

Gabriola Commons Council

Notes from November 7, 2017

Present: Deb Ferens, Michelle Benjamin, Heather Menzies, Brenda Fowler, Bob Andrew, Kim Kasasian, Patsy Ludwick, Alison Fitzgerald, Mary Wilson, Judith Roux, Mitch Miyagawa, Diane Streeter, Dave Lightly

Co-facilitators: John Peirce and Linda St.Clair (Thanks to John for 6 months of careful coordination. Dave Lightly comes on board with Linda at next Council)

Notes: Trails and Green Spaces Team (Judith) **Sweeper:** Kim

❖ **Appreciations:** (New idea)

- John expressed appreciation of Patrick's organization of the "Big Cleanup" on Oct. 28 of the east driveway landscaping)

- Alison expressed appreciation of the hedge trim done so far.

- Team reports.

(Note: Review of Volunteer Policy – follow up discussion to be rescheduled.)

- New task force/team was set up: "**Farm House StewardsTeam**" (Linda, John and Deb). A draft mandate has been drawn up aligned with the Community Kitchen Stewards mandate (essentially concerning cleaning, booking, wise spending of monthly funding from AGES donation). Eventually this will become part of the Covenant Stewardship Plan.

- After much discussion on the issue of paying for cleaning it was decided that a "one-time" cleaning was ordered for November 3, with the hiring of a professional cleaner. Comments afterward included need for ladder to clean high window in entry, discovery of black mold in kitchen, curtains taken to dry-cleaners etc.

- Discussion needed on scheduling of any future deep cleaning. Booking calendar will be posted in the foyer, with users (including Commons teams) encouraged to take responsibility for cleanup after their use.

- Role of Property Management Team was discussed (important that this potentially new team is not intended to "manage" the PMT.) The need for a separate team was questioned at the PMT meeting: "why split a small team into two, diminishing the strength of both." Questions remains on the table: are these two areas needing the same people or are more needed for both?)

- Need for an "interior decorating" team for the interior?

❖ **People for a Healthy Community** (Brenda)

- On November 15 there will be a community meeting at the Surf Lodge to discuss Health and Wellness initiatives. Epidemiologist Paul Hasselbach will be leading the discussion on the impact of action on a community health collaborative. Arrive at 8:30 to start at 9 am.

- Zero-Waste program. After one year in the program, PHC has recorded that 20,000 pounds of produce from the Village Foods have been diverted from the Nanaimo landfill, with an estimated 6000 pounds of compostables contributed to the Commons' compost bins. The volume of produce exceeds expectations and there is a clear need to shelter those working on sorting into 3 groups: - food for chickens, pigs and goats (in galvanized garbage cans and picked up by farmers); produce in good condition for human consumption and compostables (taken to the Commons large compost bin.)

Brenda has requested a meeting to discuss the need to clean up the east side of the Farmhouse and construct a roofed space for those doing the triage of the crates coming from the Village.

❖ **Special Presentation** by Michelle Benjamin and Mitch Miyagawa (new program director of Gabriola Arts Council) Several observations from 2017 arts events:

- the Folklife Village parking lot will not be available any more for the August Theatre Festival, so this very popular event will be looking for a new home.
- the Music festival on Labour Day weekend at Twin Beaches was a great event, successful and attracting a young demographic; however there was a clear overlap with the Fall Fair happening on the same weekend and the venue itself presented several problems for “neighbour hoods”

New idea: to hold a major Arts Festival (music and performance arts) on the third weekend of August on the Commons. This would be a collaborative community-based event, fitting in with the philosophy of the Commons and working with the Commons Special Events team. There could be events happening in nooks and crannies all over the Commons, with music and open air theatre and incorporating the flavour of the street fair with Gabriola artists and non-profits. Mitch would love advice on the multiple aspects of the idea (for example combining some events open to all without charge, others ticketed.)

The long term would see the development of the Goat Barn Performing Arts project.

Support for the proposal was clear and it was decided to request that it be addressed at the Sharing the Commons meeting on Nov. 22. PMT and Infrastructure Teams will also be asked to consider relevant issues (e.g. water and power). **The proposal will be re-addressed next Council (Dec. 5) with feedback from Teams.**

Team Reports:

- ❖ **Process Team:** Dave Lightly reported on illness of several team members. The team has become a closely knit unit enjoying the meetings but uncertain about their core purpose (in the absence of any discernible conflict or problem requiring resolution.) It was decided to review the mandate, not only of this team (formerly known as “Conflict Prevention and Resolution”), but of all teams.

- Cameron and Laura Jean (of Topographics Landscape architects) will be discussing hedge design early next week.

