

**Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)**  
**www.gabriolacommons.ca**

**Notes of Meeting of December 1st 2020**

**Co-facilitators:** David Lightly and Jinny Hayes

**Recorder:** Allie Nowatzki-Charron for Kitchen Stewards Team

**Also Present:** K.Louise Vincent, Bob Andrew, Don Smardon, Doug Scott, Brenda Fowler, Debra Ferens, Maya Ruggles

Next CCC meeting: **January 5th at 7 pm** on Zoom. Please use the same enduring link, which is good to August 2021.

Recorder for next meeting: Covenant Team; February: Covid Group? Design Group?

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1. Acknowledgement**

- Paying respects to Snuneymuxw First Nations: David
- Deb had suggested last meeting that we might use the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Call to Action* recommendations, maybe addressing one per Council meeting - Starting with: Legacy - Child Welfare. In summary:

These recommendations address governments' commitments to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by providing better monitoring and resources and ensuring that workers are well educated and always consider the impact of residential schools.

The second part of this first recommendation asserts that the federal government should publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children who are in care compared with non-Aboriginal children.

The third requests that [Jordan's Principle](#) be fully implemented (ensuring First Nations children receive the services they need when they need them).

Fourth, the Commission calls on the federal government to enact welfare legislation that establishes national standards for Aboriginal child apprehension and custody cases that include, among other things that care be culturally appropriate.

Lastly, governments are asked to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.

**Note:** The full quotation from the *Call to Action* document is attached as Appendix A.

### **2. Welcome - David**

### **3. Following Up from previous meetings**

**A. Anything further on Council Co-facilitation discussion?**

Thanks to David for co-facilitating for so long, Jinny said she could be co facilitator alongside Shelagh.

Q: Could we do 4 month overlapping rotations instead of 6 months? Do we want to assign this like we do Council note taking?

Q: Why couldn't we change the length of term? Could we also overlap by 2 months for continuity?

Q: Is this going to be rotated among teams whose representatives who attend Council as well as those from unrepresented teams?

Q: Do we need co-facilitators or could we just have one person facilitating the meeting? Could having two co-facilitators be relaxed for Zoom in the interim?

ACTION: K Louise offered to make up a process draft for the facilitator role. Jinny to send her the one that was made in 2015.

Do we have consensus that 4 months could be the length of time for facilitation role? Yes

**B.** Any further volunteers to the Gabriola Island Land Stewards Society Board? K.Louise Vincent has volunteered and hopes to provide some continuity between the Commons and GILSS and will bring back reports to Council.

**C.** Reminder to teams to get their suggestions about the future of Council (content and process) to one of: Bob, Maya, David, Louise Amuir or Mark Roch. ACTION: David and Bob to call the group together to start looking at submitted suggestions to bring to a future Council meeting.

#### **4. For Teams' discussion & follow-up at next Council meeting:**

**A.** From COM: At present our team e.addresses forward mail from the website only – Would team reps like them to be set up to SEND as well as RECEIVE?

**B.** Spirit Feast volunteers still welcome; contact Lynn Bowerman at [lynndahb@gmail.com](mailto:lynndahb@gmail.com)

**C.** Council co-facilitation to move to 4-month rotations, assigned by team nominations as we now do Council Note-taking?

#### **20-minute Discussion Topic List [amend as nec.]**

- Recognizing contributions to the Commons
- How do we orient people to the Commons?
- Covenant update; possibly in February
- Council Review TBA, as the ad hoc group input may take awhile
- Tree cutting (see below under Property Stewardship Report)

**NOTE:** No 20-minute discussion was held this nmeeting.

## 5. Team Reports:

### *Board of Trustees* (Deb Ferens)

- New trustees were nominated and appointed at the November 5th AGM and first meeting of Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. All trustees attended on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Names of Trustees as well as roles and duties Trustees to assume throughout the year are as follows:

