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

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 1:00pm

Held by Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

SGI CESC Commissioners: Paul Brent, Director, Chair (Saturna), Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Marcus Farmer (Mayne), Rob Fenton (Pender), Barbara Johnstone (Pender)

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

Regrets: Justine Starke – Manager, SGI Service Delivery

1. Introduction of new commissioners

Marcus Farmer (Mayne) and Barbara Johnstone (Pender) were welcomed as new commissioners.

2. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair – Melody Pender

The following positions were elected by acclamation for the 2024/25 term:

CHAIR – PAUL BRENT nominated by Mike Hoebel.

All in favour. Paul Brent accepted.

VICE CHAIR – MIKE HOEBEL nominated by Paul Brent.

All in favour. Mike Hoebel accepted.

3. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Chair Brent provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Farmer, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to accept the Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2023.

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Farmer to accept the minutes from November 21, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

6. Financial Report – Melody Pender

- 2023 Financial Review

The finalized Budget will be presented to the Commission after March 31, 2024. Funding can then be allocated to the various initiatives the Commission chooses to support.



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Resolution:

That the SGI CESC recommends to carry forward \$27,650 to cover the outstanding contracts of \$15,000 for the SGICRC and \$12,650 for Food and Agriculture initiatives. The remaining estimated balance of \$4,811.16 to be moved to the ORF for future projects.

MOVED by Chair Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fenton to approve the resolution as presented.

CARRIED

7. Southern Gulf Island Tourism Partnership Destination Management and Marketing Organization designation.

Resolution:

That the SGI CESC supports a CRD Electoral Areas Committee recommendation that the CRD Board designate the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership as the Destination Management and Marketing Organization for the application of the MRDT accommodation tax in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area for the next five years and provide a letter of support.

Amendment: In recognition of the positive work of the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership, it follows that the SGI CESC supports a CRD Electoral Areas Committee recommendation that the CRD Board designate that organization as the Destination Management and Marketing Organization for the application of the MRDT accommodation tax in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area for the next five years and provide a letter of support.

MOVED by Chair Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Farmer to approve the Resolution as amended.

CARRIED

8. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine Starke, Liaisons

Emma Davis (Galiano) – Working on orienting new CESC and Parks & Rec Commissioners. Also working with Justine Starke on the CRD rural housing pilot project report commissioned by the CRD and being produced by Urban Matters Consulting. Also working with the Galiano Island Community Transportation Society to explore next steps after the referendum at the provincial election.

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – Working on determining the different supports that the CRD needs to provide for all the different Parks & Rec commissions, also preparing numerous grants with Katie Dentry including the ICET grants for work on Miners Bay Dock and trails on Pender.

Katie Dentry (Saturna) – Involved in the team projects above, also assisting to draft a report for grant in aids retrospective of the last ten years to document where funding has gone previously.



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9. Annual Review of CESC Initiatives

The CESC Strategic Review of Initiatives was presented to the Commission. A copy of the document will be shared with the Commission. The eight initiatives were summarized as follows: Broadband, Education/Edu Tourism, Experience the Gulf Islands, Resource Inventory – Salish Sea Registry, Social Finance, Transportation, Food and Agriculture, and Affordable Housing.

10. New Business – Commissioner Fenton

Promotion of off-season tourism idea: Work with the Nature Conservancies and local First Nations to put together a program for visitors to pay to learn about environmental issues / be involved in conservation projects may be a valuable initiative. He is hoping to put together a proposal to bring forward to the CESC and other relevant parties. A pilot project on one island may be useful for proof of concept. “Regenerative Tourism” - suggested he discuss further with the SGI Tourism Partnership Society.

11. Next regular meeting - March 19, 2024

12. Meeting Adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Fenton, ***SECONDED*** by Commissioner Farmer that the meeting be adjourned at 2:40pm.

CARRIED