and there are vacancies on Saturna and Mayne to be filled. Chair Brent appointed Barbara Johnstone to represent Pender on the Commission. Barbara Johnstone accepted the appointment and was welcomed to the Commission after board approval.

6. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine Starke, Liaisons

Emma Davis (Galiano) – Submitted the CMHC housing accelerator fund proposal but no outcome yet. Also working on applying for REDIP funding for Connected Coast. Galiano Resource & Recycling Centre is working on a pilot project to recycle select post-consumer plastics on site.

Katie Dentry (Saturna) – applying for active transport funding on behalf of Pender Parks & Rec to complete a 1.6km trail from Magic Lake to the school. The Saturna Recycling Centre free store is being rebuilt. Saturna businesses are quieting down for the winter but there are now e-bikes available to rent on the island. Upgrades to the Saturna school including a daycare are in the works. Planet Earth 3 is premiering this week and the first episode features Saturna snakes!

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – An offer has been accepted for the Springwater Lodge and will hopefully go through in the Spring. The community nurse has left so many residents are lacking health service coverage.

Justine Starke – presented to the Salt Spring Solutions group on the rural housing program this week. Continuing to work on the REDIP application for Connected Coast.

7. Old Business – None discussed.

8. New Business

RIEP is requesting a letter of support for a REDIP application with a deadline at the end of the week. The primary applicant is Island Futures on Gabriola, partnering with RIEP. The Commission agrees in principle to write a letter of support subject to review of the request and more information on the project is received.

Mayne Island Housing is requesting a letter of support for REDIP from the Commission.

Housing NOW is requesting a letter of support for their REDIP application relating to an Employer Guarantor program for workforce housing. Melody Pender to share more details of the application.

9. Next proposed regular meeting November 21, 2023

10. Meeting Adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Piskor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel that the meeting by adjourned at 2:15pm. **CARRIED**