Don Smardon – Co-facilitator & Privacy Officer

Maya Ruggles – Co-facilitator and Treasurer

Cameron Murray - Note Taker

Laura Jean Kelly - Note Taker (back up)

David Lightly - PHC Liaison

Mary Wilson - joined the Finance Team

Mitch Miyagawa - (back up facilitation)

Deb Ferens - MOU reviewer

David Lightly is looking to have another PHC liaison join him

Next meeting: Dec. 5th via Zoom

*Bookings* - No report

### *Communications* (Jinny Hayes)

Three of us had one short Zoom meeting to discuss our feedback on the Council question; this will go to the ad hoc group. Otherwise, this report is much the same as that submitted but not given orally at the November Council meeting.

Next in-person meeting: TBA.

1. Please have a look at the new website if you haven't already. It still is, and always will be, a work in progress. Please keep Jinny informed if you find glitches or have additions to recommend: [vhayes@uvic.ca](mailto:vhayes@uvic.ca) or [communications@gabriolacommons.ca](mailto:communications@gabriolacommons.ca).

Team entries on the Volunteer page: those teams who have submitted mandates look really good; gives visitors & future volunteers an idea of where they can fit in. Please get us your mandate ASAP. Thank you.

Question: At present our team e.addresses forward mail from the website only – Would you like them to be set up to use in the regular way, ie sending as well as receiving?

2. Colleen is working on a separate membership form and Jinny is updating the Participation Form. Will bring these to Council when they are ready. Will eventually be added to website for download.

3. Still looking for feedback particularly on our documents: Talking about the Commons (a Commons Messaging Guideline. We can't change what we don't know is needed. BTW, this is an internal document, not for the website; it helps us all "stay on message" about the Commons.

4. Jinny is working on content for a rack card design with Nola Johnson to replace our brochures; these will be good for Welcome Home Gabriola packages for new Gabriolans, in Mad Rona's, etc. Still looking for a volunteer to vet the content for this. Hands up.

5. BTW, there is a template for use when taking Council Notes, recently revised, which was used effectively at the October and November Council meetings. It is sort of a "fillable form" and is available from Jinny when it's your team's turn to be Note-taker, if desired. Also to be added to Resources on website.

Q: Re: sending emails out: how would team access? Would it be through personal email? Or an additional option?

A: Jinny will check out how this works in WordPress.

#### ***Community Kitchen Stewards*** (Allie Nowatzki-Charron)

- Upcoming Spirit Feast- busy 2 weeks for our bookings. Lynn Bowerman is in charge of volunteers for Spirit Feast
- Only 3 Stewards at this time of year (Allie, Lynn Bowerman and Louise Amuir)
- Upcoming deep clean after spirit Feast - depending on Covid restrictions could use volunteers
- Next meeting: sometime in late Dec.

#### ***Covenant Team*** (K.Louise Vincent)

- Not much new o report
- Created a draft presentation for new year to bring to Council, with a PowerPoint; request an hour on February Council agenda.
- Waiting to hear back from The Land Commission on their feedback on our ALC submission and their decision whether to become our Covenant Holder.

David : Zoom can do PowerPoints quite effectively- might be an option as an in-person meetings in February is unlikely.

- Next Meeting: Thursday 3rd December

### ***Covid-19 Group*** (Jinny Hayes)

- Group is Bob Andrew, Deb Ferens, Jinny Hayes & Kim Kasasian.

We met Nov. 21 as PHC has sent a request for use of the House foyer and because Dr. Henry had announced new Covid-19 Orders two days prior. Note that these CDC Orders are in place till Monday, Dec 7.

#### **1. Discussion of PHC request to use Commons house foyer**

Brenda sent an e.mail to the Trustees and the Covid Group on Nov 17 requesting use of the House foyer to help manage the number of people visiting their unit to drop off items such as material and monetary donations, etc. Our concern is that “lots” of visitors was mentioned in this request. In summary:

- They would like to have front door unlocked when PHC staff are on site.
- People would enter foyer and knock on locked PHC door to be let in, and sanitize hands on entry to PHC.
- Staff will answer door and admit the person/accept the drop-off items.
- Until the end of the year, they would like to remove the sign on the front door that directs PHC visitors to the back door.

