

Gabriola Commons COUNCIL

Minutes FOR Meeting of December 4th, 2012-12-04

Present: Bob, Patrick, Judith, Sheila, Robbie, Linda, Raymond, Sharon P., Stef, Muriel, Mary A., Alison, Deborah, Heide, Maya R., Jinny
Facilitators: Bob Andrew, Maya Ruggles; Recorder: Muriel Wiens

Next CCC meeting: January 8th, 2013

Next Notetaker: member of Infrastructure Team (TBA)

Action Items:

- Decide on date for Christmas Craft Fair (not with School?) (**Stef**)
- Invite new facilitators (**Bob & Maya**)
- Discuss issues of where food grown on Commons goes, and make proposal at Council (**FMT**)
- Create task force for the Kitchen Renovations (**Heide**)
- Bring proposal re: Yurt lease & insurance to Council (**STC**)
- Decide on contact person/position for Poetry Gabriola (**STC or Trustees**)
- Discuss and propose whether Commons should 'rent back' main floor when using it (**Trustees**)
- Discuss Recognition/Tributes of contributors (**All Teams**)
- Add hard copy records of Team meeting notes to files in office; email meeting notes to thecommons@shaw.ca (**All Teams**)
- Form Tree Stewardship Taskforce (**Mary A. & Alison**)
- Discuss need for computer in office (**All Teams**)

Christmas Craft Fair (Stef)

A bit disappointing, compared to last year. Weather and parking were issues. Perhaps might consider not co-ordinating with the School next time. \$960.00 was raised.

Communications (Heide)

Presented a new brochure about the Commons. Send Heide anything you want published in the local papers. Heide is meeting with Hans to upgrade the website.

Covenant (Robbie)

The status of one of the potential Covenant Holders is unknown at this time. Continuing to communicate with GaLTT.

Facilitation Team (Maya, Bob)

Facilitators ask for feedback on their performance. New facilitators will be needed every three (3) months for six (6) month terms. Co-facilitators will overlap for three (3) months. The next term will start for February Council meeting.

Farm Management Team (Sharon)

Almost 100 allotments. The kitchen garden is doing well. John Switzer is providing valuable guidance for the Little Field. A goal is to have a production garden

and sell produce at a Farm Gate on Saturdays with prices comparable with other local growers. Forthcoming position description of a Farmgate Coordinator. Apple juicing going well. There are some containers of juice still in the freezers.

An unresolved problem is what happens to food grown at the Commons. As of now, some is given away, some goes home with the gardeners, some goes into the Saturday soup. This innate aspect of the Commons needs discussion and clarification, so will be a topic for the next Council meeting or the one after that.

Next meeting Dec. 10th at 4:00. (Every second Monday).

Infrastructure (Patrick)

Barn not totally finished – it was fun and “those not there were very supportive”. People can value it by using it. During the work there was food supplied, and about twenty volunteers. The barn needs gutters to collect rain water and possibly direct it to the gardens or a storage place.

(Judith)

Kitchen renovation is being launched. A Task Force is needed to do the work. Heide will send out a call for help once she finds out what to ask for. There are “kitchen stewards” who have been looking at and discussing regulations, safety measures, and requirements. The present need is for people to help plan. The planners are not the Stewards. Stewards are those who will be using the kitchen. Others besides the Stewards will also be using the kitchen. A Project Task Force will be needed when the kitchen is being constructed. Interested people can meet on December 13th at 1.00 p.m. at the Commons. To be Continued next Council.

Labyrinth (Mary)

Sleeping for the time being.....The Labyrinth that is, not Mary.....

Sharing the Commons (Linda)

Concerns about the Yurt lease and insurance. The yurt belongs to Poetry Gabriola so they must insure it. Concerns about electricity supply may eventually be under the wing of the property management team. Hilary Peach would like a “go-to” person for contact. A member of Share the Commons is on the Board of Poetry Gabriola. Island Studies contact continuing. When we use the lower floor, leased by PHC, should we pay them rent for its use?

Stories at the Memory Well (Muriel)

First session went well. Mix of personal memories and memories of the Commons beginnings. Very good “feeling”. Problem learning how to honour silence between stories. Great beginning stories about the Commons. More to come.

Next meeting: Thursday, Dec. 27th, 1:30, at the Yurt.

Trustees (Robbie)

Deborah F. is interim Treasurer. A Finance Working Group on the Board of Trustees is discussing how to divide the financial positions: for instance, Accountant and Finance Assistant. Lease is pending with PHC. Schedule E is being provided by PHC, to indicate what articles belong to PHC and which to the Commons, in preparation for signing the lease.

Long Range Planning (Deborah)

Phase I of long range planning has focussed on the process and rationale for long range planning. Concern to honour flexibility, short term, medium, and long-term visions with a process for testing new ideas against the long-term vision. Consultations were made with various teams asking them to share their vision for the future Commons and what they wouldn't like to happen on the Commons. The common threads garnered from the teams so far include issues of community, agriculture, and protection of the Commons. Having completed Phase I, the Task Force is now recommending the formation of a Planning Team. Now at "phase two", which consists of designing and formulating a 30 year plan with attention to how decisions get made with respect to the long-term security of the Commons. There will be periodic reviews. There was a question about how it got changed, once decided, and how many more people were needed. The Covenant Team is looking at formation of a Stewardship Group which seeks to dovetail with the Long Range Planning group. Continual evaluation necessary.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Recognition of/Tributes to contributors

We need to get out to the public a recognition of what people do at the Commons. Heide suggested a "day in the life" in the papers, from time to time. Patrick mentioned a party as a pleasant way to recognize people and also have a good time. Stef is concerned that not enough credit is given to the hard workers in the Commons, and suggested we think of a way to honour people like Ken Capon and Jay and others who have given so much to the Commons.

2. New Filing System

Jinny told the Council that she has created a new filing system and library of records for the various teams and wishes teams to give her any written material that they may have, and to use the filing system. She recommends that one person on each team be responsible for getting information to her. Paper files are valuable for maintaining historical records.

3. Tree Stewardship Taskforce

Heide announced that she was lobbying for the formation of a Tree Stewardship Task Force, to decide which trees to cut. Perhaps a representative from each team. Reasons for the removal of a tree – if it cut off sun from a garden, or was blocking too much of a view, or endangering something below it. Trails and Green Space should be on the Task Force since it defines the size of trees which can be felled. Consult Farm Management, Poetry Gabriola. Mary A. and Alison volunteered to start the group off.

4. Office Computer

Discussion on getting a new computer, and whether Shaw mail or G mail was more useful to the Commons. No decision made yet.