Gabriola Commons Coordinating Council

Notes from Tuesday May 7, 2019

Community members: Hans van Kessel, Katelyn Massy, Jinny Hayes, Jenni Shillingford, Patsy Ludwick, David Lightly, Stuart Wulff, Cam Dodds, Terry Stonehouse, Don Smardon, Dianne Streeter, Bob Andrew, Doug McKnight, Patrick Olmsted, Marshall Mangan, Kim Kasasian, Danielle Artuso, Maya Ruggles, Deborah Ferens, Heather Menzies.

Facilitators: Linda St. Clair, Judith Roux; Recorder: Lynda Toews

Acknowledgement that we are meeting on the unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation

Reports from Special Group: Gabriola Agricultural Co-op (Katie Massy)

Proposal: Mid week Market in 2019 will be stewarded by the farmers in the Agi Coop with a "market manager" to be hired for organization and promotion.

- Where: Commons Timber Frame
- When: June 5 to October 2; evenings, i.e., 4 to 7 pm (open to comment)
- Purposes: to promote local food security, agriculture, community, which fits with the Commons' agricultural plan
- Vendors: estimated 30 growers & crafters - everything made or grown on Gabriola
- New features: acoustic music and meals (Commons Kitchen rented in accordance with Community Kitchen guidelines - include zero waste and care with water usage and parking
- Fee for use of Commons: TBA

Question: Liability Insurance
Answer: Covered by the Farmers Market association of BC
Note: STC Team has reviewed the proposal and supports it.
Next step: drawing up an MoU with Commons Trustees (with details posted on website)

20-Minute Discussion: Communications Team

Jinny introduced the new Commons WordPress website, which is still a work in progress. Thanks to Hans van Kessel for his years creating the current website from scratch and maintaining it over 13 years (!), and to David Szanto and especially Jennie Shillingford for superlative work and expertise in creating this new site. The Commons is a complex entity to depict in a site that must function for "newbies" and serve as resource and repository for those actively engaged with the Commons. At the moment, access is "by invitation only", but COM hopes it will be up and running in mid-summer.

Comments:

- Photos needed! Suggestion: check Commons Dropbox (the image size of those stored photos is too small for reasonable use). Please send photos to Jinny vhayes@uvic.ca; all photographers will be acknowledged unless requested otherwise.
- Mobile phone access? Yes, compatible for iPhone and android.
- Need to have events and news stand out, eg, "green box" created by Hans

- Ensure there is room for forms, archives (discussion needed here!)
- Cover team projects and resources; publicize funding organizations.
- Do years of Council notes belong on website? Minutes of Council should be accessible to public, but individual teams should be able to keep their minutes privately archived.

Teams' and Affilaites' Reports

Farm Team (Heather Menzies) Next meeting: June 24

Report on Pilot project of coop gardening group in Kitchen Garden: no uptake by young families this year though gardeners have come forward; perhaps initiate the idea for next year. Kenda of PHC is looking for interest.

- All gardeners are aware of potential drought summer. Note: fundraising is underway for 25,000 gallon reservoir.
- See following report by Commons South Gardeners

Finance Team (Deb Ferens) Next meeting: May 20 at noon
Please come to Finance Team meetings every second Monday afternoons for the fun of reconciling revenue with bookings (with Suzi)

- Rents are coming in with odd information; how to get a consistent/common form, etc.? Where does the process start? Template? Group working on a consistent rental form with Deb: Suzi, Lynda T, Jinny, Maya, Jennie.
- Maya and Deb are part of a bigger project on use of the outdoor spaces; reps from all teams are needed for this.

Long Range Planning Team (Deb). Meeting on June 7 at 2:30. Stay tuned.

