

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)
Notes for Meeting of March 3, 2020

Present: Deborah Ferens, Kim Kasasian, Patrick Roux, Diane Streeter, Louise Amuir, Monica Turner, Maya Ruggles, Kate Reynolds, Mark Fettes, Jocelyn Hallett, David Lightly, Mark Roch, Judith Roux, Doug Scott, Bob Andrew, Don Smardon

Co-facilitators: Bob Andrew, Don Smardon

Recorder: Learning Opportunities Team – Deborah Ferens

Next CCC meeting: Tues, April 7, 2020 Co-Facilitators: Don Smardon & Dave Lightly
Recorder for next meeting: PMT

ATTACHMENTS FOR TEAM COMMENTS/REVIEW
1. Council Meeting Restructuring Proposal from the Trustees
2a. SFU Project summary 2020 March
2b. SFU Project - Elder Space 2020 March
3. Draft LOT mandate for comment/review
4. Bookings Draft Team Mandate

Ongoing Discussion Topics - for 20-minute discussions:

- NO 20-minute discussion scheduled for this March meeting.

1. Council Forum – Trustees

Some preliminary discussion about Council format as introduced by the Trustees Team regarding focus, time constraints, process & functioning and more.

ACTION: send discussion points to teams for comments & feedback

Please see Attachment # 1

2. SFU Project (Mark, Jocelyn & Kate)

Intergenerational land-based learning for reconciliation on Gabriola Island

What's the project about?

The original impetus for the project came from a visioning meeting for Gabriola Elementary in January 2014, when the school community decided to move towards becoming a place-based school. Over the last six years it has become clear that this must include honouring and engaging with local Indigenous histories and understandings of place and land. Finding ways to do this both inside and outside the school is what the project is about. It brings GES together with researchers from Simon Fraser University, community groups on Gabriola, and Indigenous educators and knowledge keepers from the Snuneymuxw First Nation and adjoining territories.

Please see Attachment # 2a

For the Commons to Consider: An Elder Space in the Gabriola Commons

The proximity of the Commons to the school, and the nature of the Commons as a community hub and centre for health-related initiatives, suggests the possibility of establishing such a space at the Commons.

Please see Attachment # 2b

3. Quarterly Financial Report (Finance Team)

NOTE: Commons Balance Sheet & Commons Income Statement YTD files for 2019-12-31 were attached to Council Notes of last month (March 2020).

Fiscal Year is April 1 to March 31

Income Statement shows income (donations, rent, garden fees, team fundraising) and expenses (project activities and operating) from Apr to Dec.

Special project set up for Reservoir (The Big Dig).

Operating Expenses kept within a lean framework of \$25,000/year – limited to what keeps the doors open; Resiliency Fund of \$25,000 is held to begin each new fiscal year.

All other funds are restricted to Project/Team activities and for the AGES directed funds for Legacy, Maintenance and a Commons Vision Fund.

Finance Team acts as Stewards to the Commons finances – working together in co-operative and collaborative way.

4. TEAM REPORTS

Community Kitchen (rep: Monica Turner)

Recruiting 2 more people; includes provides orientation as a steward

- Next Meeting: Sat, March 7, 2020

Farm Management (rep: Judith Roux)

South Garden requesting review of conflict resolution document from Process Team; Call out for Kitchen Garden stewards.

South Gardens (rep: Doug Scott)

Developing mandates/agreements with plotters; Security Plan – seeking Council support for adding motion sensor lights to gates, locking gates, cameras. Call for objections or concerns. Concern was raised about the security equipment – that it undermines or compromises what a commons is. Objection was acknowledged. As objector was not moved to block the security plan, and no further objections were raised, Council provided support for South Garden Security Plans – which will be reviewed regularly on their effectiveness and future need.

Finance (rep: Maya Ruggles)

Charitable tax receipts for 2019 have been prepared & distributed; Budget workshop for Teams in planning for April. Let Finance Team know by March 10 if your team is interested.

- Next Meeting: Mon Mar 16, 2020 at 12:30 pm

Labyrinth (Mark Roch)

Sourcing rocks and monolithic stones; looking for donations; developing a mandate for the labyrinth and a concept budget to be submitted for review; Unfortunately, Nesters Community Card application was not approved to help with some labyrinth funding.

