

Hello again,

Well, we managed to get through the winter months with relatively few (and thankfully short) power outages! Snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are up, and the garden is waking too! Here is what I have been up to for the last month as your South Pender Trustee, it's been a busy month.

### **Chief Administrative Officer Hiring Committee (CAOHC)**

After our CAO, Russ Hotsenpiler, announced his plans to retire, the CAOHC was formed which consists of the Executive Committee and the Chairs of all standing committees. I was appointed to the CAOHC as I am the Chair of Trust Programs Committee. We have been meeting approximately fortnightly since forming to work through the hiring process, with meetings on January 19 and 26, February 8, and 20. These meetings are mostly conducted in-camera with rise and reports afterwards as appropriate.

### **South Pender LTC work**

South Pender held its quarterly LTC meeting on February 2. It was well attended and during the Rise and Report after the in-camera portion of the meeting, it was announced that Paul Petrie had been appointed to the local Advisory Planning Committee (APC). Congratulations Paul!

Both myself and Trustee Falck each held two community brainstorming workshops to discuss setbacks and house size topics. These were also very well attended, and some great ideas were presented with (in my personal experience) highly collaborative and informative discussions. We look forward to working on the next steps in this process and truly appreciate the time and commitment of everyone who came out to participate. A big thank you, everyone!!

### **Trust Programs Committee**

Trust Programs met on February 14 and discussed the Policy Statement Amendment Project, agreed to move ahead with the wildlife webinar series as presented in the agenda, and consists of the Executive Committee and the Chairs of all standing committees that the Montreal Pledge COP15 Biodiversity Framework working group consisting of two members each from the Trust Programs and Regional Planning Committees continue to meet and discuss potential items to bring forward as suggestions for consideration in strategic planning work by Trust Council. Topics currently being explored are Spatial Planning and 30x30 Pledge which means that by 2030 at least 30% of the islands area is effectively conserved. The current average for the Islands Trust area is 19.55%. There are only two islands that currently exceed this goal, South Pender is at 32.16% and Saturna is at 45.97%. High five to South Pender!!

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee met on February 21 to discuss the upcoming requirements for year-end mandated submissions.

### **Financial Committee**

The Financial Committee met on January 24, February 1 and 21. The January and February 21 meetings worked on finalizing the draft budget and discussing the various business cases that have been submitted. The February 1 meeting was dedicated to discussing the Budget guidelines and their relation to Corporate Planning.

### **Corporate Planning Process Status**

Since its inception a year ago in February 2023, the Corporate Planning Process Working Group (consisting of Trustee Mairead Boland, Trustee Laure Patrick, Trustee Kristina Evans, Director Julia Mobbs and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Russ Hotsenpiller) have written the first draft of the Corporate Planning Process and presented it to the Financial Committee, Governance Committee, Executive Committee and Trust Council. The Corporate Planning Process Project Charter was approved by the Trust Council at its September meeting.

A couple of big Corporate Planning Process issues were brought forward to the Trust Council to address, namely the need for an Islands Trust Vision statement and agreement upon the object of the mandate. These two items were addressed at the Trust Council September and December meetings, and they will form the foundation of the meaningful work undertaken by Trust Council. We have proposed to schedule a discussion and an exercise at the next Trust Council meeting on Goal and Priority setting for the remainder of the term and what that process looks like.

We met on January 25 and discussed the next steps for this working group include reviewing proposed timelines for each process step as they occur within the year, how they tie in with the current financial budget process, project planning process and tie in with scheduled Trust Council meetings. In addition, we are starting to review applicable current policies and procedures to make sure there is alignment with the Corporate Planning process being developed and make additional adjustments to the draft process language.

### **Culturally Committed Meetings**

I was privileged to join the Culturally Committed group and attended the Building Meaningful Engagement and Relationships with Indigenous Peoples on January 17. As I missed the January 24 meeting, I was welcomed to participate in a different group on February 7. It was a very moving meeting, and I was honored to be included and learnt a lot that I hope to bring forward into our meetings as well. I also attended the February 21 meeting.

### **Adam Olsen's Southern Gulf Island Forum**

Sadly, due to my waitressing job at the Copper Otter (serving my community in more ways than one!!), and the numerous committees and working groups I am involved with, I am finding that I have been unable to attend the meetings because of scheduling conflicts and have decided to step down from this group. Trustee Dag Falck has been regularly attending these meetings, so South Pender still has excellent representation on this forum. Please feel free to contact Trustee Falck about any questions related to this group.