

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS HARBOURS COMMISSION
held on Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at the
Saanich Peninsula Health Unit, Mt. Newton X Rd., Saanichton, BC**

PRESENT: Stephen Cropper - Chair, Mayne Island
Jon Heaney, N. Pender Island
Sheila Midgley, Galiano Island
Bryce Young, Piers Island
Mike Callendar, S. Pender Island
Larry Peck, Saturna Island
Derek Masselink, Alternate Director
Pete Williams, Ports Manager
Marian Brown, Recording Secretary

Also in Attendance:

Ed Andrusiak, Mike Hoebel (SGI EDC Chair), Brian Crumblehulme (EDC Advisory Committee Chair, Mayne Is.), Ian Dow, Wendy Gardner (EDC Pender Island), Brian Deardon (EDC Mayne Island)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair welcomed those present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Jon Heaney, **seconded** by Mike Callendar, that the agenda be approved with the insertion of the following items under the Ports Manager's Report: Bedwell Harbour update, thesis research student re alternative ferry transportation, Horton Bay update, safety on the docks; and, under New Business the inclusion of purchasing tickets in advance.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2013

Moved by Bryce Young, **seconded** by Jon Heaney that the minutes of the SGIHC meeting held May 21, 2013 be adopted as amended.

Carried

4. Presentation – Experience the Gulf Islands - Ed Andrusiak

Mr. Andrusiak provided a Power Point presentation giving an overview of Experience the Gulf Islands (ETGI), an EDC project, and requested consideration of the requirements and long term visions for the initiative as well as to see what we have in common to support each other. Relevant topics included the following: portals and nodes (destinations), linkages, status of ETGI, why docks are important to ETGI, marina at Miners Bay, inter-island transportation, key role for SGIHC as a supporting partner to help staff and politicians see the importance of the docks as well as to look for new sources of funding.

Discussion ensued on the following: how to extend the season; the importance of the docks for transient moorage; docks as a welcoming portal with fresh paint, local information and interpretative signage; an upland area which is clean; possible new role for wharfingers to ensure a welcome; docks taking on a more relevant function to provide a sense of community for the Gulf Islands by becoming vital and important for the survival and enrichment of the community; collaboration with other jurisdictions such as Highways, CRD Parks and Parks Canada; role of Chamber of Commerce, role of the EDC in engaging and bringing people together to provide an opportunity for community building.

5. Presentation – Ian Dow – Inter-Island Transportation

Ian Dow noted the already pledged support of the CRD, noted that the docks are essential as key links between the islands and an economic driver for the sustainability of the communities; reviewed some recent events, some time ago there was a plan developed for ETGI re a marina at Miners Bay; involvement of BC Transit, CRD Transit and BC Ferries to access transit systems on each island thus reducing vehicular traffic and increasing the potential for additional funding; noted the pilot bus project on Mayne Is. and the fact that transit is a vital path to economic development. CRD docks should be maintained to a standard.

Brian Crumbleholme stated that public meetings and community get togethers had been held and four committees set up; expect support of Chamber of Commerce; he is the contact person for both BC Transit and CRD Transit for Mayne Island; the Planner for the ETGI project is Danica Rice; small docks on Mayne are essential and vital to the community.

Mike Huebel noted the relationship of CRD Transit to the BC Transit study which deals primarily with the land transportation.

Moved by Bryce Young, **seconded** by Larry Peck, that the Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commission (SGIHC) provide support to the Experience the Gulf Islands (ETGI) project in principle and that the SGIHC will work to support the Economic Development Commission and the ETGI project. **Carried**

The meeting took a break from 10:58 until 11:08.

6. Chair Report

The Chair stated that the Ports Manager for SGIHC will now report to Ted Robbins, General Manager, CRD Integrated Water Services.

The Chair stated that the SGIHC is due to go through a facility planning process for the forthcoming years. Commission members were provided with a copy of the current plan.

7. Director Report

Derek Masselink, Alternate Director, thanked the guest speakers for their presentations. He further noted the growing awareness of the SGIHC and its importance in maintaining the dock facilities to function for the community. We are now at the table in the CRD Transportation study.

