

Gabriola Commons Council Notes – September 6, 2016

Present: Deborah Ferens, Charles Silva, Judith Roux, George Szanto, Sheila Brooke, Linda St Clair, Maggie Mooney, Kit Szanto, Jinny Hayes, Bob Andrew, John Peirce, Rebecca Furnell, Brenda Fowler.

Facilitation: Bob Andrew, Jinny Hayes **Note-taker:** Patrick Roux for PMT.

CPR Team is unable to facilitate the 20 minute discussion on the hedge tonight. List of future topics will be revisited.

Team Reports:

- **Events Team**

Fall Fair 2016: Jinny complimented the team on a great event, with good weather, and an excellent turnout. (Holding it on the Labour Day long weekend enabled guests and tourists to attend.) The food was wonderful. This was a first event for the new Community Kitchen and people loved the set up and the new space created around it. There was a noticeable interest shown by the Community groups in taking part in the planning of future fairs. Young people were interested. (Constructive comments on email and Facebook.) One note of apology: The timing of the squash race cut short the performance of Patrick Olmsted and Carolyn Calixxa.

Rebecca said the Fair made about \$1400. Note of thanks to Two Feet Farm for donating the funds from vegetable juicing to the Commons. A detailed “Thank you” to all who helped make the Fair happen will appear in the Sounder (to be paid out of this revenue.)

- **Trails and Green Spaces (TAGS)** (rep Kit Szanto).

Meetings happen at the regular Saturday morning workbees. Throughout the summer groups of young energetic people from Camp Miriam come to the Commons to do their “community service”, particularly focussing on the removal of Daphne laureola from the wild spaces on the Commons, but also working in the South Gardens (building a “Huegelkulture” berm.) Many thanks to Kit for undertaking the scheduling and guiding of the groups for the past summer. This is a big job, which needs be shared and it was proposed that GaLTT could be asked to organize work on the trails with some of the older campers; Kit has spoken with Bob Brockley about this. Could PHC use campers’ assistance also?

- **Sharing the Commons** (rep Kit Szanto). Meetings: third Wednesdays at 10 am.

Workshop

Concerns were expressed about the organization of the woodwork shop. (See PMT report)

John Peirce would like to have some communication with Patrick Olmsted.

There will be a need for funding of a vacuum system for dust control in the North Zone.

Poetry Yurt

Hilary Peach is away and Melissa Nobels represented the Poetry Gabriola Society at the meeting.

Discussion on the transfer of ownership of the yurt to the Commons, including questions about insurance, the proposed 60 metre buffer zone, and the need for electricity (solar TBA?). PMT will pay for a change of lock.

- **Long Range Planning Team** (rep Deb Ferens)

November 27 set for community input event.

- **Board of Trustees** (rep George Szanto).

The Trustees were in communication with AGES' lawyer for the transfer of the \$28,000 mortgage that the Commons will be holding after the dissolution of AGES. The mortgage runs for another 10 years with approx. \$300 per month coming to the Commons with the condition that the money be spent on:

- Commons Maintenance
- Paying down the mortgage
- "Legacy" fund.

The AGM for the Gabriola Commons Foundation will happen in October. Date TBA.

- **Grant writing team** (rep. George Szanto)

Next meeting: Sept. 19

The Team of 2 is doubling its number.

- We did not receive the Agrispirit Fund grant intended to address the West Parking lot, but an application to VanCity is being considered for the same project.
- We will be receiving a grant of \$2,000 from BC Hydro for the safe installation of the radio-off meter for the house and the fire safety of the meter in the Workshop.
- Could Lions be asked for assistance with funds for parking and/or the kitchen?

- **Farm Management Team.** (Judith Roux for rep Sharon Arnell)

Next meeting Sept. 6 at 9:30

- South Gardens: report of vandalism or racoon-ism of composting toilet
- North Gardens: report of voles back (cyclical pest which loves mulch and hollows out root crops)
- Commons gardens and orchard: impressive harvest in Little Field (cabbage, beans, squash, potatoes, tomatoes...)
- Well attended workshop on sauerkraut
- Sales of Commons cookbook continue. Last copies will sell at Christmas Craft Fair
- Midweek Market: Flourishing under the Timber Frame, with good participation by vendors and buyers.
- Restrictions on irrigating continue, with decision to cut back to once a week. (See discussion later)
- Bean shucking and Barley Shuffle demo at Fall Fair.
- Shelving is still needed

- **Kitchen Stewards Team** (rep Sharon Pattison; Judith Roux reporting)

Grand opening of the new Community Kitchen will take place on September 24 at 2 pm. Major funders have been invited (Nanaimo Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, Village Foods), as well as all of the volunteers who helped make the project come to be. Stewards will be doing their own bookings and more people are needed to help with this. Orientations are being set up and progressing.

The Farm to Table Feast sold all 350 tickets and was a fabulous event, plus it showed off the new Kitchen. Proceed went to the Agi Hall.

- **Property Management Team** (rep. Charles Silva)

- Woodwork shop: Potential users should commit to meeting in order to understand the way space is used on the Commons. Rep. from Workshop stewarding group should come to Council. (Action: Bob Andrew.)

- The limit of water in the pond has been reached. Suggestion was made that the Long Range Planning Team enter water conservation on the planning chart.

- Bookings: Fees will be discussed with Gloria and Maggie.

- **Covenant Team** (Rep Jinny Hayes)

Meetings Sept 13 and 27 at 2.30 at the Campground

Since the mortgage could be paid off in 2 years, there is a need to finalize the Covenant draft (with the Baseline Reports and Stewarding Plan) and focus on finding Covenant Holders. GaLTT has been considered an option for the holding of the aspect of the Covenant concerned with conservation issues. COV Team is meeting every two weeks alternating discussions on the Covenant itself and writing the Baseline Report and Stewardship Plan.

- **Communication Team** (rep. Jinny Hayes)

Need for an in-person meeting soon to work on brochure, logo, changing tag line, etc.

- **People for a Healthy Community** (rep Brenda Fowler)

Concern expressed about restrictions on watering and choice of day. Discussion on low level of water in the pond led to decision to turn water off now. Consensus agreement. Sharon Arnell will inform all gardeners.

- **Signage Team** (rep: Jinny Hayes & Rebecca Furnell)

2 of 4 entrance signs are completed and ready to be installed permanently.

The fundraising for the big signs (at ends of property on North Road) has been successful! As of Sept. 6 there remained only \$52 to match the generous donation of \$1250 made by our initial “challengers”, and this amount was pledged at this meeting! Now we can focus on the large signs.

The third level of signage will follow: the way-finding (“you are here”) signs and maps.

Peter Joyes (multi-talented face painter, bubble blower and sign maker) has offered to make signs addressing dog owners and donate them to the Commons.

- **Council**

General discussion emerged about the role of Council. This needs to be better understood by groups coming on to “use” the Commons. Being present at Council means hearing what is happening, where and why. What is going on impacts others. Comment: that social community building is an interesting function of Council.

There needs to be a systematic way to keep track of decisions made. Deb reminded us that we could be more careful about affirming **consensus** when making decisions. We need to ask “Does anyone feel uncomfortable with this?” OR “Is everyone comfortable with XXXX?”

Next Council: **Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7 pm**