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

**Tuesday, November 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), Rob Fenton (Pender)

**Staff:** Justine Starke – Manager, SGI Service Delivery, Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender Liaison; SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Galiano), Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)

**Guest:** Ed Andrusiak – Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society, Barbara Johnstone (Pender)

**Regrets:** Katie Dentry (Saturna)

**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**

A referral from Islands Trust was added to the agenda under **8. New Business**. **MOVED** by Commissioner Piskor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to accept the Agenda as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2023.**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Piskor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to accept the minutes of October 19, 2023 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Financial Report**

A surplus is expected to carry forward from the end of this year. The Financial Report was received for information by the Commission.

**5. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine Starke, Liaisons**

**Justine Starke** – Continuing to advance the Rural Housing Program internally, and will be working on a memorandum of understanding with the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society for rural housing funding in 2024. The Magic Lake issues assessment has been completed and the consultant's initial report and community meeting suggested that residents were generally satisfied with CRD services, however were dissatisfied with roads, transportation, housing, Islands Trust and inter-governmental cooperation. Results were divided on whether or not residents would be willing to pay more for more services.

**Emma Davis (Galiano)** – Still supporting Parks & Rec contracts and grants. The Galiano Daycare has hired a new operations manager which sounds promising.

**Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne)** – The teacherage project is going ahead and will be able to



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house people as early as next school year. The Miner's Bay dock revitalisation project is underway, there is now a shelter on the dock for waiting passengers. There is currently only one restaurant in operation, another is waiting for inspection following renovations.

**6. Proposed CESC Meeting Schedule for 2024 – CRD Staff**

Proposal for meetings to be every other month plus an October meeting to review the budget. Meetings would likely be 90-120 minutes. The new meeting schedule was approved by general consent.

**7. Old Business – None discussed.**

**8. New Business – Referral from Islands Trust**

Bylaw 234 was referred to the Commission from North Pender Islands Trust Committee and has been brought forward for information. The purpose of the bylaw amendment is to adjust the land-use zoning of Plumb Tree Court on North Pender Island to permit multi-family dwellings.

**MOTION:** The Community Economic Sustainability Commission recommends approval of Bylaw 234 given that flexibility is important for providing affordable and accessible housing. **MOVED** by Chair Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Piskor.

**CARRIED**

A discussion about short term rentals on the SGIs was ensued. It is difficult to establish a balance between regulation, housing, tourism and preserving community. Chair Brent proposed that the Commission further discuss over email the specifics of housing needs of each island at a local level. Detailed data gathering could be included in the 2024 work of the Commission; Justine Starke to bring this up in the January meeting.

**MOTION:** The Community Economic Sustainability Commission requests that Justine Starke prepare a staff report on the implications of new housing legislation to help inform discussions regarding housing needs on the Southern Gulf Islands to address the current data gap. **MOVED** by Commissioner Fenton, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel.

**CARRIED**

**9. Next proposed regular meeting - January 16, 2024.**

**January 16, 2024** meeting date approved by consensus.

**10. Meeting Adjournment**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Fenton, **SECONDED** by Chair Brent that the meeting by adjourned at 1:51pm.

**CARRIED**