- Invitation to other teams to plan 20-minute discussion in July
- Further discussion needed on **Goat Barn** (1 of 4 priority projects):

Marshall Mangan is eager to move the project ahead and offered his expertise in creating a business plan.
Deb expressed need to steward this project carefully
Heather: Steering Committee needed including island-wide organizations
Establish a genuine clear question to be addressed by a broader group with the de Bono 6 Thinking Hats approach to discussion; see https://www.storyboardthat.com/blog/e/six-thinking-hats-in-the-classroom

Gabriola Arts Council: Commons and Teams' Participation at Cultivate Festival (Maya)
Please send suggestions to Maya@artsgabriola.ca.
- Desire to continue to build good cooperative relationship, talk with Commons Teams about how we all steward the Commons
- How can the Commons be active and present at Cultivate? Unveiling of signage; public art piece; play equipment; elder's lunch hosted by Commons, etc.
- Involve Events team, PMT, Covenant Team, Learning Opportunities Team; tour walkabout on Commons

Tool library (Patsy and Diane)
Pergola back to original plan (w/arbor to the south side)

- Possibly need other beautification for North Road side of Tool Library

Commons Trustees (Danielle Artuso). Next meeting at 2:30 May 14
- Trustees have written letter of support for the variation in setback on property line between Huxley Park and the Commons as requested for the Skate Board Park.
- MoUs have been finalized for the Lions and Gabriola Arts Council.
- PHC lease agreement was signed, with an agreement to increase the rent; more clarity is requested on PHC project planning which affects the Commons; monthly meetings are happening with PHC and Trustee rep.
- 3 requests for funding to support Reservoir project have been written:
    1. to Village Community Card: this has been approved, with community support continuing (to $5,000) limit
    2. to RDN for the Community Works Fund; this was not approved as funding will go to the Village pathway
    3. to Nanaimo Foundation; we will not hear back until end of August

Trustees were asked to hold a major fundraising event for this project.
- Nominating Committee has been struck to find 4 new trustees (incl. Secretary and Treasurer). Contact Danielle at: danielle_artuso@hotmail.com if you have suggestions for candidates
- Updates are being made to the Field Guide to the Commons

Property Management Team (Bob Andrew)
- Team has been dealing with issues of mechanical nature, rentals, additions to PHC project, etc.
- Working to get the Pottery and Woodwork Shop to coalesce as groups with mandate, scheduling and fee structure made clear
- Looking at raising money for reservoir
- PHC has been encouraged to get their cisterns working (i.e. receiving rainwater)
- Leak of propane in Community Kitchen has been looked into but is not yet solved.
- Looking for person to mow lawns - new John Deere riding mower

House Stewards (part of PMT) (Linda SC)
Discussion re: goals; vision; pace of development
Kim: Suggestion for expansion of the Commons Field Guide. She and Heather M. have been working on InfoBoards for posting in the House to help orient users to what the Commons is: How the Commons shares its space; what happens here; a year in the Commons; how does the decision-making process work? Heather shared a draft of a first Board/poster to go out to teams (see attachment A as PDF)
Suggestions: should mesh with info on the website; outdoor visibility, eg, @ new kiosk?

Sharing the Commons (Doug McKnight)
- Heather has added to document outlining policy on use of outdoor space (see attached B). This to go to PMT (particularly to Bookings), then go on website
- Joelle Anthony is donating a ginkgo tree in memory of Victor. A ceremonial planting will happen on Saturday May 25 near the Labyrinth.

South Garden Stewards (Stuart Wulff)

- Good news: 25 new gardeners have joined the South Gardens, working on 13 plots. Now 50 plots are actively being worked. 16 younger gardeners (between 1 and 15 years old) are involved.
- Issue: Proposed installation of a motion-detector camera that takes still photos to deal with what appears to be a continuation of the theft of produce. At the Farm Team meeting on May 14 the issue was carefully discussed. Several present expressed reluctance to see what feels like "surveillance" tactics on the Commons. However, the apparent theft was a deciding factor, and all agreed to support a non-invasive motion-detector camera to be accessed only after an event, this to be a pilot project, not intended to be renewed next year.

The Hedge (David Lightly)
- Kudos to the "hedge group" that has seen through this major project to date. The final touches are being dealt with (rocks to be rearranged, debris to be moved and the planting of young thuyas to implant in the Fall to mask the dead portion inside the hedge (where the Douglas firs had "volunteered", taking away light and water.). This could cost $230 per tree. To be discussed later.
- Over budget by $802, and cleaning up the debris will add $500.
- Need a name for the newly-opened space

Budget allocation from Events Team donation) of $4000 (Deb)

Back to Finance Team for this item which is carried over from last CCC meeting.

