

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

www.gabriolacommons.ca

Notes for Meeting of January 5, 2021

Present: Don Smardon, Bob Andrew, David Lightly, Doug Scott, Sharon Arnell, Brenda Fowler, Diane Streeter

Co-facilitators: Jinny Hayes, David Lightly

Recorder: K. Vincent/Deb Ferens (Covenant Team)

Next CCC meeting: Tuesday, Feb 2, 2021

Recorder for next meeting: Events Team (Jinny will contact Judith/Rebecca)

Meeting Agenda:

Welcome/Acknowledgement:

Jinny acknowledged our being on the ancestral lands of the Snuneymeux First Nation and also her white privilege. David reported that there is a serious COVID outbreak on the Snuneymeux lands in Nanaimo and that people are locked down in their houses. Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action: Jinny summarized the next section about education recommendations.

Follow-up Items from previous meeting - discussions outlined below:

A. Co-facilitation – rotation and length

B. Council Review – (Bob & David) have not met yet with: Louise, Mark, Maya.

C. Communication – sending emails from teams' Commons addresses?

Reminders & Action Items - will be followed up at next meeting:

A. Team Facilitation rotation

B. Discussion regarding recognizing contributions

C. Covenant team presentation

D. Outdoor Use and future Bookings

Ongoing Discussion Topics - for 20-minute discussions:

A. Memorials (current, starting July meeting)

B. "Personal Benefit" at the Commons

C. Sustainability Building

D. Signage

E. Formation of a Conflict Resolution Team

F. Recognizing contributions

G. How do we decide what gets sent out to membership?

H. Consensus process

I. How do we orient people to the Commons?

1. 20-Minute Discussion: How to recognize contributions. Not just donations but other ways contributions are made to the Commons.

- Deferred to next meeting. Who might lead this discussion? Please let Jinny know.
- Reminder that the Covenant Team has asked for 1 hour of that meeting to make a presentation. Would it replace the discussion above “contributions?”

2. TEAM Reports:

Communications (Jinny Hayes) – NO REPORT

Community Kitchen (Louise Amuir)

Not a lot of traffic in the kitchen. Dan Back (GIFT) renting freezer space as per Community Kitchen COVID protocol.

Question for Bob: Is he using the walk-in or the plugin fridge? The walk-in might be costly regarding power. Louise to follow up.

Kitchen Stewards have made a request to Finance Team about using e.transfers for rental fee payments

Covenant (Deb Ferens)

- Team is finalizing the Covenant Referral application to the Agricultural Land Commission.
- Preparing an hour long presentation to February Council
- Planning Spring time outdoor biomapping for Baseline Inventory Report update. Everyone welcome.
- Point of Information: Covenant Team is a sub-group of the Trustees (legal aspect of a covenant).
- Q: Has Covenant Team explored the possibility of Snuneymeux First Nation holding the Covenant; reminder that Snuneymeux First Nation holds several on Gabriola.
- Next Meeting: Wed Jan 13, 1 pm.

COVID Group (Deb Ferens)

- Commons Plan Phase 3 still in effect.
- Next Meeting: will meet again if required after next PHO from Dr. Henry on Jan 8/2021.

Design Group (Bob Andrew) – NO REPORT

Event Planning – NO REPORT

Farm Management (Sharon Arnell)

• ***Namaste Allotments***

• Working with rewording agreement with new owners. Don in correspondence with them. Some concerns regarding responsibilities; not likely to be different than the original agreement.

* Sign-ups online in February. Likely not a Food Forum this year due to Covid. Fairly full garden.

South Gardens (Doug Scott)

• Had a meeting a month ago. Not many meetings lately. Different kind of registration this year. All of the plots are fully used. There is a small waiting list. New gardeners take precedence over two plot gardeners. Please email Doug if interested.

• Concerning the irrigation project: Garden Stewards have reported water pressure is just fine so priority for irrigation not there. PHC response is not a priority for them and so will take the funds elsewhere.

Finance – NO REPORT

Fundraising – NO REPORT

Grant Writing – NO REPORT

Infrastructure – NO REPORT

Labyrinth – NO REPORT

Learning Opportunities – NO REPORT

Process Team (Louise Amuir)

• Appreciated the acknowledgement about white privilege. Process Team is exploring some of this.

• Looking at the Truth & Reconciliation – also examining our world views.

• Possible future discussion – looking at our privilege.

• Next Meeting: now meeting twice a month 10 – noon. Thursdays on Zoom.

Property Stewardship (Bob Andrew)

• Work-bees still happening on Saturdays. Working on: concrete wall up against the workshop; smoothing pathways; house leak where power comes down; idea of making a giant outdoor chess set. Chalk board is in use! Garden tools donated and more to come (Jinny

& Judith doing the thank you).

