

Promoting Sustainability on Campus: Values, Objectives and Events at the UBC Commons

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Project Material Will Include

Greensheet that advertises the interactive planning workshop
UNA Newsletter
Final Report
Completed Feedback Sheets
UBC Commons map set
CD: Pictures
 Interactive Planning Workshop Power Point Presentation
 Campus and Community Planning Power Point Presentation
 Interactive Planning Workshop Poster
 Interactive Planning Workshop Invitation
 Phase One Proposal
 Feedback Sheet
 Outcomes of Values, Needs and Events
 Final Report
 Objectives by Alternatives Matrix
 Means for Objectives
 Directed Studies Proposal
 Contacts
 Summary of Conclusions

List of Abbreviations

AMS – Alma Maters Society
FUS – Forestry Undergraduate Society
SEEDS – Social, Ecological, Economic Development Studies
SUB – Student Union Building
UBC – University of British Columbia
UNA – University Neighbourhood Association

1.0 Introduction

This project started with the goal of building campus community around social and environmental sustainability. I carried out this project as a SEEDS course from September to December of 2007¹ during my third year in the Environmental Science Program. This project focused on collaborating with campus groups in order to better understand the values, objectives

¹ The SEEDS project proposal is shown in **Appendix J**.

and possible events for the UBC Commons in order to put forward recommendations to Campus and Community Planning. These recommendations are to focus on new innovative ideas that will add to the UBC campus. There are many events happening on campus but I feel that there is a lack of events that appeal to a diverse group of people including both the university members and the residents. There is also a need for a space committed to promoting social and environmental sustainability on campus and I think this space could be the UBC Commons. The UBC Commons is located at the southern end of Main Mall which is shown in **Appendix K**. This project is pioneering the creation of a comprehensive program and future for this important new green campus space. The UBC Commons is an important space as it is positioned on the border of academic land with neighbouring residential land. The original vision for this space was to be a space for ceremonial events². This is a very important use. However, I feel that the UBC Commons has huge potential to be a very creative, well used and well loved campus space. Before starting the process of campus consultation I did some research into social sustainability and came up with a list of objectives for the UBC Commons that was very flexible and open to changes and additions. I also created a timeline that suggested what I needed to complete every week of the term. This was very useful as it gave a long-term picture for this project.

The goal of this report is to help in the ease of making the UBC Commons a lively well used space as well as making it easier to start similar future project. Therefore, this report will be easy to read, concise yet comprehensive of everything I did during this course, why I did it and what I learnt. The literature review will be discussed first followed by campus consultation and finally recommendations and suggested next steps.

2.0 Literature Review

During August of 2007 I did some research in order to learn more about social sustainability and how to motivate people to become involved in their communities. This section will give a brief summary of that research³ and what I learnt from it. This is very important to understand in order to move towards a more sustainable future. It is also necessary for this project to have some foundations of what social sustainability is and how to get the public more involved. Most of my research focused on reading books and articles but I also contacted some experts to get their opinions and ideas for this project. This research continued into the first part of the term after which I focused on campus consultation.

2.1 Wackernagel and Rees – Our Ecological Footprint

In August I talked with David Zirnhelt, former Minister of Forests, about my ideas for a directed studies project. David, a friend of William Rees, suggested that I read “Our Ecological Footprint” by Wackernagel and Rees.

² The Phase One Proposal for the UBC Commons is shown in **Appendix L**.

³ References are provided in **Appendix I** if further information is needed.

This is a great book that considers some really important issues and gave me a good background understanding of where our society stands and what we can do to make it better. On the back of the book it states that this book is “of vital importance for community activist and planners” (Wackernagel and Rees 1996). The main idea I took from this book is that human society is one system within the larger system of the ecosphere or Earth. This idea is fairly obvious but many people do not see it. This makes it necessary for communities to become more connected with the environment so they will appreciate and respect it further. This book shows the importance and need of a switch to a more sustainable society in order for the long term survival of our species. This book concludes by saying that the change must happen now and that the ‘wait and see’ method will end in chaos. Some of the details were not relevant to this course but it gave me a sense for what I should look into next and some of the things to consider when creating a sustainable community.

