

Commons Coordinating Council

Notes: Aug 2, 2023 Meeting

Present:

Gloria Filax

Heather Menzies (facilitating)

David Lightly (note taking)

Bob Andrew

Brenda Joy

Kim Kasasian

Jinny Hays

Deb Ferens

Max Cossette,

His partner Shirley

Their baby Robin

Land Acknowledgement: by Heather

Agenda No agenda was prepared ahead of time. Consensus was that we could wing it.

20-Minute Discussion: Governance Group project discussion.

Deb presented some background of the Project. It was initiated after the two review sessions held earlier this year. Deb reminded us of the discussion paper presented at previous council meetings and the four recommendations therein.

Action: This document be emailed to the teams for discussion and comment. Asap. This to be done in a format allowing changes ie not pdf.

The idea of a Council team was discussed.

Bob proposed this team be the keeper of the field guide.

Jinny asked how the group felt about the idea of a Council team. Seems to require further discussion.

Heather wonders how this will be done with the lack of bodies on the commons. Jinny feels people will rise to the occasion if asked.

Gloria likes the idea of a team acting as 'keeper of the council'

Team Reports:

Events team report by Max Cossette on the Fall Fair Sept 17th Noon to 6PM

The events team hopes to maintain the momentum from last years success.

The following at in place with others planned. Further info and discussion at Sept Council meeting.

- 1) DJ and sound system
- 2) Tables booked
- 3) Adam doing decorations
- 4) Dog show
- 5) Squash race
- 6) 50/50

Feedback was requested on the idea of a bar. Pages resort would sponsor. Approved by consensus provided all legal requirement met. Brenda asked if rides will be scheduled. TBD

Possibility of an extension for music/dancing was discussed.

Jinny. The fall fair is traditionally a family event. Keep this focus. Must be quiet by 10PM. This is an opportunity to Promote the idea of the Commons. Put the Commons logo on all Fall Fair material.

WiFi is used by vendors to facilitate payment. Dab. This has been an issue in the past. Not resolved. Heather will put a notice on the website.

Deb flagged the issue of smoking. We need a clear strategy.

Brenda asked about volunteering. Max will provide a list of what is needed.

Process Team

-General consensus in favour of having this agreement in place, and for the direction the team has developed. This document seen as a good start.

-one suggested addition to Part I: Add 'inclusive' to the adjective list 'respectful, caring...'

- re. the Trustees "holding" the agreement(s), Brenda Joy pointed out that the BC Societies Act makes it clear that an organization's board is responsible for disrespectful/offensive behaviour.

- in response to a question, it was clarified that as this goes out to teams for comment, they're encouraged to contribute suggestions for the Process Team to consider as it fleshes out the "process for applying accountability".

- re. developing a process for taking action where the agreement has been broken, Dave differentiated between a "low context" organizational environment where rules are applied strictly to all individuals involved and a "high context" environment in which there's longer-term involvement and more "nuance" is required. The Commons, he said, fell into the latter category.

- Kim made two comments: 1, that Patrick has not apologised for his behaviour; and, 2) she doesn't feel that any one person has the right to decide who merits being included in the Commons or not.

Communication Team

Heather reported that she has taken over this function. She has written two Sounder articles.

She is working with the website person. She asks that we reflect on the format and length of the Council notes. If they get too long, people lose interest.

Discussion ensued about re-invigorating the goat barn project, and creating a team.

Bob reiterated that this is not a PST project. The question of a structural engineer's assessment came up, to examine the foundation, with Gloria noting that there is \$2000 allocated to this.

Action: to pursue a meeting with some people who have expressed interest in having the goat barn available for use, with a view to their helping to create a team.

South Gardens

Brenda. Hopes to get the South Garden website linked to the Commons website.

The South Garden hosted the Gabriola Garden Club.

There is a gathering Aug 3rd at the South Garden.

The South Garden is growing tomatoes from Watercliff farm.

The South

Garden AGM is next week.

Doug Scott is stepping down as chair and secretary.

Brenda is taking a one year leave of absence.

There are several potential conflicts in the south garden which might need the help of the Process team. The Process team is ready aye ready.

Property Stewardship Team

Kim and Bob.

Don Smardon has prepared an Emergency Response Plan required by VIHA. This was a large and complex task. Kudos to Don.

The Commons needs back-up plan for power and water. PST is working on this and will present in the fall. This will cost several thousand dollars.

The commons had five tents which were lent out and came back damaged. Down to one.

PST is monitoring the pond level and will respond as needed. Watering is currently ongoing.

PST need a better definition of who does what on the Commons. This is a governance issue.

GaLLT will trim the vegetation along the boardwalk. They have proposed taking out a trail licence for the Boardwalk and the u-shaped trail.

Heather reported that she and Judith are part of the Greenspaces Team and will invite the GaLLT people to the Commons where, together with at least one person from Trustees and from Sharing the Commons team, they can explore this possibility and initiate negotiations for a trail license.

Community Kitchen

The Community Kitchen stewards are down to Patrick. There is a need to re-build this team.

Mary Wilson had done bookings and is willing to train a replacement. On-going users are OK for the present.

We should consider taking no new booking for the present.

Trustees

Presented by Deb.

1. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) have all been updated for 2023 except one. Gloria will take on the MOUs from Deborah.

2. Finance – The 2023 fiscal year end is almost ready to deliver to the Accountant.

3. Encampments and Garbage Disposal. The Trustees arranged for Gabriola Disposal to pick up one very large messy abandoned campsite in mid June. Discussion about regular walkabouts on the trails to monitor and report. Sat workbee seems the best time for a regular check-in on the trails and in the forest. Others, including Trustees, could do a mid-week check-in.

4. Covenant:

- The Covenant was the subject of an Islands Trust staff report and deliberation by the Local Trust Committee concerning their becoming signatories on the Covenant. They passed two resolutions that indicated their interest with direction to staff to ask for a legal review of the draft covenant as prepared by the Covenant Team.

- The Covenant Team is hoping to participate in a nation wide BioBlitz (hosted by The Nature Conservancy of Canada) taking place across Canada over the August long weekend.

Closing:

The meeting wrapped at 9:10PM with Jinny opining that not closing at 9PM sharp is bad and causes people to shun the meetings. Heather noted that this meeting did not start until 7:10PM as attendees realized there weren't people lined up as facilitator and note taker, and addressed this.

Next Meeting: September 5 (After Labour Day)
Facilitator: Heather Menzies

Sept 5th 7:00 PM at the Commons.