- Yurt power and wifi are in progress.
- Reservoir is overflowing!
- Next Meeting: Team meets at the Workbees.

Share the Commons (Jinny Hayes for Doug McKnight)

- Some communication hiccups as the team now has no members other than Doug. Anyone wish to volunteer?
- Application from Mara Brenner (Maragold) through the Poetry Yurt; requests one-day use to film a dance class outside. Doug will review and inform Mara; Jinny to help review. Question from Louise: where would Maragold outdoor use be? A. open grassy spaces
ACTION: Jinny to attach the request to Notes (see below).
- Question from Doug: Do we book the Timber-frame Bldg? Answer. No, we don't book the outside although use is accelerating, and we will need to look into this. Jinny replied that Bookings are on hold. Advertising re Booking volunteers when Booking members (Maya and Deb) are ready.
- Bob: Outdoor space is getting used often. We will need to keep in mind of this as the Timber-frame is used. We need to be careful not to let outdoor spaces be converted into indoor spaces – have noticed poly tarp use etc.; also Covid concerns.
Deb: We will need to look into this more after winter.
Question regarding outdoor use to teams.

Timberframe – NO REPORT

Trails and Green Spaces – NO REPORT

Trustees of Gabriola Commons Foundation (Don Smardon)

- The last meeting of the Trustees was held by Zoom on 15 December 2020. All trustees were in attendance, except Cameron Murray (with regrets).

- Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) - Deborah Ferens

We have three MOUs coming up for renewal in the first part of 2021.

- 1) Gabriola Tool Library in February 2021
- 2) The Lions in April, 2021
- 3) Poetry Gabriola in May of 2021

We are in discussions with Poetry Gabriola now as there have been many changes recently in the status of the Yurt. The yurt now has power and PGS has their own insurance. We are in the process of installing an electrical meter, which will allow us to accurately measure the hydro used at the yurt for invoicing purposes. We have had no further discussions regarding Wi-Fi access for PGS.

- The Finance Team will be meeting with the Cultivate Liaison group on the 19 January.
- The Gabriola Island Land Stewardship Society has asked that someone from The Commons sit on their board. K. Louise Vincent, from the Covenant Team, has volunteered to fill this position. Thank you, K Louise.

- The Nominations Committee has been activated. The two committee members so far are: David Lightly and Jinny Hayes. It was thought that this committee should be active all year round, not just assembled before the AGM. Also, we are aware that trustees occasionally resign, usually on short notice.
- The PHC Liaison Trustees, who typically meet with PHC monthly, will now be David Lightly and Laura-Jean Kelly.
- Next Meeting: via Zoom on the 12th of January, at 7pm.

AFFILIATIONS:

Tool Library (Dianne Streeter)

Patsy and Dianne are no longer on the Board as Directors; Dianne will continue as bookkeeper. Five tool guys on the Board. Single volunteer managing the shed when it is open.

- Next opening: January 9th, 21.

People for a Healthy Community (rep: Brenda Fowler)

- Spirit Feast happened despite Covid with many volunteers. 300 meals, 260 delivered with 40 more over the next month.
 - Appreciated using the Common's upstairs for the Christmas Bureau and Hampers.
 - Have withdrawn the South Gardens irrigation and greenhouse project. Will be writing Trustees to discuss a greenhouse in the North Garden. No timeframe at this time.
 - A task group has formed to review and redefine the food programs as they pertain to food security. A list of the programs was shared. Will be reassessed in terms of accessibility, organization, community membership, staffing and so on.
 - Chamber of Commerce's funding for media program for participants under 30 years of age. PHC look to support training opportunities wherever they can.
- Q: Does PHC know the funding coming forward from the 2020 CBC Food Bank Drive yet? Last year PHC received \$4,000, but have not yet heard this year's amount, yet but expecting perhaps \$5-8,000 given the success of that fundraiser this year.

- Have enough money to cover school food programs until June.

Q: Louise A. asked if PHC commenced use of the Community Kitchen. Answer – have been using it throughout Covid time with care. Louise expressed her gratitude to PHC & Brenda.

Poetry Gabriola – NO REPORT

3. Discussion on follow-up items from previous meeting:

A. Council Co-facilitation.

- Our best to Shelagh as she is unable to facilitate right now due to illness. Gratitude to David L. for his extended, patient facilitation of Council over many months. Jinny stepping in as co-facilitator for two more meetings.
- Question whether we will rotate facilitation through teams. K. Louise suggested we try it out with curiosity and openness; and then review. Could support some diversity, communication and connection. Deb hasn't heard any objections to this from other teams. Bob will canvas the Design Team as they would be "up" next.
- Facilitation changing to four month rotations with two month overlap. Consensus that we try team rotation and see how continuity and focus works out.

