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

Tuesday, March 18th, 2025 at 1pm

Held by Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

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

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

Guest: Michael Hoebel, Michael Cowan, Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre

Regrets: Janey Rowland, Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre, Emma Davis (Galiano), Katie Dentry (Saturna)

1. Territorial Acknowledgement/Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following amendment was made to the Agenda: Item **8. Housing NOW presentation** was deferred until May. **MOVED** by Commissioner Farmer, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fenton to accept the Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes from February 18, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Farmer, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Fenton to accept the minutes from February 18, 2025 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report

The draft Budget was received for information by the Commission.

5. Director's Report

Projects are moving along well.

6. Southern Gulf Islands Liaisons Update

Justine Starke – Rural Housing Program to be launched in April. Application forms are being developed with the assistance of the liaisons and the housing coordinator position is still under review so recruitment for this position has not commenced yet.

Kat Ferneyhough (Mayne) – The Montrose restaurant obtained a liquor license.

Melody Pender (Pender) – The Daycare on Pender officially opened yesterday and was very well received by the families that attended. An open house for the community will be held on April 6th.



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7. RV and Tiny Home on Wheels Final Report

The report was received for information by the Commission. Tiny homes on wheels are already being used within the SGIs and developing appropriate standards for use, without jeopardizing housing security of current occupants, will allow these types of dwellings to play a role in combating the housing crisis. This report provides more evidence in support of alternative housing solutions on the SGIs.

ACTION ITEM: Chair Brent to share the report with the Chief Building Inspector, the Islands Trust steering committee, and other regional districts and request their feedback. Chair Brent to report back to the Commission.

8. Housing NOW presentation – Janey Rowland – *deferred until May*

9. Southern Gulf Islands Sustainable Funding Initiative Final Report – Michael Cowan

The report was received for information by the Commission. The program has been very successful and has significantly increased the funding opportunities for SGI organizations. Future directions: increasing e-learning opportunities, develop long-term sustainability plan, increase awareness of grant hub.

10. Old/New Business – none discussed

11. Next Regular Meeting – May 20, 2025

12. Meeting Adjourned

MOVED by Chair Brent, ***SECONDED*** by Commissioner Fenton to adjourn the meeting at 1:40pm.

CARRIED