

Commons Coordinating Council

Notes of Meeting March 2, 2021

Co-facilitators: Jinny Hayes (COV Team), Bob Andrew (Design Group)

Recorder: George Szanto (Grant Writing Team)

Also present: Louise Amuir, Deb Ferens, Brenda Fowler, Shelagh Huston, David Lightly, Judith Roux, Maya Ruggles, K. Louise Vincent

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Acknowledgements

Jinny noted that an acknowledgement to the First Nations ancestral keepers of the land will be coming in the Covenant Team presentation, but she acknowledged the personal racial, educational and economic privileges that she brings to the meeting.

2. Welcome and Agenda

Jinny checked if the draft agenda (previously circulated) was OK, and there was agreement.

3. Gabriola Commons Proposed Covenant: 50 minute Presentation with PowerPoint by Covenant Team:

Introduction by K. Louise

Presentation of the Covenant by George

Presentation of the Baseline Report by Judith Roux

Presentation of the Stewardship Agreement by Deb Ferens

The Covenant, Baseline Report, and Stewardship Agreement were circulated with the agenda a few days ago and are available on the Gabriola Commons website under Resources. After the presentation, a few questions were asked and answered, and **K. Louise asked for suggestions about where this presentation could be made in future.** The PPT will be added to the website soon.

4. Team Reports

Board of Trustees (Deb Ferens, reporting on the February 15th meeting)

- Review of MOUs: Tool Library, Lions Club, Poetry Gabriola
- Liaisons met with some of PHC Board.
- Income Tax receipts have gone out.
- Working on a small handbook for Trustees.

Community Kitchen Stewards (Louise Amuir)

- The team is down to 2 stewards
- The water problem must be solved before the Kitchen can be used (see Property Steward Team report). Brenda noted that PHC needs to prepare 150 meals every Wednesday, which is hard to do without use of the Kitchen and easy access to potable water. Bob reported there would be potable water by the end of the week, as the parts for the filter system have just arrived.

Cultivate Festival Liaison with Gabriola Arts Council (Sheila Huston)

Cultivate people need to show what rent they will be paying to the Commons in a grant application they are writing. Maya (Treasurer) reported that the figures have just become available for rents so will send that recent baseline data document to Bobbie Blue.

Farm Team (Judith Roux)

- Cleanup is now beginning in earnest as Spring approaches. A seaweed work party arranged for this coming workbee may be postponed due to expected herring run.
- Time to prepare a final baseline survey for the Covenant
- Next meeting as always at Saturday a.m. workbees

Finance (Maya Ruggles)

Finance Team is requesting budgets from all teams. These will provide a financial lens to look at where the Commons is financially, where the needs are, and if there are sufficient financial support available. See Attachment A, below: A. Call for Team Budgets **and** Attachment B, attached separately: Team Budget Template. [Ed Note: If you cannot open Excel files, let Jinny know: communications@gabriolacommons.ca.]

Process Team (David Lightly)

- The team would like others who are not on the team to come and participate, as the team is becoming too tightly knit and homogeneous. The team should open up more, have broader discussions. Jinny noted that the team mandate may need revision to accommodate this shift.
- They are discussing the form and function of Council.

Property Stewardship Team (Bob Andrew)

- Reporting that the Community Kitchen has been down due to water filtration and hot water problems; the professional who assessed the hot water system has deemed it unsafe. Both sets of repairs are costly and Bob thanked Maya for her assistance in mapping out a budget. Materials arrived yesterday for the filtration system and PST will move forward with all repairs ASAP.
- The tree cutting policy is moving forward.
- The outdoor chessboard is underway.

4. Affiliate Reports

People for a Healthy Community (Brenda Fowler)

Brenda expressed frustration with the current water problems, which are affecting food preparation for so many meal recipients in the Gabriola community.

5. Follow-Up Items from Previous Meetings:

- Tree cutting policy – See PST report above
- Council review – Please forward suggestions to Bob or David L.
- How do we orient people to the Commons: Future 20-minute discussion
- Ideas on how to acknowledge all contributions to the Commons; how to move forward (Communication Team, Grant Writing Team, Design Group, Ad Hoc group?). Tabled.

6. Closing

Jinny thanked everyone for participating positively; looking forward to upcoming Covid vaccinations!

Co-facilitation:

Jinny's last meeting of 4; Bob's second meeting of 4.

Next co-facilitator, to start with April Council: Farm Team, which includes organizing units or South, North and Namaste Gardens.

Notes: April Council: Infrastructure Team

20-minute Discussion Topic List Outstanding

- How do we orient people to the Commons?
- Council Review
- Tree cutting policy discussion

Attachment A

Call for Team Budgets

March 2021

From the Finance Team of the Gabriola Commons

As we do every year at fiscal year-end time, the Finance Team is requesting budgets from teams and projects. For us, team budgets help us get a better sense of how the work of all our Teams and Projects fit together to form the overall picture of the Commons, through the financial lens. This lens is good at magnifying our story in an interesting, and instructive, way. Along with other practices that we engage in, a budgeting process also illuminates the collective and democratic way in which we steward the Commons.

In asking for these budgets, these are some of the things we're curious about:

What is the current work of the Team/project (ongoing or project-based); what are the financial needs (annual/fixed & contingent) for that work? Is the work of the Team sustainable? Are there sufficient financial supports to support the work of the Team? Do we want to start looking for new (relevant and fitting) funding sources?

More broadly, what visions do we hold (as Teams, Project groups, the Commons)? What financial supports are there (current, new) for actualizing those visions?

We share the sense of always having too much 'actual' team work to get around to developing and maintaining a team budget. At the same time, the relative autonomy of each team or project involves a responsibility to attend to the budget that will support the completion of their work. The Finance team would like to assist teams in meeting that responsibility. The attached template budget can help to guide a basic budget. If teams and project groups would like to go beyond the basic budget, the Finance team can assist with a fuller budgeting process.

Please be in touch: finance@gabriolacommons.ca.

Attachment B

Team Budget Template: Excel file attached separately