

Commons Coordinating Council (CCC) Notes of Meeting of Oct. 4, 2022

Facilitator: Gloria Filax for Finance Team

Recorder: Bob Andrew for Property Stewardship Team

Present: Jinny Hayes, Robbie Huston, Bob Martin, Mary Wilson, Patti Mertz, K. Louise Vincent, Brenda Joy, David Lightly, Judith Roux, Patrick Roux, Brenda Fowler (PHC), Audra Davies (PHC), Deb Ferens

Next CCC meeting: Nov. 1, 2022

Facilitator: Gloria Filax for Finance Team

Recorder: Share the Commons Team

1. **Welcome and Agenda** (accepted, no changes)

2. **First Nations Acknowledgement**

Deborah read pertinent excerpts from the Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations

3. **Follow-up from previous meetings**

A) Issue of Personal Safety re Campers using the Commons

No further discussion.

B) Request for Logo input (2-year review) to Communications Team, please.

Action needed from teams to communications@gabriolacommons.ca

4. **20- minute Discussion Topic: PHC “5 Year Plan”** (Audra Davies & Brenda Fowler)

- Board recently completed a thorough, 3-month strategic planning process; the full plan is 30 pp long, but there is an 8 page version as well; these are available on request from PHC: admin@phcgabriola.org. A pamphlet version was passed out to those present; it is also available from PHC on request.
- Currently in stakeholder engagement phase; full plan is also available on request
- Core values and goals were reviewed and programs briefly summarized.
- Questions and discussion included definition of primary care, plans to address the recommendations of the Trust and Reconciliation Commission, relationship with Islands Trust, congratulations on the food security initiative.
- Re: relationship with the Commons; PHC has "a desire to improve and strengthen our relationship with the Commons", "and potential collaboration with the South Gardens".

5. Proposal to Hold a “Gabriola Commons Review” Gathering (Mary for K.Louise & Deb) (see Attachment B, previously circulated)

- A five-year review is overdue

- Just want to raise the idea at Council for reaction and feedback. We need to talk about how the Commons is functioning.
- Could be professionally facilitated, associated with a meal before or after, presentation of pertinent data, such as an historical summary.
- Discussion ensued: for those active on Commons only, how to identify those who should be involved, timing, equivalency to strategic planning, preparation needed, expected outcomes, emphasis that it is not for conflict resolution.
- **Action:** Further discussions to be held; core trio welcomes others.

6. Team Reports

a) **Labyrinth** (Gloria read Heather Menzies' written report).

Three things to report:

1. The labyrinth got a good workout on Sept. 21 when at least 25 people participated in a (solar) torchlight walk through the labyrinth as part of the inaugural Summer's End Event (SEE) organized by Bob Martin at the Commons.
2. Bob has painted the torches white and donated them to the Commons with the idea that any group interested in doing a torch-lit walk can use them (at a suggested donation of \$2 apiece); they are stored in the upstairs storage room.
3. We are collecting large stones in anticipation of when the fall rains start to loosen the soil, so we can devote a Saturday work bee to maintenance of the labyrinth generally and specifically replacing some of the falling-apart and loose smaller stones with these larger ones. This might be a workbee that could be advertised (serving notice of) in the Sounder the preceding Wednesday.

b) **Events** (Patti)

The 2022 Fall Fair enjoyed excellent weather and strong attendance. There were several new members on the organizing committee in addition to several returning volunteers.

Lara Yeo was a new member who managed the kitchen service. All of the hot food and most of the snacks sold out. The kitchen netted approximately \$1400.

The music and the Agi Exhibition were both well executed and enjoyed by the crowd.

We had 12 organization and vendor tents. We charged a nominal fee this year and made around \$200.

There will be some changes to the organizing Committee for next year. The team will be co-chaired by Maxim Cosette and Patti Mertz, with support from Mitch as needed. Most of the other volunteers have said they will return next year.

The date for next year's event will be Sunday, September 19, 2023. We are beginning to organize logistics now; we discovered too late that the Lions tables which we always use we're already committed to another function and they recommended we book one year in advance from now on. On the other hand, we were able to use tables from the Agi Co-op, and it all worked out well.

Mitch is still reconciling our accounts with a few bills left to pay. Thanks again to Commons volunteers for their help and support.

- Mitch added that the Fall Fair crew is seeking permanent, designated storage for some items to get them out of volunteers' homes, etc. After much discussion, it was suggested that they simply store what they need to at the Commons, well labeled, and let the Commons community know where it is.
- Reminder that the 3rd Sunday in Sept is always the Terry Fox Run.

c) **Board of Trustees** (Dave L)

- Insurance in hand. AGM on or about Nov. 20. Recruiting Trustees.
- Have been discussing the need for a Commons Code of Conduct, but is this a Trustee matter? Maybe as a policy item? K.Louise noted that she wrote one about 10 years ago. **Action:** she will find and send it on.

d) **Bookings** (Deb)

- There is definitely more use of the Commons. Lots of use of outdoor spaces (Lino books) and Farmhouse is at capacity (Janice books). Brought in \$1200 in 4 months. Costs are going up for outdoor spaces; \$2000 is required "to keep the lights on".
- **Questions for teams from Bookings:**
 1. Need guidance re Timberframe use. Farm Team would prefer upstairs be designated to them and not rented to others.
 2. Goat Barn is not being rented right despite significant interest
 3. Lack of washroom facilities for any events held outside of the house; Community Kitchen one not really suitable.

e) **Communications** (Jinny)

