Commons Coordinating Council (CCC)

Notes of Meeting of Dec 3, 2024

Send written reports to: council@gabriolacommons.ca

Facilitator: Jinny Hayes

Recorder: Deb Ferens

Timer: Bob Andrew

Present: Greg Blee, Heather Menzies, Brent O'Malley, Dave Lightly, Gloria Filax, Brenda Joy, Kristin Allan, Kim Kasasian, Betty Kehler, Carol Keane, Murray Bush

1. Welcome & introductions

Brenda Fowler took a few moments just as the meeting started to announce that she was no longer with PHC. She thanked the Commons for many years of being part of Council and her connection to many Commons Teams and the Trustees.

2. Land acknowledgement – Brenda Joy

Brenda asked us to think about the land and what it provides – shelter, community, peaceful nature. And to reflect on what we can do as individuals and as a commons community in our connection to the land.

3. Agenda review

Still soliciting folks to help facilitate and take Notes. Please sign the list circulating as well as participating list.

4. Affiliate Reports

Tool Library

- An image of the proposed addition was handed around the Council Circle.
- Some questions & answers: addition is not connected by a door to the existing building but will share a wall.
- The concept will be sent to the Trustees for review and for revisions to future MOU.

4. Team Reports

Board of Trustees — Gloria (written report)

1. Gabriola Auxiliary (GA) has agreed to give us a minimum of $4,500.00 towards the electrical upgrade needed for community kitchen. Long-term thinking of Auxiliary president Linda F is to rent the community kitchen for Meals on Wheels. Community kitchen considered an important part of the Gabriola Commons and Community. Many thanks to PST Kim K for suggesting we contact the GA. Dave L has submitted a grant application to GA.
2. Both the property insurance and the Trustee liability insurance are in the works and Gloria waiting for documents and invoices. Property insurance the largest outlay of our funds each year. ($8050)
3. Fall Fair was great success. All invoices and revenue in. Difference between revenue and expenses yield close to $4,000.00 to split evenly between Agi Co-op and the Commons.

4. Trustees agree to accept the offer of the Poetry Yurt and have advised Poetry Gabriola (Greg B. and Andreas). Both legal and financial issues to integrate the yurt into assets of the Gabriola Commons Foundation. Transition period will take a few months.

Ed note: • The AGM was held Sun Dec 15 at 2pm.

Poetry Yurt *– Kristin*

- Team is building; Kristin can do the financials.
- Many other groups are interested.
- Discussion regarding the Draft Mandate for a Yurt Keepers Team (attached)
- Kristin will submit a slightly revised Draft Mandate (dated) to the Council Steward Team for further discussion at next Council.

Trail Walking — Bob

- Litter continues to be collected from the trails and at the "gathering spot" (which is actually on Folklife property).
- Two new campfires discovered in past week
- Signs still up (No alcohol, no drugs, no smoking)
- Call out for more walkers.

Farm Team — Heather

- Garden areas are being put to bed for the winter.
- Maureen from the North Garden is taking the lead to finish the fencing and will organize the workbee.

Namaste Garden — Betty

- The new owner has notified the Namaste plotters with a proposal to charge $1200/year for the plots.
- Several Namaste plotters (Claudia, Susan and Betty) met with Commons MOU (Gloria & Deb) on Nov 12 to discuss the owner's proposal. The Namaste MOU is up for renewal Dec 31, 2024.
- Plotters are in conversation with the owner regarding next steps.

Community Kitchen Stewards — Brent (written report)

Brent invited Island health officer Jill Lucko to the Kitchen and we met on Nov 7. Now that the water damage has been repaired, I wanted to take the initiative and meet on "friendly" terms to address anything that might pose a problem should she decide to drop in unannounced.

Jill had not been to the kitchen since 2020, according to her notes, and she was very impressed with what she saw. She mentioned that a comparable kitchen in Nanaimo rents for almost $1000 per day!

