

Commons Coordinating Council Notes

December 05, 2017

Co-chairs. Linda, David

Also Present: Jinny, Maggie, Michelle, Mitch, Maya, K. Louise, Allie, Bob, Kit, Judith, Sheila, Deb, Claudia, Patsy, Tom (new), John, Heather, Sharon, Brenda, Daniel, Linda, David (new)

Call for one 6-month Co-chair starting in March = Deb Ferens

Special Focus in Team Reports:

This month: Trustees

Next month: Communications (COM)

Appreciation was expressed to Trustees who have been calling all past donors to confirm their donation status and intentions.

Agenda

1. 20 Minute Discussion

Gabriola Arts Council (GAC) Proposal for Summer Festival at the Commons (Mitch Miyagawa & Michelle Benjamin)

Heather started the discussion by summarizing the GAC report to Sharing the Commons (STC) Team and its responses such as cautions re: environment, ecology, etc. There have been two Commons volunteers to help with this event (primarily to facilitate communication between the two groups): Gloria and Doug McKnight sharing.

Bob would like to see the layout of the overall concept, and noted the need to prepare the goat barn, although Mitch said that GAC is not yet sure what will be needed. GAC will be talking independently with Poetry Gabriola re: yurt.

DATES: August 17-19, but maybe Thursday evening to Sunday evening, with set-up on Weds.

Process: have all teams had a chance to discuss? Yes, most have with strong general support.

Food issues still under discussion, eg, use of Community Kitchen, Commons could do food for sale if that is wanted.

Budget? Community Kitchen needs remuneration; will outside spaces be charged for, eg, to cover power, water, etc. GAC will start from past budgets, though there is no real cost model for this new concept, as attendance is planned to be as open as possible.

Finance Team - totally supports the proposal, but will need to see the financial details as they come forward. An MoU will be set up with Trustees.

Next work will be with Trustees and STC; will mutually set meetings and deadlines.

Reminder: the GAC Heritage Centre is being formally opened on Sat – all welcome!

2. Team Reports

Trustees (Allie & K. Louise)

Two new trustees: Bob and Danielle

New Society Act materials have been submitted but feedback has not yet come back.

AGES - mortgage income - more formal presentation next Council meeting

Roles are partially filled (coming by email)

Trustee representatives attended the AGM of People for a Health Community (PHC)

MoU with Poetry Gabriola is being worked on.

Team mandate has been reviewed, compared with the one for the Gabriola Commons Foundation. This was summarized by K. Louise (Aims, Goals, Objectives, etc.)

Finance team is working well; it was just started this past year, sharing responsibilities and inviting input from all other teams.

Noted that there should there be liaisons appointed for Poetry Gabriola and the Tool Library.

Property Management/Stewardship Team (PMT) (Bob Andrew)

Some repairs of the recent break-in damage have been started and rest will be done soon; will not be using insurance due to \$1000 deductible.

Deep cleaning of house was arranged as 3 hours/month. Will assess continuously and hire as necessary. This was discussed briefly. The cleaner needs a list to guide his/her work.

In addition, there will be a checklist to guide all renters as they leave Commons rooms after use. Plus there's a call for volunteers to do more routine stuff; house stewards are tabling this idea for now.

PMT now has 6 members, 2 new.

Trails and Green Spaces (TAGS) (Kit)

It's been so wet, it's hard to work.

Farm Team (Judith)

South allotments team has disbanded and needs replacement

Food forum will be Feb 17

Planning meeting: Dec 19 @ 9.30 am

Covenant (COV) (Deb)

Team is currently concentrating on the Baseline rep, beautifully compiled and written by Judith, who has condensed all the bio-mapping data etc.

Meeting is tomorrow at 1.00 pm for more Baseline Report review.

Next will turn to formulation of the basic Stewardship Plan, which along with the Baseline report summary, will be attached to the Covenant when it is filed in the BC Land Titles Office.

The current Covenant draft is shortly going to UVic Environmental Law, but needs to go out for consultation there first.

A Covenant Holder decision will be made soon. We are still exploring pros and cons and what various potential Covenant Holders would be comfortable with.

Will need a 20-minute discussion when some of these details are settled.

Tool Library (Patsy)

Going forward with funding searches.
 Membership drive TBA.
 Hope to have it built by March @ 107 sq feet

Sharing the Commons (STC) (Heather)

The GAC proposal was the primary discussion at the last meeting.
 Poetry Gabriola MoU was also discussed.
 Heather has approached the Agricultural Society to explore points of common ground, eg, knowledge, etc.

Commons Community Kitchen (Sharon)

Team has been going over all processes, eg bookings, cleaning and so on; checklists are being used.
 Deep cleanings have also been done.
 When there are large events, a new policy will require a \$100 cleaning fee to clean ovens, fans, etc.; this can be waived if the group wants to do this work thoroughly themselves.
 Next Mtg: Mon the 11 @ 10.30
 Grant from health care Auxiliary to buy a Robot Coupe, a super-duper food processor.

Process Team (David)

Will meet tomorrow.

Communications (COM) (Jinny)

Please send photos for the website, and send critique and what you would like to see on the new site. Revisions of content that has been done over the next year is going back to writers for re-review.
 More if COM can muster the details needed to be the focus team at the January Council meeting.

Finance (Maya)

Charging for outside space (eg weddings and other closed events): we have no standing policy for this, and encourage discussion around this idea. What are the associated costs? Philosophy should be discussed.
 For now, this one wedding will be treated as a one-off while a decision is made.
 Consensus: Referred back to STC & PMT to bring forth guidelines, followed by a 20-minute discussion in January.

Long Range Planning (LRP) (Deb)

Met 2 weeks ago, and again on Dec 15th at 2.30.
 Team has re-centered after long time without meeting.
 Four priorities were revisited, 2 are advancing but 2 need more big dreams, etc.
 COV Team has been asked to co-host an in-depth exploration of the meaning and functioning of the Commons in the new year; COV will discuss at its next meeting this week.

Burning the Mortgage Party

- a) Discharging the mortgage will be announced to the community shortly; the article and accompanying large advert for the Sounder is in process within Trustees. A larger story of the Commons has been written and may be modified for various uses.
- b) Ceremony in early New Year (Jan 6 or 13).

Zero Waste Program (Brenda)

Had a Nov 23 Mtg, coordinated by John, of representatives of the Commons, PHC, and volunteers.

20,000 lbs of food has been processed this year.

The program has been revised. There have been issues related to composting, lack of space, bad weather, rats, workload associated with turning the compost, and so on. More carbon material is needed for compost to save it going sour, eg animal bedding.

Cardboard will be switched to plastic bins.

Dairy may be added next year, to be used for human food (TBA).

PHC needs to work closer with Commons or back away.

Needs: New space for volunteers and refrigerator space.

Brenda will come back in January with a proposal for approval for another year.

Communication: quarterly meetings, maybe a special liaison?

Needs more info to community to help understanding.

Question is around whether Commons can handle another extension, eg, addition to house, within the 32 ft setback

Hedge Report (David)

Walked about with Laura Jean, Cameron, Judith, Patrick

Have to consider hedge in relation to all else that composes the Commons

Why do lawn areas not get used more?

Another walk-about on Dec 20 - all invited

20-minute discussion at Feb Council meeting.

3. Announcement:

Hope Centre has received a \$500,000 grant to establish a new child care Centre. This will be handed over to a new society.

4. Celebration of Life for Charles at the Commons

Should be held soon. Judith to be point person; Jinny to publicize.

Next Coordinating Council: Delayed to SECOND Tuesday: Jan 9th.