8. Ports Manager's Report

Swartz Bay Pile Repairs

The Ports Manager displayed the drawing provided in the agenda package; reported that the last engineer's inspection noted spalling and rust in the concrete pilings; suggested that the pilings be encapsulated with a metal collar thus eliminating the need to dig into the ground. Members expressed concern re possible electrolysis problems and the Ports Manager replied that zinc anodes would be attached. Discussion ensued on the costs involved to open up and analyze one of the pilings.

Port Washington Float

The Ports Manager stated the tender bids were received and discussions were taking place to either repair or replace the 80 ft. float if rot is found.

Moved by Sheila Midgley, **seconded** by Mike Callendar that the SGIHC go ahead with replacement of the float at Port Washington and rehabilitate the old float. **Carried**

Hope Bay Boat Festival

Jon Heaney reported the festival a success but could have drawn more people; would like to see something similar at other docks in the future.

A table set up to represent the SGIHC generated some interest.

Shaw Go Wifi

The Chair stated that Shaw was looking for a location for placement of a Wifi tower. Members discussed the issue of broadband wireless service on the docks or within close proximity and also questioned the types of services which make docks attractive.

Moved by Sheila Midgley, **seconded** by Jon Heaney, that our response to having Wifi services on CRD docks be that the research be turned over to the Economic Development Committee. **Carried**

Retreat Cove Repairs

The Ports Manager stated that dock repairs for the forthcoming 7 years were included in this year's budget and that he is preparing a tender for this purpose.

Wharfinger Contracts

The Ports Manager reported that this included reference to procedures and was reviewed by risk and insurance staff.

Bedwell Harbour Update

The Ports Manager had nothing new to update but will continue to act on the previous motion. Derek stated that the San Juan EDC are interested in establishing linkages. The commissioner expressed concern over the lack of progress.

Alternative Ferry Transportation – Jake Skinner Thesis Research

Correspondence had been received by the Ports Manager from Mr. Skinner. Derek stated that this is a Vancouver Island university student looking at sustainability in the gulf islands and alternative “green” ferry transportation systems. He is interviewing the key stakeholders.

Horton Bay Update

The Ports Manager stated that the court case continues and that some “housekeeping” items are being done.

Pilings for Piers Island

Bryce Young expressed concern re the need for Piers Is. dock repairs. The Ports Manager stated some items would be done this year and some in 2015 and that he would resend the report on the Piers Island inspection to commission members for review at the next meeting.

Wendy Gardner questioned the availability of recent budget information on the website. The Ports Manager agreed to check this.

Dock Safety

The Ports Manager stated that this item regards the means to get out of the water if someone should fall in. Commission members requested signage indicating a ladder, life ring or heaving line. The Manager stated that life rings were provided at Sturdies, Miners and Port Washington without problems.

9. Treasurer's Report

Jon Heaney reviewed the latest R&E statistics for July, 2013 and stated that we will be close to our budget.

A detailed flow chart of wharfingers moorage revenue and the subsequent CRD accounting process was provided in the agenda package and reviewed by commission members.

Larry Peck asked for information re tickets for moorage which are prepaid. It was agreed that he should talk to the Ports Manager.

10. Correspondence

A letter was received from *Discovery Tours* and included in the agenda package. The request is for waiving of the fee for a reserved space at the Lyall Harbour dock. Commission members discussed the issue and agreed that the item should be considered in-camera.

Ed Andrusiak Mike Huebel, Brian Crumblehulme, Ian Dow and Wendy Gardner left the meeting, 12:40 pm.

11. Motion to Close the Meeting and Move In-camera

Moved by Sheila Midgley, *Seconded* by Bryce Young, that the SGIHC close the meeting in accordance with CRD Procedures Bylaw No 4980 and the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, 90(1), (c) labour relations or other employee relations; if the Regional District considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Regional District.

Carried

The Committee closed the meeting at 12:42 pm.

The regular meeting of the SGIHC reconvened at 12:54 pm.

12. Rise and Report

The committee rose and reported on the letter received from Discover Tours by instructing the Ports Manager to talk with the wharfinger to develop a temporary solution to the problem in order to meet the needs of both the wharfinger and business owner.

Sheila Midgley requested that the next SGIHC agenda include an item for wharfinger responsibilities.

13. New Business

The issue of prepaid tickets was dealt with in item 9.

14. Next Meeting Date – September 17, 2013 at 1 pm.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.