



SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS FORUM

NOTES from Monday February 12, 2024 – 8:30 – 9:30am

- **8:35– 8:40: Attendees:**
 - Trustees: Jeanine Dodds (Mayne), Timothy Peterson (VC-ITExec), Mairead Boland (Saturna), David Maude (Mayne), Lisa Gauvreau (Galiano), Laura Patrick (SSI), Dag Falck (South Pender) and Ben Mabberley (Galiano). SSI CRD Dir. Gary Holman and MLA Adam Olsen.
 - Staff: Clare Frater (Director, Trust Area Services), Ned Taylor (office of MP May), and Laura Parker (office of MLA Olsen, notetaker).

- **8:40 – 9:15: Discussion:**
 - **Last meeting December 11, 2023:**
 - **Any corrections** to meeting notes? [231211 SGI Forum mtg NOTES final](#)
 - **Gary:**
 - Barge in Ganges was not suggested by me - was suggested by Adam
 - Housing Now is the one hiring a coordinator, not the LCC
 - **Update from Gary:** CRD rural housing update: funding paused
 - LCC & SGITP need *“to come to an agreement on how the money should be spent”*
<https://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com/plan-to-fund-housing-with-tourism-dollars-paused/>
 - **Update from Adam:** use of AI companion
 - sussed out use of and asked if any concerns via IT department at legislature
 - thereafter our office sent follow-up, to include that information, in an email to group on 02/07: *“Southern Gulf Islands Forum group - QUESTION re: use of Zoom Meeting Summary with AI Companion”*
 - **Any other agenda items?** No
 - **ACTION ITEMS** from last meeting:
 - Housing issues:
 - **MLA staff:** set up a briefing on the applicability of the short-term vacation rentals in the Southern Gulf Islands
 - **DONE:** A Minister’s staff member will be attending a Forum meeting
 - **Adam:** got update this morning from Min office that they are working on a date to join a meeting
 - **Laura:** appreciates getting this meeting - Hoping to get by March 31st as that is the date to opt in.

- **Gary:** suggests providing them direct questions
 - **Dag:** Confusing re: opting in. And has concerns about the legal status of short-term vacation rentals, so need for clarity on that
 - **Laura:** there is a good guide [Short-Term Rentals: Policy Guidance for BC Local Governments](#)
- Harbor Management Issues:
 - **DONE: Adam:** re: WLC & technical working group - f/u w/ Eryn at WLC about the enforcement and management initiative.
 - From Eryn Rogers (Policy and Negotiation Analyst for the WLC) regarding *“his proposal for an Indigenous Port Authority please let him know this is something being considered by the IMB/IMBTC and will be further discussed over the course of this year.”*
 - **Not yet: Adam:** will put all these ideas into a formal letter to new Federal Ministers, will share around for signatures
 - **Adam:** I presented to the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council in November, so I asked for above f/u and recd
 - **Elizabeth:** is it too early to include FN in her letter
 - **Adam:** yes, till a bit premature but agree on working on letter - **Laura (staff):** work w/E’s office re: language to include the idea in a draft letter for further discussion
ACTION ITEM
 - **Paul:** was to contact person who has access to a drone
 - He was not at meeting today
 - **Elizabeth:** (as Adam asked her to give an update on the January Marine Roundtable mtg)
 - Went well – good turnout of all levels of stakeholders
 - Still working on follow-up letter to 3 Ministries – will include such things as: VFPA ‘authority’, regulation of mooring buoys, and the derelict vessel implementation fund – will send around for signatures
 - **Tim:** spoke w/ 2 ministers at UBCM (?) – they have heard the issues. (?)
 - **clarity needed** LP did not catch in notetaking or in AI summary
- Road safety issues:
 - **Working on: Adam:** will send an email asking ICBC about their role in addressing road safety issues.
 - **Mairead:** update: Saturna has formed an advisory cmt, to focus on liaising w/MoTI as per the IT agrmt
 - **Lisa:** on Galiano the issues on LED headlights so bright, so working on letter to MoTI (?) address
 - **Adam:** that is more a safety issue so perhaps is a Fed issue? Suggest sending letter to his and Elizabeth’s office for their follow-up to appropriate Ministry(s) **ACTION ITEM**

- **Issue(s) to work on today:**
 - **1) Next month's half-day meeting March 11, 10:30 – 2:30 - Hybrid**
 - **Host:** Elizabeth May's office to Host, hold in MLA office
 - **Topic(s)?**
 - **Adam suggested:**
 - Gulf Islands National Park Reserve is getting a new director
 - invite them to present to group: updates on deer cull, clam gardens, relationships with First Nations...
 - **Elizabeth:** agreed
 - interesting re: deer issue - did not hear anything about it in her community mtgs
 - **Dag:** first deer seen on Pender. He plans to document the ecosystem of his 10-acre property - will use it as an example to help others...
 - **Elizabeth** – would it be helpful to you if I connect you w/ Dr. David Bird – he is a hunter and could arrange a hunt
 - **Dag:** would have to look at regs of hunting on island **ACTION ITEM**
 - **Mairead** – would like to have a workshop/sharing session w/Parks re all invasive species
 - **Laura suggested:** minor works and buoys – could use more collective work
 - **2) Discussion re: meetings to year end**, given that there is a [Provincial election](#) this year: Writ Day (election is called) September 21, Final voting Day: October 19:
 - **Laura:** how can we align better collectively – could scheduling of these meetings change?
 - **Mairead:** March 11 works this time as trust council meeting is March 12-14
 - But suggested that future meetings should be scheduled before the Islands Trust Council meetings so they can share information from their discussions.
 - **Adam:** LP to look at coordinating schedules – connect w/IT, Elizabeth's office to ensure this going forward **ACTION ITEM**
 - **3) Update on getting a website going**
 - **Clare:** they haven't had the staff capacity to proceed but will reach out to their IT person and graphic designer for assistance
 - Also, asks that Adam update the Secretariat funding request letter for the Forum group and submit it by mid-March. **ACTION ITEM**
- **Misc:**
 - **Adam:** update for CRD Dirs Gary and Paul
 - he spoke w/main island Dirs regarding the Building Communities Fund and the perceived inequity it caused, especially for electoral area directors in the Central Okanagan (?). He suggested that forming an association of electoral area directors might be beneficial, as there are alliances

- **Adam to David and Jeanine:** FYI: meeting with Nathan Colin and Chief Don Tom has been rescheduled for early March.

- **9:15 – 9:30: Next Steps/Action Items (15mins):**
 - Laura (staff) work w/E's office re: language to include the idea in a draft letter for further discussion re: Indigenous Port Authority proposal
 - Lisa: send letter to of roads and LED headlights safety concerns to Adam and Elizabeth's offices (as both jurisdictions) for their follow-ups to appropriate Ministries
 - Dag: look at hunting regulations on Pender
 - To all: RSVPs for in person vs virtual attending March 11 half-day meeting
 - Laura (staff): meetings to year end - look at schedules and perhaps change
 - Adam: update the Secretariat funding request letter for the Forum group and submit it by mid-March.