On Nov 20, Bob met with Brenda to ask a few questions from our group, clarifying a few items. **Notes:**

- Changes related to the latest Covid CDC Orders will further restrict PHC client flow into the building. (They are cutting other programs but nothing that affects the Commons.)
- Food Bank (an essential service) is continuing as before, partly delivered, partly picked up.

*Action:* Our discussion points concerning possible safe use of the foyer were sent to Trustees for their Nov 24th meeting for their action. If they decide to accommodate the request, we recommended a one-month trial. More substantial blockage of the stairs will be required.

#### **2. Review of Commons Covid Phase 3 Plan**

Current version of the Phase 3 Plan will stand for now. It's on the website.

#### **3. Posting that Workbees are suspended till December 5**

Regular workbee attendees know; announcement can go to website.

Next Meeting: TBA

***Design Group*** – No report

*Event Planning* – No report

*Farm Team* (Deborah for Judith Roux)

- SAME REPORT AS ATTACHED TO LAST COUNCIL

The activities of the Farm Team throughout 2020 have been less affected by the COVID-19 virus than for many of the Commons teams since social distancing is a standard practice for gardeners, and meetings have been held outdoors and on-site during the Saturday workbees. Clearly the large-scale community events usually sponsored by the Farm Team, such as the Spring and Fall Fairs, could not take place and there is a sense of "waiting for it to pass" before engaging in new directions. Without the Wednesday market, the selling of produce and products has been reduced to a small scale "mini-market" on Saturday mornings; nevertheless the bumper crops of apples and blueberries have found buyers and there has been a run on the sauerkraut processed by Sharon Arnell! The orchard and gardens need to be weeded, watered and harvested no matter what, and the agricultural projects initiated over the years continue to be cared for. Volunteers are always welcome to participate.

*Namaste Gardens, North Gardens & South Gardens:* The two community allotment projects on the Commons (North and South Gardens) and the satellite Commons community garden at Namaste are flourishing, with well-organized stewarding by gardeners.

Producing fresh apple juice with the press at the Commons continues to be appreciated by the community. We salute Christine Watt, apple juicer extraordinaire, who has taken care of the juicing over many years. She has had to withdraw for health reasons but has passed on the press to Betty Kehler formerly of Plumridge Farms. Our thanks to Christine and Betty for their commitment.

The 25,000 gallon reservoir is now completed and receiving the rainwater we've been waiting for to keep our crops healthy without jeopardizing the rich ecosystem of the Commons' pond. Many thanks to those in the community who helped fund and/or build the project.

A new community initiative, the Salish Sea Food Resiliency group, has been formed with a focus on agricultural issues and ventures across the Gulf Islands. The Commons has been invited to provide a member to liaise with the new group

- Next meeting: TBA

*Finance* (Maya Ruggles)

- Maya to send spreadsheets to attach to these notes for all teams (not for website).
- Income Statement, 6 months:

Statements divided into General Revenue and Expenses, Attached at A & B, as separate files

General Revenue: \$18, 757.18  
 Revenue for teams and projects: \$29, 770.00  
 Total revenue: \$48,561.92

Total General & Admin Expenses: \$8,583.26  
 Project and team expenses: \$35,868.82  
 Total expense: \$44,452.08  
 Net income: \$4109.00  
 Assets or reserved funds: 1-year reserved funds

Deb also brought up that capital reserve has just about \$17,000

- Next Meeting: TBA

*Grant Writing Team* – No report

*Infrastructure Team* – No report

*Labyrinth Group* – No report

*Learning Opportunities Team* – No report

*Long Range Planning Team* (Deborah Ferens)