- ❖ **Sharing the Commons Team:** Next meeting: Wednesday Nov. 15 at 10

- Mary came to Council to follow up on a discussion at SCT, asking for support of a request for a research funding grant by SFU researchers on “Place-based Education”, with a focus on governance and reconciliation with First Nations. Researcher Mark Fettes will be leading the SSHERK (Social Sciences and Humanities Educational Research project and intends to work with the Elementary School and the Commons on issues of land stewardship etc. All present endorsed the idea and Mary will write an “expression of interest” letter.

- Occasional requests are being made for the use of outdoor space at the Commons and it was decided this needed to come to Council for discussion. An example: a request has been made to hold a wedding on the Commons next September including the use of the Community Kitchen, and also the outdoor space. It was recognized that the Commons functions like a public park in that passers-by should not be prevented from coming into the general space. A second example: a parents group holds a regular picnic once a month during the summer, with food, music and dancing. They have contributed \$30 for the use of the space (including toilets, water, electrical hookup etc.)

The STC team proposes that for groups of more than 10 people wanting to “reserve” a space for a period of time, a donation of \$30 could be requested to cover costs. Charging for public space needs to come to the Commons Council for discussion and how to manage and publicize this as well.

- A 12’ x 12’ space for **the Tool Library** has been staked out (to the north of the pathway leading to the House) Arrangements for electrical connection have been undertaken with PMT and Ron Ruckman (electrician.) An MoU with Commons has been drafted by Trustees. The Tool Library has requested help with the design and installation of the new structure to house the Tool Library. Contact Kim and Patsy.

- Lions' Club container: With approval of the proposal for new storage for the Lions' Club, a meeting is being arranged with Doug Cavill to agree to the proposed location (west of the west driveway entrance) and fine-tune details of installation including drafting an MoU (w/Trustees.)

- John P. reported on conversation with Jim Charlesworth on the return of the Silva Boat School Woodwork Shop supporters (i.e. from their summer boating activities). They do not consider themselves part of the Woodwork Shop stewards, but are willing to loan tools and offer advice.

❖ **Farm Team:** (next meeting Tues. Nov. 28 at 9:30 am

- Concern expressed about the lack of commitment of South Garden allotment holders to share in the management of the gardens (attending meetings and workbees) as required in the annual sign-up agreement.) Perhaps the Process Team could be engaged to help work on a solution.

- Great fundraising events have been undertaken to cover FMT expenses (concessions, jellies, mid-week market, apple juicing etc.

- Christmas Craft Fair – coming Saturday Nov. 18. Please contribute cookies for the 2 Birds 1 Stone challenge (Bake 2 batches with one batch for concession, one batch for cookie exchange. Please contribute doo-dads for sale at the Commons table

- Some long-range planning will take place at the next meeting.

❖ **Gabriola Commons Foundation Trustees** (Next meeting: Nov. 22 at 2 pm

After the recent AGM two new Trustees have come on the team: Bob Andrew and Danielle Artuso.

Need to celebrate the paying down of the mortgage and redirecting monthly donations.

❖ **Covenant Team** (Next meeting Nov. 15 from 1 to 4)

- A focussed drive on finalizing the Covenant has taken on new energy with the paydown of the mortgage. An environmental lawyer has read the draft and sent it to a leading expert in covenants.

- Work is ongoing on the Covenant Holding society, on the Stewardship Plan and the Baseline Inventory.

- The final version will be presented to the Trustees, then taken to Council for an in-depth read through, before being sent in for registration.

❖ **Long Range Planning Team** (Next meeting Nov. 22 at 2:30.)

Report following next meeting

❖ **Property Management Team**

Cleanup of driveway landscaping on Oct. 28 was well begun. Workbees will continue stacking wood, cleaning up beds and planting bulbs.

❖ **Infrastructure Team**

Brief meeting with partial team on location of two storage projects (Tool Library and Lions' Club Storage)

Next meeting will focus on West Parking area, now that the funding from the Village Food Market Community Card has been deposited.

Linda raised the issue that a special event for all supporters (grant givers, donors, participants..ALL) needs to celebrate the burning of the mortgage and more information about what contributions are still need....

Heather proposed to share white poppies and hold a ceremony on November 11 for those wanting to come together to stand up for peace (while also wearing the red poppies in honour of those who lost their lives fighting in wars.)

REMINDER: Please read notes above on Special Presentation by Gabriola Arts Council and share with your teams. We'd like to take time at the next Council (December 5) to discuss this further. Please also contribute cookies or doo-dads for the Christmas Craft Fair! Thank you!!