

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)
gabrielacommonscouncil@gmail.com

Notes for Meeting of October 1, 2013

Present: Raymond Tremblay, George Szanto, Alison Fitzgerald, Sheila Brooke, Kit Szanto,
Muriel Weins, Robbie Huston, Patrick Roux

Co-facilitators: Jinny Hayes, Linda St. Clair

Recorder: Judith Roux

Next CCC meeting: Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at 7 pm

Recorder for next meeting: (team & rep.) To be confirmed

Actions/Questions to be taken/addressed:

(list team/person responsible)

A. Consensus Policy

B. Communication

C. Website

D. Allocating the last \$4,000 (given by an anonymous donor for Commons projects)

No Additional Agenda Items

Ongoing Discussion Items:

(carry forward unaddressed items to next meeting)

A. **Consensus Policy** (final version with **input from Conflict Prevention & Resolution Team**)

B. **Communication** (report from group reviewing Members list)

C. **Website** (report from group working on page by page review)

D. **Allocation of \$4000.** (Potential list attached, to be sent to all teams. **Feedback requested**)

Next "20 Minute" Discussion topic:

Previous topics proposed:

"Personal Benefit" at the Commons

Sustainability Building

Recognizing contributions

How do we decide what gets sent out to membership?

How do we orient people to the Commons?

Long Range Planning requests time for a 20 minute analysis at Council

Others? Please give feedback from teams.

THE CURRENT “20 MINUTE” DISCUSSION: ARCHIVING

Storage Issue: Question of limited space in back room. Note that the Gabriola Emergency Social Services are moving out (to the Fire Hall) and this will liberate some key space for us.

- What is in back room? (display boards, flip chart notes, maps, material for meetings/forums (such as clip boards etc.), t-shirts and bulky hoodies/sweatshirts!, quilts, paintings.....!!) Re-organizing needed. We could rent a storage unit elsewhere (or share space with the beans.)
- How much constitutes archival material?
Need to recognize different nature of files:
 - Reference: current working files - legal and financial records and correspondence
 - Archival (i.e. of historic interest. It is important to have our early his (her) story.)
- Need to recognize two types of material: electronic and “hard copy” (both valuable). Start with minutes (in both forms – hard copies will only take 1 inch of space per team per year) Hans had set up codes for filing electronically. How to access these? Some bulky historic material (e.g. input on flip charts) may be photographed.
Muriel: recognize “lore” also – the verbal stories told. Alison: The Museum interviewed old timers and kept their stories (on CD’s?)
- Establish standards for archiving (be ready to cull!)
- ACTION: Organize a workshop: “All you wanted to know about archiving!” **with min. one rep per team in attendance**. George will ask Phyllis Reeve if this would interest her.
- ACTION: After workshop, create an archiving team (Sheila B., Alison, Jinny expressed interest in this.)

TEAM Reports:

Commons Coordinating Council (rep: Stef Marrie returns next month)

See September notes by Bob Andrew

- Next Meeting: November 5, 2013 7 pm

Communications (hmmm. See discussion below)

- New team needed.

Conflict Prevention & Resolution Team (Muriel Weins)

New team being born. Minutes will be forwarded

- Next Meeting: October 3 at 10:30 at Haven with Artist in Residence

Covenant (George Szanto)

- Ongoing exploration of potential layers of protection with Bill Pope.

Discussion raised several ideas: consider l’Arche by Vanier; academic institutions might hold covenant

Next focus will be on Base-Line Report, with community input in repertory of flora and fauna.

- Next Meeting: October 15, 1 pm

Event Planning (rep: Stef Marrie)

• Stormy rainy Fall Fair still felt successful! Wonderful response to Ken Capon Parade. More details next time after team debriefing.

- Next Event: Christmas Craft Fair November 16!

Farm Management (rep: Sharon Pattison).

- Decision to next year to reduce labour- and time-intensive projects and concentrate on building up soil with crops like beans and cover cropping...
- Next Meeting: October 7, 4 pm

Fundraising (rep: George Szanto)

- Mortgage Elimination project will be launched soon. Stay tuned.
- Next Meeting: Oct. 3

Grant Writing (rep: George Szanto)

- Successful request to Rec. Society for funding to complete Boules Court!
- Next Meeting: as needed

Infrastructure (rep: Judith Roux)

- Team being redefined (in conjunction with Long Range Planning Team)
- Next Meeting: to be announced

Learning Opportunities (rep: Mary Wilson)

- No report this time
- Next Meeting: to be announced

Long Range Planning (Rep: Linda St. Clair)