After reading the book I contacted William Rees and told him about the project and asked for any input. Rees suggested that the program of event I was to recommend should include elements that are currently missing in campus social interactions. Rees suggested that I look further into the definition of social sustainability and how to achieve this in a measurable way. To learn more about social sustainability I read a paper entitled “Social Sustainability” by Trevor Hancock.

2.2 Trevor Hancock – Social Sustainability

This paper was very useful in creating a foundation of what social sustainability entails as this was less clear to me than environmental sustainability. Hancock points out that a community is so much more than physical infrastructure. It is composed of people in the physical places. Hancock feels that a healthy community must be environmentally and socially sustainable. Hancock argues that healthy communities should:

- enhance physical, mental and social well-being
- promote education, creation and the development of human potential
- strengthen our connectedness to history and environment
- promote people living together harmoniously in mutual support of each other
- promote citizen participation and involvement

Hancock believes that when planning an outdoor space it is very important to include urban food production as this creates food and space for enhanced social interaction and participation. This paper helped me develop my objectives for this project. After reading this I wanted to get an idea of how other groups were creating sustainable space.

2.3 Livable Cities

Livable Cities is an organization that collects and shares information on what people are doing across the globe to make their cities more livable. They also hold conferences and release publications. The purpose of this organization is very similar to the purpose of the UBC Commons project and allowed me to get a sense of what other groups were doing. Research

into what has worked for other groups is very important as past mistakes can be avoided. The purpose of Livable Cities is to “enhance the well-being of inhabitants of cities and towns, strengthen community, improve social and physical health, and increase civic engagement by reshaping the built environment” (Livable Cities). Their focus is on cities however I believe that the concepts can apply to any community. This web site has some great suggestions on how to engage and strengthen a community. I felt that community festivals, farmers markets and children and youth involvement were the most suitable for this space.

Livable Cities felt that community festivals create a sense of joy and well-being in the individual as well as promote a shared sense of identity and pride in community. This is useful for the UBC Commons as community festivals are both a mechanism for the development of community and the expression of a sense of community. One of my objectives was to make this space interdisciplinary and intercultural. Community festivals meet both these objectives as they bring together people of varying ages, ethnic backgrounds and social groups in working together in the celebration of the whole community. Livable Cities states that eating and drinking together in the public space binds the community together the best. They state that the public space must be traffic free and fairly central.

I felt that a farmers market would be well suited to this space. Livable Cities also states that farmers markets are important not only because they bring fresh local produce into the city and provides an incomparable aesthetic experience but that “farmers markets are one of the most powerful generators of social and economic life and must be given a place on the main square” (Livable Cities). Farmers markets also tie into what both Hancock and Wackernagel and Rees believe is meant by social sustainability. Social sustainability should provide food and strengthen our connection to the environment.

Livable Cities also state that it is very important for community space to facilitate the social development of children and young people. This is because “children grow up assuming that they are the kind of person that their physical environment tells them they are” (Livable Cities). Community space is where children learn how to talk to adults other than their parents and teachers. Livable Cities points out that children are going to be the ones who inherit the community and become responsible for its future.

This reading gave me some concrete types of events that work well and explanation of why they work well. With this, in addition to the fundamentals of sustainability, I felt that I needed to look into the best way to collect data from which I could make meaningful decisions. Professor Maged Senbel, Assistant Professor, suggested that I read “Value Focused Thinking” by Ralph Keeney.

