Commons Co-ordinating Council (CCC)

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Notes of Meeting of March 7th, 2023

Present:
David Lightly – Facilitating
Robbie Huston – note taking
Heather Menzies
Bob Martin
Patrick Roux
Bob Andrew
Jinny Hayes
Dinah D
Doug Scott
Nancy Heatherington-Peirce
Patrick Colvin
Andreas Kahre

Corrections from previous minutes:

- The date of the AGM was February 12th, not March 12th.
- Heather Menzies requested that we not create a Project Team for the Goat Barn Project until more of the people involved could be present.

Land Acknowledgement
David Lightly

Nancy H-P presented on behalf of the Communications Team. She explained the mandate of the team and announced that March would be her last month as a team member. Jinny Hayes has already officially retired from the team but has continued doing some things behind the scenes. Mary Wilson was doing the Facebook page but is on leave from the team and Steph Marrie has been doing the Communiqué. The Commons will be faced with serious problems if the team ceases to function. Its mandate includes:

- Maintain email list of teams/reps
- Organize roster of facilitators/note takers for council
- Distribute notes of council to teams via reps
- Manage the Commons website
- Respond to the “info@” email messages
- Co-ordinate weekly Sounder ads
- Attend council meetings

Comments:

- The clarity of purpose meeting coming up will perhaps be a chance to recruit new members.

- This has happened before. The Learning Opportunities Team folded and reformed with different people. The Kitchen Stewards Team just faded away until a public appeal was launched.
- We agreed with hiring Colleen McCullogh to maintain the website.
- We should regroup/reboot. Make fewer Teams. We are all concerned but not enough people for the number of teams.
- Many thanks to Jinny and Nancy for all they've done.
- It should be discussed at any upcoming team meetings

20-minute discussion
The Goat Barn Project
Comments:

- A lot of design work has been done in the past. The current project is an attempt to revive that work and build on it. There is a general consensus in favour of a flexible space that can be used for performing arts and other uses.
- This is not a Property Stewardship Team project, but many of the same people are involved. In order to determine whether the structure is still suitable, drawings of the building have been sent to an engineer to give a quote for a structural assessment.
- The project has a $2000 donation that could be used for this purpose.
- There is a concern that this is premature; that the whole project, including this assessment, should be directed by the Project Team that would have to be formed before any work could be done.
- In the past, there has been some communication with the Islands Trust regarding the regulations around Public Assembly Spaces. These regulations must be clarified as a priority before proceeding further.
- After much discussion, it was agreed to create a Project Team to make these decisions and to direct this project. Heather Menzies has agreed to collect the names of anyone who wants to be a part of this team and put them in touch with each other. At the meeting, the following people put their names forward:
    - David Lightly
    - Patrick Roux
    - Andreas Kahre
    - Dinah D
    - Patrick Colvin
- And the following names were mentioned as people who have been involved with the planning but were not at the meeting:
    - Lino Vella Gregory
    - Neil Ruttan
- It was pointed out that Gabriola no longer has the Roxy, which seated about 50 people, and the Phoenix auditorium, which seats about 180, has an uncertain future. The Goat Barn, at about 150 people, would fill a real need.

- A space like this needs to be managed. If it were allowed to be run by another organization such as the Arts Council, would it still be the Commons? What would our management plan be. The building alone is not enough. How will we run it?

Team Reports

TAGS

- The proposal to clear out some of the fallen trees would need someone with professional falling skills to lead. We have permission to take down one large fir that is leaning over our property but not on it. It is large enough to be worth milling. Others could be taken down and cut up and left for the forest. This could be a community work bee.
- More encampments have been found. They must be removed but they reflect the housing shortage. As in the past, the Saturday work bee folks have made the decisions to resolve these issues. Notes have been put up that these sites will be removed in April.

Farm Team

- We have reinstated reimbursement for Saturday work bee soup makers. Hopefully this will entice more people to do it.

LOT

- Next meeting will be on Monday. We are still in the planning stages, not ready to launch yet.

Covenant Team

- No further progress. Still looking for a covenant holder since the Land Conservancy declined.

South Gardens

- No report. Could probably provide some people for a tree-clearing work bee.

PST

- Storage Policy: As presented at the last meeting with an addendum noting referral to the Trustees and Bookings after application to PST.
- Porta Potties: Prices up. About to sign contract for May-Oct. As per discussion later, the idea of having a porta potty on site will be put aside as Patrick R. has stated he will build one attached to the Goat Barn (Birthing room)
- House roof leak. Still there.
- S Wall workshop. There will be workbees to get this project done: March 18 and March 25. The wall will be plywooded for now, finish to come later.
- Hedge: No trimming this year. Will fertilise (organic fertiliser) and mulch.

- Ground leveling: Exploring idea and costs to leveling the grounds in front of the reservoir/timberframe/kitchen area. Cost would be $2,000. Would be good to have it done for next summer (2024).
- Campers on site. More campers. The workbee people are taking care of this issue.
- Question for Trustees: Re snow/ ice removal in front of the area used by PHC for food sort: Who is responsible to making sure the area is safe? Note: PHC does not rent this space, it is, ostensibly, open to all.
- Question for Council (20 min?) What does "green" mean on the Commons? eg. is replacing combustion engines with battery driven devices "green"?

Kitchen Stewards

- We have a drywall repair to do in the laundry room that involves some minor plumbing repositioning.
- We need to replace some panes of glass.
- The septic tank needs to be pumped.

North Garden

- Tool shed needs to be demolished because the roof is collapsing and mold is growing. The tools can be relocated to the shed under the solar panels and two more garden plots could be made.

Newcomers Team

- Patrick Colvin proposes to form a new team called the Newcomers Team. Its purpose would be to recruit new people and teach them about the Commons. Patrick agreed to lead the new team.

Other Business

- Earth Day update from Bob Martin
    - It will be April 22 at the Commons and the Community Hall.
    - One idea is to bake Earth Day Cakes.
    - There could be volunteers to help with clean up, but there are no volunteers yet.
    - There is a community group that is planning a parade and concert for the school kids on April 21st.
    - The next advertising will not reference the Commons.
    - Purpose is to encourage people to come out and enjoy the Commons
    - Concerns were voiced that this project does not have support from a group. Bob is doing this as a personal project, not a Commons event.
- Toilet Project
    - Patrick and Robbie would like to create a project team to create a public toilet in the “birthing shed” section of the goat barn. This would make it unnecessary to rent a port-a-pottie. They think this could be done in April for about $2000. They

are working on an actual budget for the project now. Bob Andrew supports the idea if it can be done soon, but he has no manpower to offer from the Property Stewardship Team.

- Patrick and Robbie are on the team and would welcome any other participants. Please contact Robbie at Robbie.gabriola@gmail.com

The next facilitator should be from the Trustee Team