- Much intensive work is being done, analyzing the requirement in human resources and money of the potential projects; and developing a checklist for the “fit” and viability of a project (similar process to Sharing the Commons?)
- Agreement on the need to involve the community at some point. It was pointed out that the projects listed on the Long Range Planning chart are those that have been proposed during the 2 major visioning workshops over the years as well as the intensive interviewing of each team.
****Request for a 20 minute Council discussion.**
- Next Meeting: Tuesday October 8 at 11:15 am

Property Management (rep: Mary Wilson)

- No report this time
- Next Meeting: to be announced

Share the Commons (rep: Kit Szanto)

- Report and discussion on Green Bikes project (see report under Green Bikes Project)
- Next Meeting: October 2 at 10:30

Trails and Green Spaces (rep: (Kit Szanto)

- Trail well underway with half of excavation completed and gravel for path base waiting to be spread by volunteers at workbees. Ultimate width of finished path may require further discussion.
- Next Meeting: Meetings are on the ground, usually at Sat. morning workbees. All welcome!

Trustees for Gabriola Commons Foundation (rep: Robbie Huston)

- Successful AGM with great attention given to proposed Bylaw changes.
5 new Trustees were elected: Maya Ruggles, Alison Fitzgerald, David Soy, Louise Amuir, and

Cameron Murray (to join: Robbie Huston, Jinny Hayes, Rebecca Furnell, Deb Ferens, and Judith Roux)

- Continued pattern of bi-weekly meetings, one on mortgage elimination, one on Trustees business
 - Next Meeting: October 3 at 2 pm

Volunteers (Stef

- This team may meld with Events Team.

PROJECTS:

Community Kitchen rep: Judith Roux

- Still waiting for final design by mechanical engineer to proceed with framing inspection.
- Two different contractors have estimated cost of new septic system to be between \$25,000 and \$30,000. An environmental engineer has designed a system and we will be looking at ways of contributing volunteer labour where possible to reduce the cost. We will also be requesting that the Grant Writing Team search for funding for this.

Green Bikes (rep: Victor Anthony)

- World-wide recognition that recycling bikes for free community use is an appealing idea but does not work (issues of maintenance and liability are huge; bikes become garbage littering the forest). The donated bikes worth repairing are now for sale to the community. The Green Bikes project itself is shifting into the creation of a Bike Kitchen on the Commons, where the equipment and tools financed by the Green Bikes project will be used for training and repairing of bikes. Regular open hours to be established.

Labyrinth no report

Sustainability Centre no report

GROUPS

People for a Healthy Community no report

Poetry Gabriola no report

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

A. Consensus Policy (Process?)

The term "Policy" was vigorously protested by many present. "Guidelines" was proposed, but "Process" seemed to be preferred by the majority. (Note that this was not a unanimous choice and may resurface!) Adoption of the Commons' Decision Making Model has been delayed, awaiting agreement on the "Consensus Policy", i.e. what process is to be followed when a member cannot support an idea/decision which has received general agreement?

The current draft of this policy was read out for discussion. Points made:

- Unity does not mean unanimity
- Is it possible for a single person to "block"? Answer: yes (but see process as outlined in policy)
- How can we take into account an intuitive sense of the "wrongness" of a decision about to be made, particularly with the long term view in mind?

ACTIONS:

- Suggestion: That the new Conflict Prevention and Resolution Team discuss this and report back to the next Council for further discussion.
- Proposal: After input from the CPR Team, and discussion next Council, give the resulting Process/Policy a year's trial.

Note: Current Draft of the Consensus Process/Policy is attached to these minutes for all to consider. Please distribute to all team members.

B. Communication

Heide has given a thorough job description, felt to be a little daunting for volunteers.

ACTION: Need to establish the key important aspects of Communication and assure it at the Trustees' table (until a full team emerges.)

Discussion on encouraging more participation in teams in general led to the need for recruitment, which focussed on accessing the "Commons Members List", currently managed by Linda Markevich (sp?)

ACTION: Sheila B., Judith, Alison and Neila (of the N. and S. Gardens) will gather information from all of the membership lists regarding interest expressed in different activities.

C. Website review:

Jinny will call meeting with a small group working on page by page review of the current website: Mary W., Jinny, Muriel, Judith)

D. Allocation of \$4000 (from \$50,000 anonymous donation given for "projects")

\$4000 remains unattributed as yet to potential projects - see list below:

1. "You are here" site plans at 3 or 4 entry points to the Commons (plus small handout versions)
2. Septic field for Community Kitchen completion
3. Finish east/west connector pathway
4. More exterior lighting
5. More welcoming and informative entrance
6. Beautification of building interior, include interior lighting
7. Elevator
8. Farm gate stand
9. Party