

# Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

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## Notes of Meeting of April 06 2021

**Facilitator:** Bob Andrew

**Recorder:** Maya Ruggles for Finance Team

**Present:** Jinny Hayes, Bob Andrew, Deb Ferens, Maya Ruggles, Louise Amuir, Nancy Hetherington Peirce, David Lightly

Next CCC meeting: May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7 pm on Zoom.

Recorder for May meeting: Infrastructure Team

### AGENDA ITEMS

**1. Acknowledgement** – Bob, Deb and Louise gave acknowledgements: words from Lisa Wilcox, Island Trustee, stewarding land relations rather than land-use, alignment with Commons' ethic; Eastern Van Island is #9/10 top eco-crisis zones; 2.5 billion don't have vaccinations, mostly poor and indigenous. What's next: how do I keep thinking about how to make reparations? See more notes attached.

### **2. Welcome & Agenda**

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

A. COV presentation at March Council - looking forward to feedback about it.

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

A. Formulating team budgets; see separate mail-out from the Finance Team

B. Council Facilitator Guide, previously circulated

### **20-minute discussion**

Beginning of a discussion about how we orient people to the Commons.

How do we welcome people to the Commons? Louise offered to facilitate discussion at the July Council; Jinny suggested an outside, in-person event with promo to encourage return of attendees and to attract new people; David offered the question: How do you keep people at the Commons?

### **20-minute Discussion Topic List Outstanding**

- How do we orient people to the Commons?

- Covenant update; scheduled March 2021
- Council Review
- Tree cutting policy discussion

## 5. Team Reports:

### *Board of Trustees* (Deb/David)

- Using some time at beginning of meeting talking about our goals; MOUs coming along; Cultivate plans in flux; nominations group (Jinny and David) looking for another member; pottery folks have moved to another place.

### *Bookings* (Deb)

- There has been a request to use the Commons in June (tentatively June 12/13 weekend) for a “Feel It, Express It, Share It” opportunity to leave/share messages of remembrance for those whom we have lost over this past COVID year. This would be “drop in”, no gathering, and follow all health and safety restrictions as outlined by BC Health Orders. Covid group will look further into the details and keep in touch with Shantikak.

### *Communications* (Jinny)

- COM team budget sent to Finance

### *Community Kitchen Stewards* (Louise)

- Very excited about the new hot water heater system, and that the kitchen is back up and running. And big thanks to Property Stewards. Down to 3 kitchen stewards, two of whom are off for the summer. Asking wide for new stewards; some positive response from call to Farm-to-Table volunteers. Started working on a team budget.

### *Covenant Team* (Deb)

- Activities include: Covenant referral application has been submitted to the Agricultural Land Commission; a biomapping Baseline Report update is being planned for a fine Spring weekend – more details will be shared when a date is determined.
- The Covenant Team is seeking feedback & comments from their March presentation to Council.
- The idea of a Stewardship Center & stewardship model of governance & organization.
  - This has arisen out of the work the Covenant Team has been doing on the Covenant and the Stewardship Plan. Looking for the opportunity soon at Council to present the concept/idea more fully for discussion and Team feedback.

- Next meeting: Wed April 13 at 2pm

### *Covid-19 Group* (Deb)

- Last meeting Mar 19. Reviewed BC CDC - PHO updates. Based on review of health orders and state of emergency there is no recommendation to make changes or revisions to the Commons COVID Phase 3 Plan.
- Next meeting: sometime before next Council

*Design Group* (Bob)

- No report

*Farm Team* (Deb for Judith)

- Native Plant Depot at the Commons: An important part of conservation is removing invasive plants and this is most effectively done when you immediately replace them with attractive native plants such as Oregon grape, sword fern, Nootka rose, flowering currant or salmonberry, so that new invasives cannot spread into the space. GALTT is encouraging Gabriolans who need to clear their land and uproot native plants to donation them to GALTT's new Native Plant Depot at the Commons. If you have native plants to donate, please email Libby at [invasives@galitt.ca](mailto:invasives@galitt.ca)
- Next meeting: usually at Workbees.

*Finance* (Maya)

- See Call for Team/Project Budgets attached and previously circulated.