ACTION: Deb will send in-kind donation form to Mark

Learning Opportunities (rep: Maya Ruggles)

Working on the draft mandate ([see Attachment 3](#)). Revised since last presentation with suggestion that the First Nations references be considered by other teams for inclusion in their mandates.

Working on developing some learning sessions culminating in event for World Commons Week in Oct. Looking for new members. ACTION: Attach mandate for Team comment/review.

- Next Meeting: Thurs Mar 7 at 3:30

Process Team (Rep: Dave Lightly)

South Garden Team has submitted a conflict resolution document for Process Team to review.

Property Management (rep: Kim Kasasian)

2 heats pumps installed. One in the farmhouse and one in the Kitchen. Ancient hot water tank in kitchen needs replacement. Bathtub/shower has been removed in upstairs farmhouse. A leak has

been detected and needs to be fixed. Pump shed by pond needs repair. A power cable to yurt has been installed as part of the Reservoir infrastructure. Still some months to hook up. Discussion with Yurt re: electric panel. Discussion ensued regarding separating electric panels in Farmhouse.

Design Project Group (Maya)

A design charette is being planned for May 9, 2-5 pm regarding the corridor from west parking around the buildings to east boundary and between North Road to North Garden. Working on a draft mandate for group.

- Next Meeting: April 19

Reservoir Project (Patrick Roux)

Lots of work is happening. Waterstop engineer has been contacted; rebar installed, preparation for cement floor. RDN inspection before cement poured. Project Finances: Total Revenue to Date: \$42645. Expenses to Date: \$15863. Remaining Funds: \$26782

- Next Meeting: Sat Mar 7

Share the Commons (rep: Judith Roux)

Shared concern about Bookings flow chart – seems to prevent some rentals and is there a way to accommodate some requests?

Pottery Space: would like to a team and working on a mandate. Would like to talk to Finance Team re: process. There are 5 active people and 2 more interested.

Note: PMT shared serious concerns regarding pottery space to be addressed.

The following proposal emerged after several meetings with a group of potters, including Sean Wood, Lynn Bowerman, Pam McCartney and Sheila Brooke (bringing her experience as pottery / ceramic artist in art cooperatives) All of the above signed on to the agreement:

"We are a group of potters and ceramic artists who wish to share a studio on the Commons property. Over the past two years the space has been made ready for use and many kinks and organizational issues have been resolved. We are ready to move forward in a mutually beneficial and respectful way with the Commons.

We understand that we must agree to the Commons vision both in theory and in practice. This means sharing the studio with the wider community, attending meetings and Commons workbees and making sure that the Commons does not incur costs for the operation of the studio. We are committed to all of the above.

Structurally we will have three organizer-stewards and a techie. The stewards will be the interface with the Commons and ensure that the studio operates according to the principles and vision expected. The techie will make sure that the space is organized and kept tidy, with the equipment in good operating order. All stewards will help participants learn and grow their skills."

There was a good discussion about next steps. After consideration of the Commons governance document, it was felt that the appropriate structure for the group would be as a team, with a draft mandate to be prepared. The intention of the team would be to foster an interest in ceramic arts and pottery by providing the opportunity for the community to explore the art, guided by knowledgeable potters eager to share their expertise, with the equipment and material needed.

A detailed inventory of equipment brought to the studio would be drawn up and all financial costs clarified. All firings will be logged and in detail (costed at \$10 per firing, confirmed electronically.).

Note: need for broken windows to be replaced, fluorescent tubes to be replaced, shelving to be built. Heating to be resolved. Water station to be formalized (with sink).

- Next Meeting: Wed. Mar 18 at 10 am

Trustees for Gabriola Commons Foundation (rep: Dave Lightly)

One Trustee has recently resigned leaving the minimum of 7 trustees. Looking to appoint someone for the rest of this year to next AGM.

Bookings Task Force (rep: Deb Ferens)

Quick background on the Task Force – Bookings is very overwhelmed and challenged with the number, scope and scale of requests, enquiries and there was a recognition that more clarity, procedures, policies and guidance required for responding to the many requests. As a result, Bookings Task Force is recommending that a Commons Bookings Team be created. A Draft Mandate has been developed and a Bookings Flow Chart drafted to help with responding to enquires – based on Commons zoning and charitable status. ACTION: Draft Mandate to Teams for comments/ review, **see attached #4**.

ACTION: Draft Team Mandate distributed to Teams for comment/review.