1. Sounder weekly short inserts were to start Sept 15, but with the newspaper being occupied all through in October election campaigns, Studio Tour, and the results of both, Sarah at the Sounder and Nancy HP (who is coordinating this project), decided to hold off starting them till the Nov 2. issue. Please submit to communications@gabriolacommons.ca or directly to Nancy at nhpeirce@gmail.com
2. Jinny updated the Team Reps list and circulated it at the meeting. Any corrections to me at the address above.
3. Thinking about having some Commons "bling" made up – any suggestions?
4. Reminder of feedback on the logo; only one team has submitted comments. We noted it was not used in promotion of the Fall Fair.
5. Next meeting will be next week: TBA.

f) **Covenant** (K. Louise)

- Had a budgeting session with Maya.; our team recommends this process.
- Recently received communication from The Land Conservancy about becoming our Covenant holder; they are proposing covenanting specific designated areas for environmental protection. Team will meet soon to discuss.

g) **South Gardens** (Brenda Joy)

1. Spending limits for SCG CoCo – at our Aug AGM, the SCG CoCo has imposed on themselves a spending limit of \$500, above which approval by the SCG membership is required. This was approved by the SCG membership at the Aug AGM and is intended to enhance transparency and fiscal stewardship.
2. SCG parking/connector pathway - with our extraordinary and wonderful September, Gabriola is still on fire hazard restrictions for operating heavy equipment. As a result, the SCG connector pathway project is delayed. Bob Rooks has projected an October, start but this depends on the rain and weather conditions. I Brenda has queried Doug Scott regarding receiving a detail proposal and budget from Bob Rooks.
3. Commons Fall Fair – several SCG volunteers helped out at the Commons for this event. We raised a disappointing \$35 this year for the Commons through poppy seed sales at the Fall Fair, which was a great event. However, the SCG did manage to pick up 10 new prospective gardeners at the event.
4. SCG Fall work bees – One took place on Saturday, Oct 1 and two more scheduled for Saturday, Oct 8 and Sunday Oct 9. Among other maintenance tasks, we're working to clear and sub-divide a couple of plots, to provide a few smaller lots, in the hope that gardeners unable to cope with 400 sq ft can find success in a smaller plot.
5. SCG website – Brenda is back from her month-long trip and will be connecting with the Commons Communication Team to relaunch this project.

ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS:

1. Commons Logo - SCG membership was solicited for feedback on the current logo back in March 2022. Some feedback was received, and this was forwarded on March 3, 2022 by email to Jinny Hayes.
2. Safety concerns related to campers using the Commons – the SCG will solicit any concerns from the gardeners.

Question: Plots are fully subscribed at present.

h) Finance: (Mary)

- **Fundraising document:** The document developed by the finance team is intended as internal guidance for Trustees and others involved in fundraising. As such, we would prefer that it not be put on the website.
- **Financial planning:** Currently we have a fairly robust budget planning process for teams. We would like to expand this process to be more integrated across teams/ across the Commons. We are envisioning a process where in the late autumn (after summer), teams would have a preliminary discussion of their goals and intentions for the next year. This would be followed by a meeting in January of team representatives to think about the priorities of the Commons as a whole, to ensure coherence across the Commons. Teams would then proceed with the budgeting process. These discussions are very preliminary.
- **Goat Barn:** Don Buskirk would like to see a fund designated for the future renovation of the Goat Barn. Finance has agreed to add a column to our team/project spreadsheet, and set up a restricted fund for this. (Note that restricted funds are a designation of money in the operating funds; it doesn't involve setting up a separate bank account or anything like that.) Don intends to donate \$2000 to the fund as a starting point, and intends to donate some of the funds raised by his movie series at the Community hall.

i) Property Stewardship (Bob Andrew)

- Several examples given of the daily chores and problem scenarios to show that it takes more than short workbees (as important as they are) to keep the Commons running mechanically, eg, septic tank, propane leak, reservoir alarm.. Were it not for Patrick and Judith Roux's continuous input the place would likely be in tatters.
- Demonstrates need for a regular maintenance schedule.
- A question was raised by Patrick as to when the next PST meeting was to take place and whether or not he would be invited. There is no date set for the next meeting and an exchange between Patrick and Bob ensued. This brought about a discussion of conflict within the Commons. In the end the representative from the Process Team (David Lightly) said he would take the concerns back to the Process Team and bring forward to Council possible ways to deal with differences / conflicts on the Commons for discussion.

j) **The Process Team** (David)

- See above under PST.
- In passing, David noted that the Process Team needs rethinking. **Action:** he will take to Process Team.

7. Meeting extended by 10 minutes.

8. **Additional Items Arising:** Nil

8) **Closing**

Thanks to all by all. Special thanks to Gloria for facilitating.

ATTACHMENT

PHC Strategic Plan Summary 2022-2027

GABRIOLA COMMONS REVIEW

It's time for the Commons community to gather and reflect on where we've come from, where we are as a Commons and where we are going. Let's meet and make plans for stewarding the Commons into the future.

We propose:

- that people who have been involved in the Commons gather for reflection and conversation
- a series of three sessions each three--four hours followed by a potluck meal
- each session lead by a skilled facilitator not involved in the Commons who will create a respectful space with clear agreements and a focused agenda.

What this review is not for:

- Strategic planning
- A list of projects to be undertaken

- Conflict resolution

Questions to explore:

1. Why is the Gabriola Commons important to you? (session one)
2. What contributes to a healthy Commons? What challenges the Common's sustainability and growth? (session two)
3. Given this, what are next steps? (session three)

Reflecting in this way will help us remember and develop our shared values – which is critical to how we steward the Commons today and into the future.

Resources:

- A few people to pull this together and bring back to Council with suggested dates and times and space.
- Search for a skilled facilitator
- Budget for the facilitator and any other refreshments, supplies.