- Over the past 15 years the Long Range Planning Team at the Gabriola Commons has focussed on clearing the debt of the mortgage and investing energy in the projects favoured at community input gatherings held every 5 years and registered on a Long Range Plan Chart. The next LRP event (Stewarding the Commons: Today & Tomorrow) would have taken place this year but for the COVID virus. This created the opportunity over the last months to take an in-depth look at what has been achieved and clarify the long term vision.
- There is a long list of projects achieved over the past 15 years with great community support and fundraising (attachment available from Deb Ferens).
- A number of priority projects remain on the Plan Chart (attachment available from Deb Ferens)
- To draft a long-term vision of the Commons, the work of the Covenant Team has been helpful in viewing through the lens of the Bylaws, Zoning and Covenant. These focus issues of planning, governance and organization through the stewardship of three areas:
  - Natural Environment
  - Agriculture
  - Community spaces (for Institutional activities based on learning, recreation, arts, entertainment)

- The LRP team proposes that Council meetings could be reconfigured to reflect the workings of a Stewardship Agreement fostering robust and interesting discussions concentrating on action plans and projects specific to these 3 main areas of stewardship.

Plans to add Commons Stewardship Centre and Elder Space Concept to the Long Range Plan Chart:

- Commons Stewardship Centre – LRP will be bringing forward to Council for further discussion with all teams – this might be a winter discussion for the Teams.
- Elder Space - proposal to March 2020 Council (pre-Covid) from SFU/GES Intergenerational Land Based Learning Program. Agreement that the Elder Space would be a significant and valuable addition to the Commons Stewardship Centre concept. To bring to Council for further comments/discussion.

*Property Stewardship Team* (Bob Andrews)

- No meetings lately, because there haven't had any workbees for past 2 weeks.
- Doing small projects around the land instead of bigger events.
- Things progressing with power and water for reservoir.

Q: will there be any design team input around the reservoir?

A: not at the moment, have yet to meet because of Covid

- Next Meeting: TBA

*Share the Commons Team* – No report

*The Process Team* – No report

*Timberframe* – No report

*Trails and Green Spaces* – No report

*Workshop and Pottery* – No report

## 6. Affiliate Reports

*GERTIE* – No report

*People for a Healthy Community* (Brenda Fowler)

- Doug working on submission to from South Gardeners to the Trustees for the north garden and the PHC garden area for infrastructure. Outline proposal going out in a few days to Trustees and to Farm team.
- Need to know quite promptly if project will be approved by Trustees and then brought to Council because of the grant timing
- Spirit Feast going ahead: pick up or delivered meal will be frozen this year

- So many unknowns not enough volunteers because of COVID. Smaller groups have to cook in Community Kitchen so kitchen is booked over more days
- Heartfelt Thanks given for use of upstairs in farmhouse for Toy and Food basket assembly; very helpful.
- Notice from Commons Trustees that entrance can be used in controlled way: signage is made for this and will be put up.
- AGM recently happened and was quite successful. Important to recognize and remember past triumphs and accomplishments of organizations.

Q: Are there still volunteers needed for Spirit feast?

A: contact Lynn Bowerman at [lynndahb@gmail.com](mailto:lynndahb@gmail.com)

- Next Board Meeting: Third week of the month

*Poetry Gabriola* – No report

*Tool Library* – No report

## 7. Additional Items Arising

Nil

## 8. Closing: David and Jinny

### **Appendix A First Set of Recommendations from *Call to Action***

**From:** [http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

1. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of children in care by:
  - i. Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.
  - ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.
  - iii. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.
  - iv. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing.
  - v. Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers.
2. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations,

Inuit, and Métis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.

3. We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle.

4. We call upon the federal government to enact Aboriginal child-welfare legislation that establishes national standards for Aboriginal child apprehension and custody cases and includes principles that:

i. Affirm the right of Aboriginal governments to establish and maintain their own child-welfare agencies.

ii. Require all child-welfare agencies and courts to take the residential school legacy into account in their decision making.

iii. Establish, as an important priority, a requirement that placements of Aboriginal children into temporary and permanent care be culturally appropriate.

5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families

[http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)