Time ran out for the following team reports. See submitted written reports and meeting dates**Communications** – short report submitted:

COM Report to Council 2020-March-03

We have not met in person but are doing a few things electronically Next in-person meeting: TBA. Members still needed, as we are down to three functioning members

1. Website: Colleen McCarthy is about half done, and you are gonna LOVE it! Jinny is updating and paring don content ++. Seeking photos, please. Also requests, suggestions and comments can go to Jinny at communications@gabriolacommons.ca
2. T-shirts and Sweatshirts, water bottles, etc.: looking to team feedback tonight. Events Team has offered to order in time for Spring Fair, and they wish to have products for sale.
3. Commons Messaging Guideline, Communication Plan, rack-cards and Info Boards are just about ready. Will bring copies for perusal next Council meeting.

NO Reports from these teams:

Long Range Planning

Covenant

- Next Meeting: Tues, March 10, 2020

Event Planning

Grant Writing

Infrastructure

Trails and Green Spaces

NO Reports from these associated groups:

Gabriola Tool Library (rep: Diane Streeter) –All is well.

People for a Healthy Community (rep: Brenda Fowler)

Poetry Gabriola

ATTACHMENT #1

Background Material for Commons Council Process Discussion For April Council Meeting

Excerpt from Trustees Retreat March 1st

Suggested Restructuring of Council Meetings – Council is the logical place where the Commons should be addressing issues and making decisions, where such issues and decisions cannot be handled within an individual team, either because the issue crosses team boundaries or where a team has not been able, for some reason or other, to resolve the issue itself. However, Council meetings are mostly consumed with team reporting, with little time left for more substantive discussions. Rather than functioning as an overarching team encompassing all the teams, where teams can collaboratively problem solve, make decisions and support each other, Council has become primarily simply an information sharing body. While information sharing in some degree is important, the Trustees felt that teams could likely shorten reporting by focusing on items that truly should be brought to the attention of the wider Commons. If Council's time on reporting could be reduced, then Council could better address some matters with more time for such discussions.

Options were discussed. The use of written reports to replace a major part of oral reports was seen as possibly useful, but unlikely to be supported at this time. It also has capacity challenges. An alternative model, supported by Trustees, was to try to shorten the reporting time to one half of the meeting, an hour. The other hour could be divided into 2-3 discussion slots, depending on the complexity of matters brought forward for discussion. One of these items at each meeting could continue as the current model of 20-minute discussion. But others would be put forward by teams, or others, to address specific issues, consider new projects, focus in more deeply on the work of a particular team, etc. This would provide an opportunity for individual teams to draw on the collective wisdom and mutual support of other teams as well as to bring matters forward for discussion and decisions. If relevant, teams could share info in written form ahead of the Council meeting. If no team has a burning issue to bring forward, then this time could be used as an opportunity to showcase the work of a team and educate everyone about the work and challenges faced by that team.

Some form of process would need to be used to decide which teams/subjects would be the focus for each meeting. This could include keeping a running list, like that used for the current 20-minute discussions, but there would also need to be some means to decide priorities and bring topics to the top of the list when urgent.

ATTACHMENT #2a:

Intergenerational land-based learning for reconciliation on Gabriola Island

Frequently asked questions – for the Gabriola Commons community

What's the project about?

The original impetus for the project came from a visioning meeting for Gabriola Elementary in January 2014, when the school community decided to move towards becoming a place-based school. Over the last six years it has become clear that this must include honouring and engaging with local Indigenous histories and understandings of place and land. Finding ways to do this both

inside and outside the school is what the project is about. It brings GES together with researchers from Simon Fraser University, community groups on Gabriola, and Indigenous educators and knowledge keepers from the Snuneymuxw First Nation and adjoining territories. It's worth noting that the project is also very well aligned with the School District's new policy framework on reconciliation, Syeyutsus ("walking together"), which likewise states the foundations of reconciliation are land, language and culture.

How is the project organized?

The project is led by an SFU education professor, Mark Fettes, and is coordinated by a team of people on and off Gabriola. Currently Kate Reynolds is acting as the on-island project coordinator, with Michael Datura and Jocelyn Hallett (SFU graduate students from Courtney and Gabriola, respectively) coordinating the research side of things. Elder Bill White, from Snuneymuxw First Nation, is providing invaluable guidance and teachings in Coast Salish values, history and ways of knowing. We hold a meeting for community partners every couple of months, and organize everything else using a combination of email, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings with school staff, community members, and Indigenous knowledge keepers. There is a mailing list for people who want to be kept up to date on developments – contact Kate Reynolds, address at end.

