

Date: November 10th, 2022 Time: 17:00-21:00 (PT) Location: The Bower Room + Zoom
 Subject: Potluck + *Looking Ahead for Okanagan Cohousing*
 Facilitator: Laura Chatham Note taker: Laura Chatham

Meeting Notes

Topic	Recorded Notes
Community Updates	<p><i>Rural Cohousing</i> – Dauna’s set up a facebook page, <i>Rural Co-housing (Shuswap)</i></p> <p><i>Kelowna Cohousing</i> – Gord found an exciting objective in Kelowna’s OCP plan to increase housing diversity for “inclusive, affordable and complete Urban Centres”, which directly mentions the opportunity for cohousing (Objective 4.12)</p>
Planning for Laura’s Departure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I’m graduating at the end of April so will be finishing my position with Okanagan Cohousing then. I plan to gradually phase myself out starting now, focusing on securing the structure of Okanagan Cohousing for it to continue on through members’ support. There may be a student who replaces me but nothing is confirmed, so the more self-sufficient you can all be for OKC and its growing communities, the better. Dr. Lovegrove will of course remain as project lead & a committed member of Kelowna ‘Pizza’ Cohousing community. • The continuation of OKC will require help from its members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1-3 people to step up as ‘point people’ for each community, ensuring that each group communicates effectively with each other and OKC (ie. with me for now). Thank you to those who’ve volunteered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Rural Cohousing</i> – Pam & Dauna ○ <i>Kelowna Cohousing</i> – Michael, though more help is needed. Please let me and Michael know if you are able. – Members collaboratively organize the monthly meetings & events – More active communication between <i>everyone</i> aside from the once/month meeting. Messenger & Slack are open for this use, or please organize some more in-person socials! – Some organizational structures will need to be formalized, especially if OKC becomes an official non-profit society (see below).

- Suggestions (detailed in topics below):
 - Okanagan Cohousing establishes itself as an official non-profit organization.
 - Plan 2023 event schedule NOW
 - Utilize Google Calendar & Drive for more effective planning
 - When I leave, whatever is set up will have to be maintained by the OKC members themselves and possible student help.

CCN Membership Conflict

- We are currently registered as a member to the Canadian Cohousing Network as *Kelowna Cohousing* community group. However, our monthly meetings, which we advertise on the CCN site, are put on by the overarching project *Okanagan Cohousing*. The CCN doesn't want us posting events for one when registered as the other. They've asked either we change our membership to Okanagan Cohousing non-profit (no fees as I understand it) to continue to advertise our events, or we keep listed as Kelowna Cohousing to keep advertisement for that community but not for the OKC events. Remaining as Kelowna Cohousing would incur fees due in January at \$20 per committed household per year. Learn more about CCN memberships [here](#).

We put this to a consensus vote (fist-to-five) where most everyone (~8/10) voted 5 for changing to Okanagan Cohousing and letting each community group organize themselves to register with the CCN and pay the fees. One member voted 4 to maintain some scepticism, and one member voted 3 for the sense of less complexity in remaining as Kelowna Cohousing. Further discussions followed but there was no time for a revote.

In conclusion, I will confirm the details of switching to OKC with the CCN and share this with our members to discuss/revote, although time is limited because our membership expires in January.

Okanagan Cohousing – Non-profit Society

- General consensus was in agreement to Okanagan Cohousing becoming an official non-profit society; no objections raised.
 - *Benefits*: more organizational structure, eligibility for grants, legitimacy in the public's view.
 - *Requirements*: detailed purpose, constitution, bylaws, Board of Directors, annual filing (which is apparently easy), and legal consultation (which will cost \$)
- Dauna has experience setting up non-profits and has offered to help. If anyone else is interested in helping in anyway, please let us know.

Google Workspaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General consensus was in agreement to creating a Google Calendar & Drive for easier communication of events, brainstorming, & sharing information; no objections raised. • Laura to set this up
Meeting topics for 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Compass Cohousing Guest Speaker (Heather in contact; February?) – Reclaim Community/ Cohousing NL Guest Speaker (January) – Finances – fees, bank accounts, – Governance structures, rent-to-own – Ithaca Ecovillage as example of 3 different cohousing communities – Architects, developer (Yonas, Alan, or other CCN members as guests) – Legal advisors, accountants • Please email me with any other ideas or suggestions & we'll work on solidifying a plan before the end of the year.
Bringing Youth into Cohousing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we encourage more youth into cohousing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gym, community gardens, sports gear storage – Affordability through rental/rent-to-own options – Multigenerational benefits (childcare & socialization) – Technology • Any studies done?
UPCOMING EVENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHRISTMAS PARTY – date & place TBD. <p>Vote for the date that works best for you (before Nov 18th), and if you have a space you're able to host this event please let me know!</p> <p>Vote here: https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/dJyWE89b (Dec 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 29th, 30th afternoon or evening)</p> <p>Stay in the Loop: SMARTer Growth Events: https://sustainablecommunities.ok.ubc.ca/news/ CCN Events: https://cohousing.ca/events/</p>

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MCM! 😊