B. Ad hoc group on Council (Bob & David): review will be reaching out soon.

C. COM: Team gabriolacommons.ca e.addresses. It was decided to not worry about 'Send' function or making changes at this time given our server (SiteGround) is US based. Perhaps in two years we can revisit this when we consider changing servers.

Attachment: Request from Mara Brenner via Poetry Gabriola Yurt

Received 21 December 2020

Hi Ginny.

Here is the initial info...

Dancestreams' site-specific commission

Dancestreams and Gabriola Dance/Maragold Theatre are proposing to use the outdoor space at the Gabriola Commons on the lawn, between the yurt and the outdoor covered area for four or five Sundays (11:30am-3:45pm) to create and record a short dance video choreographed by a professional BC-based Choreographer for youth.

We will begin warm-up as we walk off the ferry to the Commons. The yurt will be our area of refuge for warming, short lunch break, and gear storage. Our group is small with only 5-dancers (including 1 dancer, local to Gabriola Island, Elisabeth Clay) working on the project and two or three adult supervisors.

Participants do health screenings. We are able to maintain the prescribed 2.5m physical distancing for the working process outdoors, and wear face-covering masks for the brief respites indoors. There would be some recorded age-appropriate music played periodically from a small battery operated bluetooth speaker, and this need not be loud. We would be self-contained packing ourselves and our simple gear in and out on foot.

Here are two scenarios for dates to manifest this project:

a) 11:30-3:45pm Sundays January 24, February 7, 21 & 28, 2021

OR

b) 11:30-3:45pm Sunday March 21, Monday April 5, Sundays April 11 & April 18, 2021

Below is some background information about the group.

DANCESTREAMS 2020- 2021

What is Dancestreams:

Dancestreams is the performing group sponsored by the Vancouver Island Youth Dance Theatre Association, a non-profit registered charity. The Dancestreams Company consists of talented and committed dancers, aged 13 to 19, (occasionally 12) who enjoy the challenges of working in a professional setting. Younger dancers may be considered for a junior company if there are sufficient numbers ready for the challenge. Dancers from all over Vancouver Island are chosen by audition each year.

What does Dancestreams do:

Dancers accepted into the program meet on Sundays from September to May in a central location, usually Qualicum Beach. The day begins with a dance Company warm up session with one of the artistic staff. This is followed by rehearsals for a further 4 hours. (Shorter day for juniors may be considered) Often dancers will have the opportunity to take class with visiting artists and to work with one of the many professional choreographers who are commissioned to set works on the company. From time to time, other professionals will visit to teach class or give lectures (ie Pilates, nutrition, physiotherapy). The season culminates in a performance tour. Usually this is on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, but occasionally the company undertakes a major tour, such as the tour to China in 1994, Los Angeles in 1998, 2001, 2015 and the Germany/Belgium tours in 2003 and 2007. Dancestreams has also toured and participated in exchanges in Ottawa, New Brunswick, the BC Interior and Banff Centre for the Arts. The company also offers "school shows" - educational programs presented in public or private school settings.

For almost 35 years Dancestreams has contributed to the ecology of contemporary dance arts as a repertory performance company that brings together dedicated young dancers from across Vancouver Island in creating non-competitive dance performances that celebrate the art of choreographers. Dancestreams' beautiful repertoire cannot be re-mounted this year as the dances were not designed to maintain social-physical distancing prescribed to manage our current global COVID-19 pandemic. This year is going to be a radical, exciting and innovative departure. This season is going to focus on site-specific dance. This year dancers will be introduced to the rigors and magic of site-specific dance from a variety of seasoned practitioners. We will connect through Zoom, and in-person at various outdoor and safe indoor rehearsal locations. We will let dance inhabit unconventional spaces and performances may be staged through video recordings as well as in real time and space.

Who is eligible for Dancestreams:

Dancers from Vancouver Island ages of 12 and up with strong technical backgrounds, a keen interest in dance and a capacity for hard work. Dancers must be enrolled in at least 3 technique classes per week in a dance school. Parental support is mandatory for dancers wishing to take part in the program. Dancers must be able to commit to attending the complete Dancestreams season.

Why is Dancestreams different from the dance school:

Dancestreams is NOT a dance school. Dancers receive outstanding supplementary training from Dancestreams, but as the company meets only one day per week, the home studio remains the source for

core training. What Dancestreams does is provide an enriched setting for the most talented dancers from each community to come together in a non-competitive, creative atmosphere where they often learn as much from each other as they do from the teachers and guest artists. Dancestreams is also run on the same principles as a professional dance company. Casting is undertaken purely on ability and knowledge of parts and dancers are expected to behave and work in a mature and responsible manner.

Mara Brenner

Gabriola Pilates and Dance

BCRPA cert.

"Challenge your strengths and strengthen your weaknesses"

[Www.maragoldtheatreproductions.blogspot.com](http://www.maragoldtheatreproductions.blogspot.com)

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