



Making a difference...together

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission Held April 20, 2021 by Zoom

Present: Ian Elliott, Chair (Pender) Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Paul Brent, Treasure (Saturna), Deb Goldman (Mayne),
Staff: Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Melody Pender – Recorder; SGI Liaison: Emma Davis, Katie Dentry, Kat Ferneyhough;
Participants: Ed Andrusiak
Absent: CRD Director: David Howe

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brent that the agenda of April 20, 2021 be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

2. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Goldman that the minutes of March 16, 2021 be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

3. Financial Report

Commissioner Brent reported the year to date budget reflects 65% remaining at the end of the first quarter. The Community Works Fund was received into the budget revenues.

MOVED by Commissioner Brent, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hoebel to receive the report as presented. **CARRIED**

Commissioner Elliott discussed bringing a first DRAFT budget for 2022 to the next meeting for review.

4. Advisory Group update

- There was further discussion on either creating an Advisory Committee or increasing the number of commissioners.
- It was noted that when increasing the commissioners, the normal procedure of advertising would be in place although you could make the advertising for a specific skill set or background. The Commission would then give their recommendations to the Director.

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel, **SECONDED** Commissioner Brent that the CESC requests the Electoral Area Director request the CRD board amend the bylaw to allow for the appointment of up to four additional commissioners, who would be commissioners at large. **CARRIED**

5. Food and Agriculture update

- They received the grant and had a successful start up meeting. Ed will have updates on stage 1 and 2 next week.
- Closing the supply gap has been ongoing through the Capital Region Food and Agriculture initiatives roundtable with Salt Spring Island Food and Agriculture Association and a few others. The discussion has been around shortening our supply chains as we cannot rely on long supply chains anymore. A number of workshops and seminars were held and the next step will be to try to formulate a demonstration project that will be focused on the whole distribution network that covers this geographic area. Salt Spring has applied for funding for a part time staff



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person to help coordinate so this initiative can move forward. We have not heard if they have been successful.

- Now that the working group has decided it would like to be long term and have formed the Food Resilience Alliance, Ed would like to discuss the role of the Alliance. After much discussion it was deferred to next meeting.
- The commissioners asked to continue receiving meeting invitations and will join when they are able and to continue with Ed's updates at the meetings.

6. Old Business

- Justine reported the transportation initiative has been launched with stakeholders and community engagement. The Commission can expect an increase in communication in the coming weeks. WATT Consulting is the project leader and moving ahead full steam.
- Commissioner Elliott discussed the hot real estate market on Pender Island which is of course creating further strain for our affordable housing and rentals.
- Commissioners all agreed it was the same on their islands and would like to have an update on the SGI Housing strategy.
- Current SGI housing societies require soft cost funding to move forward their initiatives.

MOVED by Commissioner Goldman, **SECONDED** Commissioner Hoebel that the CESC requests an update on the CRD SGI housing strategy. **CARRIED**

Commissioner Brent left the meeting at 2:45pm

7. New Business

- TANEx report:
 - Justine is waiting for the final report. TANEx clarified that they are able to support this initiative through the various steps.
 - Fibre to the home generates a large cost, Commissioner Hoebel questioned if there is a hybrid model. Due to the high costs, fibre to the home doesn't make economic sense for our islands. The Commission looks forward to the final report.
 - The Commission would like to thank Justine for all her work on this initiative.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Commissioner Hoebel that the meeting adjourn at 2:55pm

9. Next regular meeting – proposed Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 at 1pm.