2.4 Ralph Keeney - Value-Focused Thinking

This was a very worthwhile and useful tool for me to further the development of this project. It confirmed many of my prior thoughts and had many new suggestions on how to do things differently and better. Keeney’s main argument is that objective and values must be the driving force behind any decision making opportunity. There was a very useful section in this book about decision making that involves many groups. This applied to this project as I was trying to work with UNA, AMS, Campus and Community Planning, Sustainability Office,

Student Environmental Centre and student groups. Keeney felt that “stakeholders should be involved early in a decision process” (Keeney 1992: 96) and suggest that it is desirable to have a common “initial meeting between the facilitator and stakeholders” (Keeney 1992: 96). In this case I was acting as the facilitator and the stakeholders were the groups mentioned above. This gave me the idea for an interactive planning workshop inviting all these groups to meet and share ideas about this space. It was important though that I had some objectives and ideas already formulated in order to stimulate ideas. Keeney feels that it is useful to analyze how well the project is accomplishing its goals on an ongoing basis and then be flexible to change as this can lead to more preferable outcomes.

The main points I took away from this reading is that I must define my values and objectives before making any decisions and that when asking for input it is important to ask for others values not just events that they would like to see happen in this space. After reading this book I felt ready to start focusing on campus consultation and making decisions on what would be the best for the UBC Commons.

3.0 Campus Consultation

Collecting community input through campus consultation was the most important aspect of this course. I collected community input in a variety of ways ranging from casually talking with friends to organizing a formal interactive planning workshop for the whole campus community. This was a time consuming activity as it meant contacting, organizing and hosting all these meeting as well as prepare for presentations. The following groups have been involved in the campus consultation process:

- Sustainability Office
- Campus and Community Planning
- University Neighbourhood Association
- School of Community and Regional Planning
- Alma Mater Society
- Graduate Students Society
- Student Environmental Centre
- Forestry Undergraduate Society
- Agricultural Undergraduate Society
- Engineering Undergraduate Society
- Architecture Undergraduate Society

This section will discuss the meetings and interactive planning workshop I had with the campus community and what came of those meetings.

3.1 Meetings

I saw two main ‘stakeholders’ in planning for this space: neighbouring residents and university. It was very important to involve both groups due to the location of the space and the

need to bridge the two communities. Contacting and collecting input from residents was comparatively easy as the UNA is one unifying body. Collecting information from the university stakeholders was harder simply due to the magnitude of the university community. My meetings started at the Sustainability Office with Brenda Sawada⁴ who helped me find a professor and staff sponsor. Maged Senbel, School of Community and Regional Planning, was my professor for this directed studies and Linda Moore, Campus and Community Planning, was the staff contact.

3.1.1 UNA

Linda Moore helped me contact Jan Fialkowski, executive director of the UNA, and set up a meeting between the three of us. I researched the UNA before going to this meeting to better understand their goals and values. The UNA strives to promote a vibrant, sociable, safe and diverse university town through community programs and recreation. I felt that this project could really be beneficial to both the university and the residents. During this meeting I told Jan about the project and what my objectives for the space were. We then discussed what the university had to offer residents and what the residents had to offer the university. This produced many wonderful ideas which are shown in **Appendix A**. Some of these ideas, including babysitting, are not directly related to this space. However, this space could be a place for the residents and university students to meet and make connections that could lead to these mutually beneficial activities. This made it clear that events that would appeal to both residents and university members would be a good way to bridge the two communities. This meeting also created a link to the UNA who fully support and encourage this project. The UNA is interested in advertising events that are happening there and assisting in the organizing of such events. The support of the UNA is very important as the residents can add continuity to this project. Students are gone in the summer and winter breaks and they are usually only here for about five years. For many parts of this project to succeed there needs to be a constant continuous group willing to contribute. I feel that the UNA could fill this role very well.

