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

Tuesday, Sept 20, 2022 at 1:00pm

Held by Zoom Video Conference

SGL CESC Commissioners: Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Richard Piskor, Treasurer (Pender), Deb Goldman (Mayne)

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

Guests: Ed Andrusiak, SGI Community Resource Centre

Regrets: Paul Brent, Alternate Director, Chair (Saturna), Janey Rowland, SGI Community Resource Centre

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Hoebel provided the territorial acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:

8.1 New Business – Post-Summer Island Updates

By consensus, the agenda was adopted as amended.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 21st, 2022

By consensus, the minutes of June 21st, 2022 were adopted as presented.

4. Financial Report

\$20,000 funding was allocated to the SGI Tourism Partnership as a matching contribution with the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Sustainability Commission. Randy Cunningham of the Tourism Partnership has been invited to present a report to the Commission in the near future.

A Property Tax line item charge of \$503 is to be investigated and followed up on by Justine Starke.

A document detailing the projected funding allocations for the remainder of the fiscal year was requested by the Commission. A discussion on how to allocate or carry-forward unused funding for the remainder of the fiscal year will be held at the next meeting.

5. SGI Liaisons Update – Justine Starke/Liaisons

Due to time constraints, this item is to follow discussion of the Housing NOW final report.



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6. Housing NOW – final report – Ed Andrusiak

Ed Andrusiak as Chair of the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre reported out on the Housing NOW program that was requested by the SGI CESC. The program was to explore matching hosts with people in need of housing.

Host response patterns – the Housing NOW idea was well-received, so long as the hosts receive support and have a strong liaison to navigate between host and guest requirements. Hosts and guests are also both cognizant of security concerns such as vulnerable populations, background checks, etc. Hosts want to learn which bylaws and building regulations permit various uses. Hosts are also limited by potential infrastructure costs and are curious about funding to support necessary upgrades to their properties. Seniors are interested in intergenerational home sharing for the companionship and support with chores around the home.

Guest response patterns – those looking for accommodation are very flexible in their requirements. Many are interested in assisting the homeowner with basic chores/yard work.

Several potential housing models were explored in the Report and a “unique to the SGIs” approach may be developed in the future.

More community engagement is needed for a broader representation of the SGI population’s views on housing. The engagement with this first phase of the project was low due to limited staff available for implementing surveys. However, two successful housing matches were made during the project, going beyond the scope of work to investigate housing needs and options available for housing strategies on the SGIs.

Discussion of the Housing report to be continued with Janey Rowland at the next meeting.

Commissioner Piskor had to leave the meeting

The Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission recessed at 2:04pm and reconvened on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 4 pm.



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October 4, 2022 – Continuation of September 20, 2022 meeting:

SGI CESC Commissioners: Paul Brent, Alternate Director, Chair (Saturna), Mike Hoebel, Vice Chair (Galiano), Richard Piskor, Treasurer (Pender), Deb Goldman (Mayne)

Staff: Justine Starke, Manager, SGI Service Delivery; Melody Pender – Recorder/Pender Liaison;

SGI Liaisons: Emma Davis (Liaison Galiano), Kat Ferneyhough (Liaison Mayne)

Guests: Ed Andrusiak and Janey Rowland, SGI Community Resource Centre

Regrets: Katie Dentry (Liaison Saturna)

6. Housing NOW – final report – Janey Rowland and Ed Andrusiak

Ed provided an overview of the report at the previous meeting. Janey provided further insights on the project at today's meeting.

The overall theme that was brought to attention during the data collection phase of the project was that both hosts and guests are looking for a supportive, comprehensive matching service. Data collection was limited in the initial roll-out of the project and would be continued in a proposed phase two of the project. Increased participation in data collection would equate to a more accurate representation of the needs and opinions of the broader community.

Mid-February 2023 is proposed as the launch date for the general matching service. June 2023 is proposed as the launch date for elder/senior matches. Both hosts and guests are more interested in long-term housing solutions than in short-term seasonal worker housing. Long-term intergenerational matches could foster stronger relationships within the community and support elders/seniors living at home. Intergenerational matches may involve vulnerable populations, so extra care must be taken to facilitate them.

In general, the Commission supports the proposed phase two of the Housing NOW project. Amendments to the proposed scope of work will be determined at a future meeting. A multi-tiered approach may expedite simple matches now, while building a foundation for the project to grow and support more complex goals later on.

Opportunities to expand the project in the future could include adding agricultural businesses and workers to the project, expanding beyond short-term housing, and broadening the scope of the project beyond strictly worker housing to be inclusive of the whole community.

Justine Starke suggested that the scope of work should clearly state that the CESC is a supporting partner organization for the CRC's Housing NOW project to ensure the Commission stays within the scope of authority of its bylaw.

7. Old Business – none



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8. New Business

8.1 Post-Summer Island Updates - tabled until next meeting

9. Next proposed regular meeting October 18th, 2022 - approved

10. Meeting Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm