

# Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

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## Notes of Meeting of September 7, 2021

**Facilitator:** Deb Ferens (appointed at the meeting)

**Recorder:** Jinny Hayes (appointed at the meeting)

**Present:** Alison Fitzgerald, Benda Fowler (PHC), Shelagh Huston, Mitch Miyagawa (end of meeting), Doug Scott, Diane Streeter (Tool Library), K.Louise Vincent

Next CCC meeting: October 5 at 7 pm. Upstairs at the Farmhouse.

Facilitator(s) for next meeting: Board of Trustees

Recorder for next meeting: Property Stewardship?

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 1. Welcome & Agenda

Deb welcomed everyone, an agenda was generated, and folks introduced themselves.

#### 2. Acknowledgements

Shelagh acknowledged our presence on the land, the homeland of BC's aboriginal people for millennia. This land is the Snuneymuxw peoples' ancestral land, unceded, and we are learning to care alongside them.

#### 3. Following Up from previous meetings

None

#### 4. To take forward to Teams & follow-up at next Council meeting:

A. Events Team needs volunteers for Fall Fair on Sept 19, 12-6 pm, especially for set-up and take-down. Contact: [info@maji.events](mailto:info@maji.events)

B. Jinny is coordinating staffing of Commons Table: Please volunteer for 1-2 hours.

[Communications@gabriolacommons.ca](mailto:Communications@gabriolacommons.ca) or 250-247-8898.

C. How can items from Council reach teams in a more timely way? Raised by Maya; please discuss for exploration at next Council.

#### 20-minute Discussion Topic List Outstanding

- Council Review
- Stewardship on the Commons: Beginning a plan (Stewardship Ad Hoc Group; October or November Council mtg.)

## 5. Team Reports:

### *Farm Team*

#### *South Gardens (Doug)*

- The Coordinating C'tee has been meeting through the summer either outdoors or at people's houses. AGM soon. They recommend using the Timberframe for continued outdoor meetings; there's no light there at night though there is power.
- Had a good harvest, though sweet pea crop was compromised by the heat. Did raise >\$3500 (\$2000 last year) for PHC and the Museum.
- Irrigation has been from the pond till about 2 weeks ago, when it switched to the new reservoir for all the gardens' watering. Gardeners are pleased to not be carrying in water this Fall.

#### *Communications Team (Jinny)*

- No real report. Frustrated by limited team membership and a lot of work that could be done. Mainly staying abreast of routine tasks, such as website, Council Notes and tasks, etc.
- Next meeting: TBA.

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

- Group met to discuss actions and recommendations in response to PHOs not moving to Stage 4 of Restart. The Delta variant is a continued challenge, despite good vaccinations rate. Discussed implications of partial trial opening of the Farmhouse and the Vaccination Passport and indoor masking requirements starting Sept 13. See Bookings report, below.
- Lots of use of outdoor spaces by musicians and others; not "bookable" (first come/first served). One bathroom in Community Kitchen needed for these events, so cleaning routine is a bit modified, new signs posted.
- Next meeting: TBA

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

- Agricultural Land Commission has approved our application to put a covenant on the land. Thus, registration on Title can happen once a Covenant Holder can be found. The Land Conservancy of BC has been informed of the ALC decision in hopes that they will consider becoming a Covenant Holder as previously explored with them.
- In response to the presentation at Council in August about taking a stewardship approach to sustaining the Commons, an ad hoc group has been set up. (See next item.)
- Next meeting: Sept 15 at 1.00 pm under the Timberframe.

#### *Stewardship Ad Hoc Group (K.Louise)*

- This group of representatives from the Covenant, Long Range Planning, and Learning Opportunities teams has met 3 times with the purpose of starting a proposal process for changing to a stewardship model for Commons governance. Good dialogue has grappled

with many ideas, and a first draft of a proposal was discussed last meeting; this will be revised and a draft may be ready for the October or November Council meetings. Plan will contain proposed transitions for the Farmhouse and the establishment of an Aboriginal Elder Space. Aim: increased focus, connectedness and clarity.

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

- Retreat planned for tomorrow
- Template MoUs progressing; only one left to do, plus the PHC Lease.
- Jinny noted her concern, as an appointed Nomination C'tee, that generating a list of candidates for next Board has not yet started; her resignation has been tendered.
- Next meeting: Retreat Sept 8.

#### ***Event Planning*** (Mitch)

- There are good volunteers already, though the event can use more, especially for set-up and take-down. Contact Mitch at [info@maji.events](mailto:info@maji.events)
- There will be the usual Exhibition with lots of categories, so please enter.
- Event will include kitchen, bar, music, brass band from Nanaimo, buskers, kids' games, honouring of farmers, squash race.
- Call to teams to turn out to talk about the Commons, maybe facilitating some fundraising. Jinny volunteered to set up and staff the Commons table. If you can participate: 250-247-8898 or [vhayes@uvic.ca](mailto:vhayes@uvic.ca).
- It was suggested that funds raised at this event could be contributed towards the project aimed to improve accessibility to the Farmhouse, and a current grant application will need matching funds. Action: Jinny to check with George and Judith (Fund Raising Team) [Ed note: agreed]. We really need to set up a way of receiving donations electronically (eg, Square) as so few people carry cash any more. There are 3 ways to donate and these are on the website and a paper form that will be at the Commons table.
- Kim's "facts about the Commons" signs will be up by the Fall Fair.

#### ***Bookings*** (Deb)

- Deb and Maya are acting as a small Task Force to plan bookings. The full-on bookings work is a big job, essential, and administratively heavy. They are recommending that booking of indoor and outdoor spaces be separated. Ads have not reaped any volunteers for the indoor position, but Lino Vella Gregory has committed to taking on booking the outdoor spaces.
- Another bookings challenge is management of equipment.
- Have been struggling with whether or not to open the indoor areas; decided to do a modified opening for regular users and Commons teams, and ONLY using the Big Room upstairs and the back bathroom. (The bigger bathroom will be renovated soon.)

Requirements:

- limit 15 people

- no refreshments
- masking
- distancing
- cleaning
- facilitator to require pre-registration and a list of attendees is to be kept
- double vaccinations required with “passport” evidence.
- A small internal calendar will be kept.
- Short discussion of Zoom & hybrid approaches using Zoom and in person together.

## 6. Affiliate Reports

### *People for a Healthy Community* (Brenda)

- The elementary school kids’ first lunch is tomorrow; they are not sure how many kids to expect.
- Staff have increased Covid protocols again: back to masking, no indoor programming, seniors’ program will be in small rotating cohorts, etc. It is actually harder to come out of restrictions than to stay in them. Wondering how the new Board can meet (see above announcement from Bookings).

### *Tool Library* (Diane)

- Continues to be open 2 hrs a week, with a core volunteer staff in 5 shifts. People are still coming to borrow tools, take out memberships, etc. The TL is “liquid” enough to pay its insurance.

## 7. Additional Items Arising

- Maya sent a note requesting discussion of the possibility of “a review at the end of [Council meetings] of discussion items for teams. This way, reps can bring items to team meetings that happen before Council Notes come out. [She] suggests sending that list (reviewed at Council), along with any relevant materials, to teams right away, in case some team reps aren't present at Council.” It was noted that the logistics of this are:
  - a modified form of this has been tried
  - dependent on note-taker being super-prompt getting the Notes done
  - the number of e-mails that reps wish to receive.
  - who will do this?

Please discuss with your teams for further discussion at the October Council.

## 8. Closing (Deb)

- At 8.10 pm!! The mosquitos got us all. October meeting will be in the Big Meeting Room in the Farmhouse.