3.1.2 Campus and Community Planning

During this project I had many meetings with Campus and Community Planning staff members. I feel that Campus and Community Planning is a very strong contact and ally to have for this project as they are a constant campus group that is involved in the planning of this space. I met with Linda Moore almost every week which allowed us to come up with some excellent ideas and she had many contacts which helped further this project. I wanted to learn what the space was planned to look like in its completed stage. Linda Moore suggested that I contact David Grigg, Campus and Community Planning, who designed the UBC Commons with Patrick McIsaac. David and I discussed the plans for this space as we walked to it. It was great being there as he showed me what the plan was for this space. From this I learnt that the space was not finished yet and that the construction was planned in many sequential phases. There was going to be some more trees planted on both the west and east side of the Commons with an orchard on the south west end. There was also to be a path down the middle of the field to allow for a continuation of Main Mall. David sent me maps of the space and a projection of what it will look

⁴ For further information about all the people mentioned in this report refer to **Appendix E**.

like. A complete set of the design plans are attached in hard copy. This was very helpful during future meetings as it allowed people to visualize the final product. This was very useful as many people find it hard to come up with new ideas for the space but it is easier to make suggestions on an existing plan. For example, many people did not like the idea of a raised rock path through the field as it would limit the activities possible on this space. If I did not know that a path was in the plans this information would not have arose. Linda and David both though that this project was happening at the perfect time as only the planning for the physical space had been thought about and this was still subject to change. Now this space needed a suitable program that incorporated the values and needs of the campus community. From my meetings with Linda and David I realized how important and timely this project is for the whole university and residents.

3.1.3 Student Environmental Centre (SEC)

Collecting input from students was fairly difficult as they are very busy and there are so many different student groups. I went to the SEC's weekly meeting and told them about this project and asked for input. They were very interested in this project and willing to help in the future. They are a good resource as they have a mailing list that can be used for advertising events as well as a budget which groups organizing events can apply for funding. Stef Ratjen is the treasurer of the SEC and she said that it would be no problem to get funding. Stef really hoped to see some events happen at the UBC Commons that where linked to sustainability. The SEC already organizes a large Sustainability Conference every year. This campus group may be interested in organizing Earth Day at the UBC Commons.

3.1.3 Alma Mater Society

I arranged a meeting with Brendan Goodmurphy who is the AMS Vice President of Academic Affairs. The outcomes of this meeting are shown in **Appendix B**. Brendan said that the AMS is in full support of this project as they have always wanted a space on the south end of campus to host events. He suggested a movie night which the AMS could possibly organize on this space. Brendan had some feedback forms and was going to ask around to see if anyone would be interested in organizing something. Brendan was also trying to get it on the agenda for an AMS meeting. This would reach many students who have the ability to make things happen on campus.

3.1.4 Undergraduate Student Societies

I really wanted to get input from the students in faculties that where spatially close to the UBC Commons: Forestry, Land and Food Systems, Engineers and School of Architecture. I put an add in the Greensheet a weekly Forestry Newsletter saying that I would be at the next FUS weekly meeting collecting student input on what the students want to happen at the UBC Commons. At the meeting I did a presentation about the project. After this presentation we brainstormed some ideas that are shown in **Appendix C**. I left some feedback forms with Tristan Banwell the vice president of the FUS in order to get more input. The forestry students are very active and host many events. They already held a logger sports event at the beginning of the term on the UBC Commons and plan to continue this event. The Land and Food Systems students were also very interested in this space especially the thought of having a garden on the west bank

of the UBC Commons. They also very much liked the ideas of having an orchard and thought that a class could possibly incorporate the care of these elements into the curriculum. I talked with many students from Land and Food Systems which resulted in interest in carrying on this project. Linda Fietcher, Megan Halstead and Ashley Peterson are interested in continuing this project next term and possibly beyond. The interest of other students in carrying on this project is very important as this project has two phases. The first phase is to collect campus input and recommend what should happen to this space. The second phase is to implement the plan. These two phases overlap in that there has to be a transition period. This project has made substantial contributions towards the first phase as well as contributing to the transition into the second phase. Linda Moore, Megan Halstead, David Grigg and I have already had a meeting in order to find ways to continue the momentum and talk about the next steps.