Comments included: the floor will likely need to be repainted within the next 3 to 5 years; sharing space in the farm room where PHC and Grub Huggers can store dry goods is recommended; she tested the temperature of food in the fridge and everything passed; she mentioned that the air vents in the ceiling should be on the deep cleaning list;

All in all, she was impressed and appreciated the invitation. She was very pleasant.

Other news:

A young woman was interviewed and hired to do a monthly deep clean of the kitchen. She was to start on the week of the big storm so was delayed in coming. When we finally got back to meeting at the Community Kitchen, she had changed her mind and said she didn't have time in her schedule to accommodate us. Back to the drawing board.

• We have been meeting sporadically during the summer months but do communicate via email for pressing matters. Brent continues to monitor the calendar and emails.

• Update on funding: Gabriola Auxiliary liked our proposal. $5K + $5K + $12K means we can do the electrical now; will start in January.

Q: Spirit Feast (PHC) is going ahead on Christmas day

Q: Accolades to Brent & Stewards for great work. But he needs HELP! Brent thanked PST for support and getting the generator working.

South Gardens Team — Brenda

- Registration for 2025 plots is complete; no wait list
- 2 spots on hold.

Property Stewardship Team — Kim

- Continue preparing for cold weather.
- The mini-room into the Filter Room is done; some insulation still needs work.
- More graffiti discovered. Heather remarked on the recent graffiti article in the Sounder which seemed to strike a nice tone.
- The motion lights have been upgraded and now work.
- Doors to various facilities have been left open.
- Stool outside the Tool Library has disappeared.
- The Goat Barn bathroom is closed for the winter.
- Water system for irrigation is nearly drained.
- Bob gave a "primer" on using the generator. Great reflection of community spirit.

Conflict Management Team — Brenda

- Still working on the Draft Document – "Dealing with Disagreements and Conflicts" and will bring forward to January Council meeting.

5. Peer Governance Discussion

Document: An Introduction to the Gabriola Commons - Jinny

Jinny provided background:

- Revision/updating the 2021 *Field Guide* with new title, *An Introduction to the Gabriola Commons*
- Work arose out of the ad hoc "Governance Review Group"
- Attention drawn to the 2 Posters: Peer Governance and Decision Making

Comments:

- Add conflict document or its link; Brenda recommended against full text in this Peer Governance document.
- Title is a bit stiff- not joyful; "What the Commons is all about"
- Needs some joy & love
- Add photos?
- Commons needs a theme song
- History section was favourite part
- What's the heart of the document?
- Guiding Principles – why is Gabriola Charter enshrined in the Bylaws?

Consensus: Leave 2 Posters Mounted on the wall.

6. Land Acknowledgement

- Ready for website
- Circulate to Teams
- Should Land Acknowledgement be reviewed annually?
- What actions will we take?
- Creating a Truth & Reconciliation group/team

Consensus: To put on the website as written and presented.

7. Teams Review

- A special purpose meeting on this topic was recommended at the Oct Council meeting
- Referred to Council Stewards for next steps.

8. Woods Meeting

- The Nov 21 special meeting was cancelled due to the weather bomb/power out storm
- Meeting rescheduled for Dec 12 at 1 pm
- Facilitator: Dave Lightly; Notes: Deb F
- For those who can't attend – find a way to gather input.

Meeting ended at 9:15 pm

Appendix: Yurt Keepers Team Mandate

Contact: Kristin Allan (kristinmiller@shaw.ca)

Mandate: We will maintain and promote the use of the Commons Yurt. The yurt is a hub of connection, education, culture making and collaboration with other community organizations.

Strategies:

- Maintain the integrity, security, cleanliness and functioning of the yurt structure
- Promote the availability of the yurt as an educational, wellness and entertainment venue
- Organize bookings and payments
- Build a secure storage shed near the yurt for firewood, etc.
- Create a composting toilet system that is exclusively for users of the yurt
- Upgrade interior and exterior of the yurt to ensure safety and comfort of users