What's the timeline?

So far the project has received funding from two sources:

- A Develop grant from the Vancouver Foundation (August 2018 to June 2019);
- A SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (July 2019-June 2022).

At a minimum, then, we are looking at a partnership extending over this school year and the next two. We expect the work to continue beyond then. We also foresee looking for additional funding to help expand the project's activities over time.

How does the project work?

The external funding for the project allows us to hire people to work with the school and the community. This can involve, for example, building relationships between teachers and community knowledge keepers (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous), collecting and developing curriculum resources, and organizing land-based events and activities. Ideas and initiatives will come from the Gabriola community, where many people are already involved in educating themselves and others on land, place, and reconciliation.

What is happening in practice?

The project team has been organizing professional development days with the school staff, starting with a memorable workshop led by Cowichan Elders in the school gym on Feb. 28, 2019, which was open to community members as well. Other pro-d days in May and October 2019 and in February 2020 extended this to various kinds of on-the-land learning activities, to the incorporation of the First Peoples Principles of Learning, and to the teaching of non-violent communication. We have been working to develop and support shared projects with the Museum, the Commons, and the Arts Council, among other Gabriola partners.

What does the research look like?

The main research approach involves a process known as "portraiture" – basically, continuously gathering the experiences and perspectives of teachers, students, parents, community members and knowledge keepers and writing them up into multi-voiced narratives that show how land-based learning for reconciliation on Gabriola develops over time. The research is covered by SFU ethics guidelines, and when it involves the school it is also covered by school district guidelines. Participation in the research side of the project is entirely voluntary and won't affect anyone's ability to participate in the learning activities organized or supported by the project. We hope, however, that the research will prove interesting and rewarding for those who do take part.

How can the Commons be involved?

The Commons already offers wonderful opportunities for learning on and with the land; recently, classes from the school have been spending time there in “microsites” where individual students choose a spot to spend time in to quietly observe and listen, returning again and again as the seasons change. As well as expanding students’ experience of the Commons in such ways, the project team is keen to explore the possibility of establishing an Elder Space at the commons, where Snuneymuxw Elders might spend time with adults and elders from the Gabriola community and with students from the school in a space that is less institutional and more homelike than a classroom.

How is the project governed?

We are committed to ensuring that project partners are adequately informed and consulted and responsibility for the project is shared. We are open to ideas from the Commons and other partners on good governance practices. As Indigenous involvement in governance increases, we anticipate that some processes may change to better reflect Coast Salish ways of doing things.

Who do we contact with questions?

Mark Fettes, mtfettes@sfu.ca

Kate Reynolds, kateray53@gmail.com

Michael De Danaan Datura, mderby@sfu.ca

Jocelyn Hallett, jocelyn@madforjoy.ca

You are also welcome to contact Mark Fettes by phone: 778-928-4489.

ATTACHMENT 2b:

Intergenerational land-based learning for reconciliation on Gabriola Island

An Elder Space in the Gabriola Commons – some preliminary ideas

Why an Elder Space?

Schools around BC often host Indigenous Elders and other knowledge holders, both to share specific teachings in the context of the provincial curriculum and as valued resources for Indigenous and other students and teachers. However, schools generally do not offer a homelike or community-managed space for Elders, and this can have a negative impact on the experience from the Elder’s point of view, as well as depriving students of the opportunity to learn from Elders in a setting that more closely resembles how they teach and support children in community and outdoor settings.

In the case of Gabriola Elementary, the additional time and effort needed to travel between Nanaimo and Gabriola is a significant obstacle. It would, in all likelihood, be significantly more appealing to an Elder to make the journey if they knew they would be spending time in a comfortable, homelike space that lends itself to friendly conversation and relationships. The proximity of the Commons to the school, and the nature of the Commons as a community hub and centre for health-related initiatives, suggests the possibility of establishing such a space there.