*Learning Opportunities Team* (Maya)

- After taking a covid hiatus, the Learning Opportunities Team is reconvening. Our current members are Deb Ferens, Monica ?, Jocelyn Hallett, and Maya Ruggles. We are focussing our attention on preparing a response to the presentation made at the March 2020 Council by Mark, Kate, and Jocelyn on the idea of an Elders' Space on the Commons. The presentation came out of the GES/SFU research project entitled *Intergenerational Land Based Learning for Reconciliation on Gabriola Island*. LOT members (Mary Wilson [past] and Maya [current]) have attended several meetings and read the project materials. As such, we feel a connection already exists between LOT and the GES/SFU project, which we can build on through discussion about an Elders' Space on the Commons. We will, of course, keep the Commons, through Council, updated on how discussions proceed, and any actions proposed.
- Next meeting: TBA

*Property Stewardship Team* (Bob)

- PST also very excited about getting the water system and hot water heater replaced!; chess/checkers board on the lawn – people have already started using it; chess club is excited. Need to keep chess pieces under lock & key'
- Working on budget, almost complete
- Pump coming to complete Reservoir workings; with design team and GAC, backfilling reservoir and beautifying.
- Sending request to Trustees (legal) to revisit discussion/decision about turning from meter-off to meter-on for Hydro readings. PST to send report on meter to Trustees.
- Next meeting: Saturday Workbee

*The Process Team* (David)

- Talking a lot about Council's role at the Commons. At the end of Covid-19 precautions, Process Team would like to help organize a gathering to examine this aspect of the Commons. Team goes to some amazing places in their discussions; they enjoy each other and

having visitors. Bob enjoyed his visit with the team. Process Team zoom link:

- Next meeting: every second Thursday at 10-12. Louise will supply the enduring link for their meetings, to be included separately in a posting to Team Representatives.

## **6. Affiliate Reports**

*GaLLT* (Deb for Judith)

- Native plant people on the Commons; Jinny suggests this become a Farm Team blog (she will help)

*People for a Healthy Community* (Usually Brenda)

- Brenda did not attend this meeting.

## **7. Additional Items Arising**

None

## **8. Closing** (Bob)

## Attached reports

### 1. Acknowledgement (Deb)

- Climate crisis: From time immemorial First Nations people have been stewards of the land on Gabriola and the Salish Sea coast. It has taken less than a 100 years for settlers to create an ecological crisis on these lands. According to a recent study by the Nature Conservancy of Canada on 77 ecological regions in the southern half of Canada, Eastern Vancouver island in one of nine “Ecocrisis regions” most at risk in terms of biodiversity threats as the climate crisis continues.
- Pandemic: According to UNICEF information residents of 130 countries have not yet received even one dose of the coronavirus vaccine and may be left without access to the vaccines until 2022. That’s 2.5 billion people and consistent with the “rich and poor” pattern as only 0.1 percent of doses have been administered in low-income counties. Many global indigenous communities continue at great risk of COVID infections and mutations.

### 2. Finance (Maya)

Call for Team Budgets

March 2021

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. We can see how we can support each other – which Teams need support and which Team budgets and Commons’ funds have the capacity to be support.

Budgeting together as teams can be both helpful and fun. It can help teams do the more current and practical work of getting on the same page about their team’s work. It can also foster some *dreaming* – what do you want to do, as a team? Are there workshops you’d like to see happen, events to seed, landscapes to envision? In what ways do other teams factor into your dreams?

My dream would be to start having Commons-wide budgeting sessions. What I’ve started to see more clearly are the ways in which our financial philosophy reflects the socio-economic bases of the Commons. By engaging together in budgeting – Commons-wide – the story that emerges and unfolds is one of connection, cooperation, and compassion, underpinned by the amazing privilege we all have to be stewards of this place.

I would like to offer encouragement and support for teams to develop and share their budgets. Here are 3 ways I might be able to help:

1. Facilitate a brief basic budgeting session – about 1 hour session with all team members;
2. Provide figures and ledgers that will help to confirm income and costs;
3. Facilitate a broader budgeting session with multiple teams, whose work overlaps.

In terms of timeline, it would be great to have basic annual team budgets by the end of April. And

we can work more slowly and deliberately towards broadening our horizon and deepening our gaze.

To be in touch, please email [finance@gabriolacommons.ca](mailto:finance@gabriolacommons.ca).

With big respect,

Maya

On behalf of the Commons Finance Team