Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

www.gabriola commons.ca

Notes of Meeting of 5 December 2023

Facilitator: Deborah Ferens (for Covenant Team)

Recorder: Brent O'Malley (Kitchen Stewards)

Present: Jinny Hayes, Linda King, Brenda Joy, Gloria Filax, Arthur Earl, Alison Fitzgerald, Heather Menzies, Bob Andrew

NOTE: Next CCC meeting: **January 9, 2024 at 7pm** (January 2 is a stat holiday)

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome and Introductions

1. Acknowledgement:
Heather read a passage from a book by Grey Owl, citing a letter he had written in February, 1918.

2. Meeting Format:
Three value areas: ecological, agricultural & community: Deb noted that all teams fall into one or all of these value areas.

3. Peer Governance Group is working on a Field Guide update, reviewing the foundational documents that we use pertaining to the Commons mission, its history, and communal focus.

4. Team Reports

Kitchen Stewards: Brent

- The team is still getting organized but two members met earlier today with Gloria to learn about the booking procedures
- Discussions are ongoing about a major capital campaign to raise funds for needed infrastructure, including new stoves and upgraded electrical.

Date and Time of next Meeting: Thursday Dec 14 at 10am

Conflict Management Task Group: Brenda

Report covers the period of: 1 Nov 23 to 5 Dec 23

The Conflict Management Task Group is an off shoot of The Process Team with the mandate of developing policy documents pertaining to conflict management within the Commons.

Highlights:

- Task Group members at this time are: Brenda Joy, Dave Lightly, Bob Andrew, Heather Menzies, Jen Turner.
- Task Group representative: Brenda Joy
- A solicitation notice will go out to other teams to ask for any other volunteers with an interest and ideally knowledge on the subject of conflict management and inter-personal relations.

- The first scheduled meeting is to decide on meeting logistics, availabilities, timelines, and discussion of the Task Group's mandate. The drafted mandate (when ready) will be presented to the Commons Process Team for discussion and then to the Commons Coordinating Council for consensus and furtherance to the Commons Teams for feedback.

Other news if applicable: N/A

Date, time and place of next meeting: 8 December, 2023 @ 1:30pm by Zoom

Trustee Team Report: Gloria:

Report covers the period of: Nov 9 – Nov 29, 2023

Highlights: AGM, November 19, 2023

- 17 members in attendance
- 3 new members in attendance
- New Trustee team is Gloria, George, Heide, Bob, Dave L, Dave R, Linda King.
- Big Thank YOU to the outgoing Trustees Deb, Mary, Laura Jean and Cameron
- Special thanks to the Finance Team for their ongoing and outstanding work

Other news:

- A meeting of Commons community neighbours about encampments was held on November 23rd. The first meeting hosted by Cameron and Laura Jean. Two rounds with the first for general comments and the second round for follow up suggestions and possible remedies.
- Minutes from that meeting will be forthcoming.

Date, time and place of next meeting: early January 2024. TBD.

Property Stewardship Team: Bob

- Tent Rentals: PST recommends that there be no tent rentals off the Commons property. It would perhaps be possible in the future if there is an established way to do this, create a storage space, perform inspection pre and post rental and figure charges for damage, etc.
- Cistern (back up potable water system). Enroute. Hopefully soon but not looking promising for before Christmas.
- Security locks: still changing out locks. Windows and doors need to be religiously checked as they are often found open.
- Goat Barn furniture: We are starting to clear out clutter and so are getting rid of (giving away) any furniture simply stored (ie. the GAC armchairs in particular).
- There have been some new folks appearing at the Sat. workbees.Two are doing soups. yay.

Bob was approached by the Song Keepers singing group to install a bench with plaque on the Commons property. This was held as a separate discussion after the team reports (see below).

No date or time set for the next PST meeting.

Farm/Agriculture: Heather

- Chips are down with leaves on top and the beds are at rest

- Beans are drying in the Timberframe
- Dave Arnell harvested, roasted, and packaged tomatoes and are now in the freezer

Trails and Green Spaces: Heather

- The trails are in good shape

Heather mentioned there should be forum for volunteer appreciation. This will be held as a separate discussion after the team reports

Linda: South Commons Garden

- Nothing to report
- Probably won't have another meeting until February

Peer Governance Group: Jinny

Covers Nov 7 (last Council) to Dec 4

- Met x 1
- Worked on Council Stewardship Team mandate and logistics; mandate now up on website
    - Deb will be point person for this team
    - Any questions or comments about Council can now be sent to council@gabriolacommons.ca
- Designed a template for Team Reports; written preferred; may be brought to Council or sent in to Note Taker for inclusion in Notes if no-one from team attends Council meeting
- Worked on Peer Governance document, with emphasis on general accessibility; have one final section to complete (Structures for Peer Governance)

Next meeting: Dec 11 @ 2.30 Planning Room of Farmhouse

Covenant Team: Jinny

Covers the period since our previous meeting, April 26, 2023

Highlights:

- Met Nov. 22 at a potluck dinner at K.Louise Vincent's home.
- We have been in a planned hiatus without active work to do while we wait the Islands Trust decision about whether they will become a covenant holder for the Covenant.
- Having (a) Covenant Holder(s) is the only requirement outstanding prior to application to attaching the Covenant on Title.

Date, time and place of next meeting: TBA

5. In depth discussion of bench donation request by the Song Keepers

- Allison Fitzgerald on behalf of the Song Keepers was present at the meeting.
- Is there a policy regarding putting furniture on the Commons property?
- The answer is No. Until now, this issue has been treated in an ad hoc manner
- This request is bigger than allowing a bench on the property

- This is an opportunity to create guidelines that are in line with the Commons principles. If everyone wanted to give something to the Commons we'd be overwhelmed
- It was agreed by some that criteria for accepting gifts would be beneficial though others felt these sorts of requests could be vetted at the monthly council meeting
- Once a gift is accepted, whose responsibility is it to provide any needed maintenance?
- It was proposed that having a policy on the website would allow us to point to that as the method by which gifts are vetted. Brenda volunteered to draft a proposal for the website and bring it to a future council meeting for consideration.
- Allison volunteered to write a draft and send to Gloria formally outlining the donation of the bench
- It was suggested that this discussion be sent to the Sharing the Commons Team for consideration of next steps

6. In depth discussion of the Commons kitchen infrastructure upgrades

- To properly fundraise, the team will need to draft a compelling narrative telling the story of the kitchen and the important role it plays in the community
- The team needs to come up with hard numbers on costs for new or used equipment
- A fundraising effort could be divided into phases to make it less onerous and more achievable
- The team needs to develop a plan for removal and disposal of the old equipment
- We are still waiting on a quote from the electrician who has done a needs analysis
- Getting endorsement statements from key users of the kitchen would be helpful, including Farm to Table, the school and PHC.
- The community could possibly be engaged by having individuals bid on a particular component of the campaign.
- Once the Kitchen Stewards have a clear recommendation, it needs to go in-house to the Trustee Team and Finance Team.

On a separate note, the Kitchen Stewards need to coordinate soon with the people involved in the Christmas Spirit Feast so that the kitchen is ready for them.

Final comments

- The discussion on volunteer appreciation will be held on a later date
- Because the next scheduled Council meeting falls on a statutory holiday (January 2) it was agreed to push the meeting to January 9. Word will be circulated on the website of the date change