

Commons Coordinating Council
Notes for October 5, 2021

Attendance: Deb Ferens, Jinny Hayes, Doug Scott, Lino Vella Gregory, Maya Ruggles (Facilitator, for Trustees), Bob Andrew (Notetaker, for Property Stewardship)

1. Simple First Nations acknowledgements given by Maya.

2. Fall Fair Review

Generally a great success from all viewpoints

Concerns/suggestions: Announcements ought to be more widespread on the grounds, e.g., could not be heard as far as the house. Great thanks to Mitch/Special Events for this event.

ACTION: Bob to forward to Mitch.

3. Discussion Items arising from previous Council: Ways to get messages that concern teams out to the teams faster:

- Decision to try to
 - 1) Generate a list of what feedback is needed from Teams, i.e., a list of discussion items.
 - 2) Notetaker to send list to Communications Team who will then send it out to the Teams for feedback.
 - 3) Full meeting notes are distributed when available or with next Council reminder.

4. 20 min. discussions: Agreed upon at this Council. Topics to be added:

- 1) How to have more productive meetings without becoming autocratic.
- 2) November Council: presentation from Stewardship Transition Group (COV, LRP, LOT) + Follow-up to this presentation at a future Council?)

5. Team Reports

Trustees (Deb)

- The new tent (purchased by GAC) now has a MOU in place between GAC and the Commons.
- Next Cultivate festival (2022) dates requested by GAC June 30 to July 3 with two days at either end to set up and take down.

GAC also requests confirmation of the new Liaison Team. ACTION: Doug and Bob to talk to Shelagh Huston to see if she wishes to be a part of the Liaison Team). Does anyone else wish to join the liaison team?

- Note: the Commons Wi-Fi set up is still an unresolved concern; ACTION: Liaison Team to address.

- The MOU of 2021 will form the basis of the 2022 MOU.
- Other MOU's being updated. NOTE: GERTIE likely moving by the end of this year.
- AGM Nov. 21 downstairs at the Community Hall. Need suggestions for new Trustees; please contact the Nominations Committee.
- Annual retreat successful.
- Year-end financials have been sent to the accountant; for posting with Minutes of the last AGM on website.

Communications (Jinny)

No report tonight.

Covenant Team (Jinny)

Covenant planning proceeding well. Working with The Land Conservancy of BC as a potential Covenant Holder. Also working with Long Range Planning and Learning Opportunities teams to draft a proposal for how to transition to a Stewardship model for the Commons.

South Gardens (Doug)

- Held a successful AGM
- Plot registration moved from the Spring to the Fall.
- Doug to send text re: the call for gardens to Jinny to put out to the public.

Bookings (Lino)

- Lino taking care of bookings for the Timberframe, Reservoir Stage and all other outdoor gathering spaces, which are still first come, first serve. Bathroom access still under discussion. Note: the organizers of events are responsible for the bathroom cleaning. Bathroom needs a mop (ACTION: ?).
- Request for a more solid door between the bathroom and the kitchen.
- Using public, onsite calendar (under construction) + internal electronic calendar for now.

Finance (Maya)

- Reviewing Hydro use.
- Working on a "field guide" for all things financial
- New "statement of values" created.
- 71 monthly donors created \$22,000 of revenue last year, covering operating costs.

Property Stewardship Team (Bob)

- Lots of grounds works happening:
- Lovely new pathway between parking lots coming along
- New games added; kids (and adults) really seem to enjoy the play areas.
- Hedge trimmed cost \$2,900 – let's try to get volunteers next year

- Upstairs bathroom in house being divided into a bathroom and storage area.

6. Next meeting: Nov 2

- Maya to facilitate
- STC the notetaker
- Place/mode of meeting TBA (see below)

7. Question to go out to Teams: (Bring Forward Items)

a) Teams' preferences for Zoom meetings vs. in person for Council for this winter?

Preferences to Maya ASAP: maya.ruggles@gmail.com

b) Need volunteers for the Liaison Team between GAC and the Commons. Please volunteer to the Trustees: trustees@gabriolacommons.ca

c) Dates for Cultivate: June 30-July 3 plus two days either side for put up and takedown; feedback also to Trustees: trustees@gabriolacommons.ca