3.2 Interactive Planning Workshop

It was great talking with all these groups separately but I wanted to create a venue that enabled all the groups to get together and discuss ideas and meet each other. So I created a power point presentation⁵ to lead an interactive planning workshop. This planning workshop was held at the Barn Community Centre right next to the UBC Commons. I invited a variety of people, put up posters and send out the event information on mailing lists. I invited staff, faculty, students, alumni, residents and professor emeriti to this planning workshop in order to capture a large range of ideas and perspectives. I held the meeting at two different times in an attempt to accommodate different schedules. After introducing the project we brainstormed on values, events and needs for this space. These ideas were written down on strips of paper and collected at the end of the workshop. I also created a feedback sheet, shown in **Appendix F**, which everyone at the planning workshop filled out. During this meeting many great new ideas came up and also suggestions on the ideas I previously had. The outcomes of this planning workshop are summarized in **Appendix D**. This is also where I first met Linda Fietcher and Megan Halstead who are interested in continuing this project. This contact led to Ashley Peterson a Land and Food System's student who is currently doing a directed study on how to expand the garden that is currently next to McMillan. This ties into the UBC Commons project as a garden on the west bank was suggested.

Although this process was a lot of work it was also very rewarding as all the groups I talked to were in full support of this project. Having so many strong allies for this project made me more confident that it would succeed. This is also a critical step as it prepared me to make informed decisions on what recommendations would be best for this space.

3.3 Summary of Campus Consultation

To summarize and put meaning to all of the information I had collected from the campus community I created an objective by alternatives matrix, which Maged Senbel suggested. The process of creating an Objectives by Alternatives Matrix included listing all the objectives down

⁵ For complete document contact Anya Reid at <anya_martina@hotmail.com>

the vertical axis and all the possible events along the horizontal axis. Then a number is assigned to each cell created by this matrix which quantitatively ranks all the events with respect to the objectives listed. This was a subjective process but also extremely useful to really think about every event with respect to every objective. It was difficult in some cases to put a number to how well an event would reach the objective as it would depend on how the event was organized. To decrease errors within this matrix I assumed that the event would be organized in a fashion to best meet the objective. I then thought about the timing of events and did another informal objectives by alternatives matrix. This is a very helpful activity that I would recommend whenever a decision has to be made. The events Objectives by Alternatives Matrix for this project is shown in **Appendix G** and can be used as a template for other such matrices.

4.0 Recommendations

In this section I will discuss the decision making process which went into coming up with my recommendations of which events were the best for this space and have elements that are currently missing from campus social interaction. There were many events suggested:

- UBC bake sale
- UNA garage sale
- UBC speaker series
- Back to school BBQ
- Equinox
- Recycle Day
- Dance event
- Clubs Day
- Chinese New Year celebration
- Lantern Festival
- Potluck
- International Food Day
- Informal sports
- Garage sale
- Forestry logger sports
- Movie night
- Staff BBQ
- Earth Day
- Cultural dance
- Talent show
- Eat Local Harvest Festival
- Snow Day
- Farmers Market
- Fine art celebration
- Bike celebration

- Salmon Festival

All these events would be really great to see happen on campus but the scope of this project is focusing on events at the UBC Commons that would add to campus social interactions. The number of events is limited by the amount of work the campus community is willing to put in. This section will discuss how and why I made the decisions I did and suggestions on which campus groups could organize which events to spread out the work. A leadership group or student willing to take on this project is important to encourage campus groups to organize events and to organize events themselves. Presenting the recommendations of this project to Campus and Community planning is very important. Campus and Community Planning has a lot of power in what happens at the UBC Commons both with regards to events and physical planning. This presentation will also include everyone who participated in this project so that they can see the end result and make contacts with others who are interested in this project. A presentation of this type will conclude the project by sharing pertinent information, discussing ideas and receiving suggestions.