Functions of an Elder Space

Although the idea of an Elder Space was sparked by thinking about the needs of the school, it seems like something that might serve a number of purposes connected to reconciliation and the rebuilding of relationships between the Gabriola and Snuneymuxw communities. Foremost along these purposes would be the establishment of a space where Snuneymuxw Elders (and because of them, other Snuneymuxw people) feel truly welcome and honoured for who they are, as persons, not simply as knowledge holders brought over to deliver a workshop or a language class or some

other cultural teaching. Along with this would go the building of relationships with a variety of people on Gabriola, including their generational peers. The space, then, would function as an incubator of friendships between Gabriola and Snuneymuxw people.

A second function would be to serve as a teaching space. Of course, Elders would be welcome to cross the road to the school, and on some occasions that might be the easiest option, but there is something very appealing about having the students come to the Elders rather than the other way around, and step from the familiar institutional environment of the school into a place that runs on different rules made by the Elders. Teaching could also happen outdoors, naturally, and probably would quite often – the Commons offers a wonderful flexibility in that regard. And teaching should not be thought of as only involving students at the school – older youth might be encouraged to drop by, along with adults from a full range of ages.

A third function, linked to the other two, would be to offer an Indigenous cultural space. This might involve weavings and art works, books and photographs, sacred herbs and other ceremonial resources such as drums. Naturally, Snuneymuxw Elders and knowledge holders would need to be directly involved in the conceptualization and design and preparation of the space.

ATTACHMENT #3

DRAFT Mandate for Comment/Review – Learning Opportunities Team Feb 7, 2020

Mandate:

- To bring visibility to the Commons movement by creating opportunities for engaging and reconnecting the community in learning about aspects of the Commons philosophy, vision, processes, practices, goals and challenges. As we fulfill our mandate, we acknowledge that our work is accomplished on the unceded traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw People.

Objectives:

- To contribute to the growth of the Commons, on Gabriola and Beyond.
- To be attuned to Indigenous perspectives and experiences as we organize learning opportunities.
- To collaborate and learn with other groups and organizations, focussing on intergenerational and place-based approaches.
- To encourage and facilitate inter-team and co-team learning on the Commons.
- To engage a stewardship model and approach in our team strategies and efforts.
- To facilitate knowledge and skills sharing.
- To be financially self sustaining as much as possible.

Strategies:

- To support our mandate and objectives through a series of workshops, film screenings, discussions, mentorships, symposia, and other gatherings with the purpose of learning and growing as a Commons.
- To do acknowledgements at all our meetings and events.
- To include Indigenous productions in our research, and seek direct consultation with Snuneymuxw as we do our teamwork.

There is no commons without commoning – the social practices and norms for managing a resource for collective benefit. Forms of commoning naturally vary from one commons to another because humanity itself is so varied. And so there is no “standard template” for commons; merely “fractal affinities” or shared patterns and principles among commons. The commons must be understood, then, as a verb as much as a noun. A commons must be animated by bottom-up participation, personal responsibility, transparency and self-policing accountability.

-- David Bollier, The Commons, Short and Sweet

***Perhaps find a different quote:** While the Commission has been a catalyst for deepening our national awareness of the meaning and potential of reconciliation, it will take many heads, hands, and hearts, working together, at all levels of society to maintain momentum in the years ahead.*

-- Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, p.8

ATTACHMENT #4

DRAFT Mandate for a Bookings Team

Bookings Team Mandate (Dec 13, 2019)

Mandate

The Bookings Team fulfils the role and responsibility for rentals and bookings of facilities and amenities on the Commons. The stewardship and care of a community commons is a priority.

Objectives

1. To ensure that bookings/rental guidelines and procedures are upheld
2. To communicate in a timely and effective manner with the renters and booking enquiries that facilitates understanding of the Commons
3. To work with other Commons Team to ensure communication and clarity of roles in the stewardship of facilities and land.
4. To report to Council on a regular basis.

Strategies

1. Provide orientation for the Bookings Team members regarding bookings guidelines and procedures.
2. Schedule a roster of Bookings team members and time periods to attend to the booking enquiries
3. Convene regular meetings of the Bookings Team to provide ongoing communications among the Team members and to address any concerns that may arise.
4. Communicate in a timely manner with other Commons Teams in our shared responsibility for stewarding the facilities and lands
5. Conduct an annual review and evaluation of Bookings guidelines and procedures and mandate.
6. Prepare Inventory List of Commons equipment that is available for rental purposes and develop procedure to track equipment and means of access to equipment.
7. Ongoing review and assessment of online and other bookings tools to facilitate smooth bookings procedures.

Attached: Bookings Criteria & Procedures