

Commons Council 17/10/03 700 p.m.

Present: John P., Patrick R., Kit S., Steward ?, Maya R., Heather M., Jinny H., Linda S., Alison F., George S., Sharon P., K. Louise V., Deb F., Maggie M., Stef, Doug M

### Team Reports

#### Communications

request for a team mandate update for new web site  
a team has a mandate and is on-going and the Council approves  
separate team / task force / projects with descriptions

#### Sign Group

still has funds to complete project - you are here sign, and dog sign

#### Events

success of Fall Fair with accompanying praise from all at the meeting  
huge thank you in an upcoming Sounder, could be an insert  
**teams to ask members who they would like to thank for the Fair**

#### Finance

revised rental agreement is ready - copies in cubby  
are outdoor events being charged a rental fee?  
year end report is finished  
next meeting October 16th @ 12:30

#### Trustees

AGM Thursday October 12th @ 7 p.m.  
two new trustees to be on the Board  
MoUs being reviewed - creating template  
question about Pottery CoOp  
next meeting Tuesday October 10th @ 2 p.m.  
anonymous donor has paid off the remaining mortgage - cheers echo  
letter to go in the Sounder after donors have been contacted  
with donations saved 65 K in interest  
recognition of Ken Capon for his determination in starting up donors

#### Covenant

needs to get completed asap

is being vetted currently  
still working on getting covenant holder

#### Farm Team

upgrading deer fencing  
will be providing food for the Christmas Craft Fair  
major planning scheduled for December  
a blog started, maybe other teams could do the same.

**Discuss with teams**

#### Sharing the Commons

review MoU with Yurt  
Lions and Tool Library are ready to provide storage  
next meeting Wednesday October 18th @ 10 a.m.

#### Kitchen Stewards

very busy with rentals in summer  
will be doing harvest workshops on Wednesdays - have done 6 to date  
reviewing duties  
next meeting October 23rd  
recruiting members, keeping calendar current, and cleaning

#### TAGS

daphne is everywhere  
Camp Miriam sent Commons a box of chocolates -  $\frac{1}{2}$  Commons  $\frac{1}{2}$  PHC

#### Property Management

repair of hot water tank  
rat extermination - \$350 to be done this month  
need to have keys to access certain parts of PHC  
water filters to be checked  
check on fire extinguishers  
450 to replace PHC window - suggested shared cost with PHC  
need generator shed  
500 to fix compressor  
electrical panel needs to be easy access  
**Patrick will send Linda list of all things PHC. Linda is the PHC Liason.**

**workbee on October 18th to do yard work**  
list of things that need doing posted

#### Discussion on Volunteer Policy

Heather presented a document that touched on six key questions

How can we increase the amount of responsibility people take toward getting things done at the Commons?

How can we respond creatively to the increased complexity of the Commons so that its sense of being a place of do-it-yourself cooperative innovation prevails and is seen to prevail?

How can we communicate the larger visioning purpose of the Commons that is at work in the practical things we do here without selling our souls to branding?

Is volunteer the best word to describe the agency and motivating energy behind the Gabriola Commons and on which it's success depends?

Is having a policy on volunteer vs paid work the best way of emphasizing the distinctive ethos of the Commons?

What should be done about the AGES donation earmarked to pay for cleaning?

**Teams will have a discussion on these questions at their meetings**

further meetings will be occurring on this topic, we've only just begun

#### AGES

\$298 monthly donation from AGES  
money for cleaning and safety  
donors can request where their money goes  
debate over conditional donations - needs to be discussed

## Farm House Team

relates to AGES question \$298 a month for cleaning  
all policy can be debated - where to go from here

Farm House Stewards Team—-a proposal  
by Deb Ferens, John Peirce, and Linda St. Clair (A task group)

Mandate: To insure that the Farm House (except Tenant space) is maintained in such a way as to be equipped, clean and safe for community users.

1. Encourage Commons members to participate in the upkeep and maintenance of the Farm House as a facility for both small and large gatherings.
2. Liaise with the following teams/groups to fulfill our mandate:  
PMT for ongoing identification and assessment of needed building repairs and replacements  
Finance Group (from Trustees) for annual budget and for tracking expenditures  
Communications Team to help us develop processes to insure users are reporting issues and doing their part to assist in keeping the Commons clean.  
Bookings, which while currently part of PT is needed to obtain information for a log book of usage and for posting a weekly calendar in the lobby.
3. Purchase needed cleaning supplies and equipment as needed and secure a place to store them.
4. Contract, as required for specific tasks under the Common's policy guidelines such as Pesticide Control, wallpaper removal and quarterly deep cleaning.
5. Create an overall standard of design aesthetics for meeting rooms, halls and entry way and posting places for important documents.

The Teams need to review the concept of the Farmhouse Team and report back to Council.

The discussion returned to the income from the AGES mortgage and who should take responsibility for the upkeep of the house in the near term, before any decision is made about the Farmhouse Team. We agreed that in the short term PMT should take responsibility for the upkeep and use money from the AGES income as appropriate.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.