Note: Deb corrected earlier the report that the hedge project was over budget)

The $4000 will be allocated as follows:

$2,000 to Property Management

$1,000 to Communications

$ 500 to Covenant Team

$ 500 to Hedge for final touches

Quick consensus: Agreed.

Communications Team (Jinny)
As meeting is over time, COM report is attached (see C).
• Brainstorming session re: logo, using children's art as a spring-board: to be held prior to next Council, ie, June 4 at 5:00; invitation to go out to the community; refreshments to be served.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY JUNE 4, 2019

Attachments

A. InfoBoard: first poster draft (separate PDF)
B. Use of outdoor spaces: draft from STC
C. COM Team Report

The Gabriola Commons
A shared community space

with:

An orchard of apples, blueberries, haskaps
Allotment and common gardens
Trails through wetlands and forest
A pond filled with wildlife, its water feeding the gardens
A community kitchen
A wood-working shop & pottery
A stone labyrinth
Open areas for play & pleasure
The Goat Barn: performance venue
The "Poetry" Yurt
Farmhouse meeting rooms

All are welcome to use this space, and help take care of it, so that its living systems and the Commons as a whole can flourish.

A Commons Policy on use of Outdoor Space
(based on Feb/19 Council discussion & others)

The Gabriola Commons is a shared community space, with shared responsibility to steward and care for it to ensure its sustainability.

The following principles flow from this, & will guide the booking of outdoor space.

1) All community members are welcome to bring diverse events to the Commons;
2) Any use by community members cannot be exclusive;
3) Events that benefit the community at large will be given priority over more private functions such as weddings or celebrations of life held on the commons, although it's understand that for Gabriolans, the distinction between the two is sometimes be blurred;
4) Events with multiple use and multiple benefits should take precedence over single-function events.
5) There is a need to limit use of outdoor space to maintain the carrying capacity of the land and resources like well water, and to steward the overall wellbeing of the land. This is particularly important during the summer months when major annual public events occur on the Commons. Ongoing assessment of the land's wellbeing (and related things like water supply) will therefore inform decisions on accepting new bookings during this time.
6) During critical seasons, bookings will be understood to be contingent on this assessment.

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People booking outdoor space at the Commons are also accepting responsibility to steward and care for the land, by:

- respecting the limits which the seasons and changing climate may impose (using water mindfully during a drought)
- respecting the boundaries of agricultural and environmental protected areas
- overseeing careful use of parking areas
- leaving the land as you found it. or better
- recognizing that we are responsible for our actions and we use the land at our own risk.

Fees TBA

Attachment C
Commons Communication Team
Report for Coordinating Council, 07 May 2019

No in-person meetings, doing business by e.mail.
Next mtg: TBA

1. Website: Jinny and Jennie used the 20-minute Discussion today to introduce the new website: challenges, ideas, deletions, additions. Notes were taken.

2. Logo: Rose Boulton's Grade 2 & 3 students' drawings have arrived, as has an unsolicited image for consideration by Anne Havard and the promise of some work from Carol Weaver. Along with the 3 images we have in hand from Tim Gambrill, these will be used as a springboard for a brainstorming session as suggested at the December Council; Team is suggesting 5.30 pm Tuesday June 4, ie, prior to the next Council meeting, open to the community; refreshments to be served. Need to know tonight for publicity purposes.

3. Sounder articles: monthly submissions continue; please get any suggestions and submissions to Nancy Heatherington Peirce: nhpeirce@gmail.com

4. Commons Tours were begun at the Spring Fair as suggest by Kim; of the 3 tours set, only one had participants, but it was enthusiastically received by 3.5 Gabriola newcomers. Suggestions are that we do these perhaps monthly and at other Events.

5. Communiqué: Stef has resigned from doing this; we need someone to take it on ASAP, along with its MailChimp list. Please let Jinny know if you can do this - at home, a couple of hours monthly, with the support of COM & other "commoners": communications@gabriolacommons.ca

6. Library: Did any reps talk with their teams about whether or not the Commons should have a library? House stewards are trying out various furniture arrangements in the "cozy room", so would like to know. Plus books now need re-cataloguing: Please discuss and get back to COM: communications@gabriolacommons.ca

7. Brochure: To be updated in the Fall; need the new logo.