Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

www.gabriolacommons.ca

Notes of Meeting of October 3, 2023

Present – Dave L, Kim, Don, Bob, Heide, Arlene, Heather, Brenda, Betty, Shirley, Robin, Max, Dinah D, Deb, Gloria (note taker), Jinny (facilitator)

1. Welcome & Acceptance of Agenda

2. Land Acknowledgement – Jinny gave thanks to Snuneymuxw First Nations and ancestors for their stewardship of the land.

3. Twenty Minute Discussion – Led by Jinny. Jinny presented a possible new format for Council meetings**.** This will be a trial meeting of possible interruptions that illustrate what Council and its agenda might look like starting next meeting, when an approach to reporting and discussion will use the 3 purposes of protection: agricultural, environmental and cultural/social practices.
In other news from the Peer Governance Ad Hoc Group: the group is progressing with its work on the simplified statement, and are incorporating feedback from teams and individuals. At next Council, the "Council Team" idea will be presented in more detail. Next meeting is Tuesday at 3 pm at Deb's house.

4. Team Reports

4.1 Events - Fall Fair (submitted) – Maxim

We're still working with the Finance Team to finalize the numbers, so I'll give a more precise update next month.
The Fall Fair was a major success.
A headcount near the peak 580 people. Estimating 1500 people came throughout the day.
We received lots of positive feedback from the community. And emails, word-of-mouth and in the *Sounder*.
The dog show was a new addition [*sic*. Ed Note: it was not a first.] and big hit.
The Community Kitchen made $800 for the Commons.
New location for the squash race worked well.
We expanded the number of both community groups and vendors. All were very happy.
The bar broke even.
50/50 raised over $300.
All the musicians and stage crew were happy.
The only major issue was with parking. People were parking on the community sidewalks [despite the 'No Parking' signs].
We have a long list of slight adjustments we want to make for future years. And we are excited to put on the Fall Fair again, and will put on the Spring Fair in May 2024.
Felt very supported by Commons folks as well as all those who participated.
Some of the volunteers for the produce judging did not show up.
Stef Marrie did an email blast.

Discussion

Attracted new volunteers for PST and Community Kitchen.
Is it possible to have a site map for the next fair?

Juicing/Betty made $520.00.
Approx $3,900.00 in and spent $3,700.00. Net of $250.00 but still finalizing financial report.
Parking on sidewalk a big issue. Need for overflow parking and encourage rideshare, walking, biking, maybe a dedicated GERTIE.
Suggest a dog parade and start fair with this activity.
Suggest possibility of a 'carnival' busker.
Suggest a parade of squash entries to the slide as way to direct audience to event.
Garbage an issue. Kim spent 2 hours cleaning the recycle. Need separate bins and someone to monitor.
Island Trust had a table and received good feedback on the OCP.
Suggestion to connect/partner with Agi Co-Op to host plants, seeds, chicks, information.
Other Events Team possibilities aside from the Spring Fair include Garage Sale, Xmas Craft Fair. Jinny noted that the Fall Fair featured all three of the Common's foci: agricultural, environment, and community /cultural.

4.2 Barn Team Report (Submitted) – Dinah D
Team: Shirley, Max, baby Robin, Heather, Gloria, Bob, Andreas, Adam, and David R.
Mandate draft was read out to positive response. When finalized, it will be sent to Heather to post to the website and circulated at next Council meeting in November.
Plan is a phased opening to include cleanup and assessment for various kinds of activities. Phase 1 would be opening the barn at the Spring Fair.
Safety of the space is important.
Bookings and rats are currently a problem for newly struck team.
Discussion:
Questions were asked about:
Capacity - team to check with fire department, how many people allowed in barn.
Team encouraged a structural engineer report be moved to Phase 1 rather than Phase 2 to ensure safety of the structure (especially if shows are to happen in the Barn starting this Spring).
Desire for booking calendar that includes all bookings (outdoors/Community Kitchen/big room, farmhouse/barn).
Community Hall has such a calendar - A quick email with the Hall bookings person would inform us if their calendar works for them. See https://gabriolacommunityhall.com/event-calendar/
Compliments about showing up with an action plan and mandate.
Request that the Barn Team meet with different teams at the Commons as part of the Phase 1 winter short term plan. To include Property Steward Team (align with impact on site and possible PST involvement) and the Finance Team (discuss fundraising strategy and alignment with not-for-profit societies).

4.3 Sharing the Commons Team – Heather
Trail licences with GaLTT in the works; have agreed to two.
Developing a working group to create plan for biodiversity.

4.4 Communications – Heather
Making modifications to the website. Includes highlighting where teams are centered around themes such ecological values/needs of the land; agricultural/farming/gardening activities and values; and public/community spaces.

4.5 Trustee Team – Deb and Gloria
New defibrillator arrived. Need training to use the defibrillator, though these units use audio to walk a user through the steps. PST to be asked to mount unit in Farmhouse upstairs. Do we need naloxone kits? Would need training as well.
Deb provided an overview of Commons finances including that the Commons has modest income and expenses. Teams are prudent with spending assigned funds. Finance reports for April 1 – August 31, 2023 circulated to Council attendees and available from Finance Team on request: finance@gabriolacommons.ca.
AGM will be Sunday, Nov.19 at 2 pm at the Commons FarmHouse.
Names for new Trustees welcome; e.mail trustees@gabriolacommons.ca

4.6 Kitchen Team – Gloria
Community Kitchen Stewards/Team has collapsed.
Request to close kitchen in October to all but ongoing, regular users.
Need to assess whether to repair or replace existing equipment. Gas grill not working; convection and other ovens need temperature calibration, one refrigerator not working properly.
Ad hoc kitchen crisis group to meet.
Heide volunteered to participate. Other suggestions: Louise Amuir, Jeff ?, Andrew Hawson, Deb for the Bookings team, users group.

4.7 Process Team – Dave L.
Process team at an impasse on how to move forward on an ongoing conflict, as one party fails to participate in remedial activities. Special meeting for this to be arranged with Bob, Brenda J, Heide, Jinny and Dave.

4.8 Property Stewardship Team (submitted) – Don S.
1. Generator: The Commons generator is now operational. We've replaced the battery, drained and replaced the fuel and have 25 L additional fuel stored.
2. Potable Water: We are in the process of complying with the Province's Emergency Response and Contingency Plan which requires us to provide drinking water should disaster strike. We have submitted our plan to Island Health and they have approved it. We will start construction soon.
3. Solar: The Commons solar arrays have not been reporting since November 2022, although they continue to produce electrical power. We suspect there was a fault in the Wifi connection. David Chorneyko has been working with us and so far we have been able to establish communication with both arrays. However, it may take another week before reports are generated. David has agreed to design a manual so we can all understand how to care for the solar infrastructure on the Commons.
4. Public Toilet: The outdoor toilet is no longer getting cleaned. It needs to be cleaned (almost) every day. PST plans to seal the floor so it can be mopped properly.
Who will do cleaning? **BF:** Next Council meeting
5. Electrical Power on the Commons: All the buildings except the Goat Barn are maxed out for power consumption and if we want to grow in use of electrical at all, it will require major upgrading.

4.9 Bookings Team – Deb
Noise a problem with some events. Farm to Table music was very loud and complaints made. Need

to provide information to renters to finish on time and monitor noise decibel level.

4.10 Grant Writing – Jinny reported for Judith and George
Team has applied for 2 grants for an elevator for the Farmhouse.

5. Closing: 9:00 pm