4.1 Decision Making Process

The Objectives by Alternatives Matrix really helped me with the process of choosing six events that would best suit this space and add to the campus social interactions. I felt that six events would be the most appropriate as there could be one main event in the winter and summer and two main events in the fall and spring. From the events Objectives by Alternatives Matrix I focused on the nine events that ranked the highest:

- Farmers Market
- Bike Celebration
- Salmon Festival
- Earth Day
- Snow Day
- Eat Local Event
- UBC Speakers Series
- Recycle Day
- Equinox Event

From these nine events some of them seemed to be better suited for a different location. For example, a Bike Day would be better attended and make more sense to host by the SUB and the Bike Kitchen. Furthermore, some events had significant overlap which would make it possible to combine them into one event that achieves the same goals. For example, a Recycle Day could happen on Earth Day with recycling tips, receptacles and information. This process allowed more objectives to be met than if some events were just thrown out. This could be a very creative process that I think the leadership group should continue with when they are working out more details about the events. Maximizing the extent to which the objectives were met and making these events appeal to the University are very important aspects of the decision making process. If the events are appealing to the University then it is more likely that they will happen. The Universities vision for this space is for it to be academic and ceremonial, so I thought about how these events are academic or ceremonial and how to make them more so. The best situation

would be if the events maximized meeting objectives and were appealing to the university. For example, the proposed garden on the western bank of the UBC Commons and the orchard was supported by all of the campus groups I talked with. However, this suggestion may be disregarded as planting, taking care, and harvesting the food may be seen as problems. I really wanted to make sure that the University understood that this could be a learning opportunity for many students and there is already a Land and Food Systems student looking into expanding the garden outside of the MacMillan building. Having the garden right there could also create a ceremonial event of taking food out of the garden to prepare for the Eat Local Harvest Festival. The orchard is both historical and educational especially if there were signs indicating what type of tree it was and how it is used. Trying to meet all the stakeholders values is a very important task when making a decision that relies on their support.

4.2 Recommended Values and Needs

During the process of campus consultation I categorized the outcomes into values, needs and events. All the values and needs for the UBC Commons were constructive so I felt that I should not eliminate any of them in my recommendation process.

Values	Needs
openness	picnic tables for studying
flexibility	historical orchard
not over landscaped	academic garden
sustainable	notice board
UBC Farm involvement	fire pit
edible landscape	benches
alcohol free	
community	
long term vision	

All these values and needs could be incorporated into the UBC Commons plan however it would be harder for all the suggested events to be taken on. This is why I felt that I should recommend six top events for this space.

4.3 Recommended Events

Many events could happen in the UBC Commons if a variety of groups organized the events. I can see this as being a possibility as all campus groups were interested in planning events in this space. The events do not have to be big event to be effective at building community. In fact it may be better to have small events that are more intimate. These events will most likely start out small but grow if they are held annually as people will tell their friends and look forward to it for next year. Also the events do not have to take a large amount of time to organize. For example, the Snow Day event happened this year with almost no organization. People built snowmen on the UBC Commons which is exactly what I wanted to happen. Another

event that may not be too difficult to organize would be a Farmers Market as the UBC Farm already holds a market. They might be interested in hosting a market on campus as well as on the Farm in order to raise awareness about the farm on campus and provide fresh produce. The six events that I feel were the most important innovative and could bring something new and exiting to campus:

- Earth Day
- UBC Speakers Series
- Festival of the Arts and Equinox
- Eat Local Harvest Festival
- Salmon Festival
- Snow Day

This conclusion of events along with some tasks and ideas to make them happen is shown in **Appendix H**. These six events could be organized by different campus groups in order to make it less work for one group and increase diversity of the space. For example, the SEC might be interested in organizing Earth Day. It snowed last weekend which resulted in many snowmen on the UBC Commons. This event could be taken on by the UNA as it might snow on a weekend or after exams when the students are gone. The UBC Farm or the Faculty of Land and Food Systems might be interested in organizing the Eat Local Harvest Festival. The Salmon Festival could be hosted by the First Nations Program. A leadership group would be able to encouraging these groups to organize these events and possibly organize the UBC Speakers Series and a Festival of the Arts and Equinox.

4.4 Leadership Group

My vision for the leadership group is one committed person working with approximately five others from various campus groups. This would be an efficient and comprehensive way to organize events at the UBC Commons. During campus consultation I asked what the most efficient way to continue with this project might be. Creating an AMS Club or a UBC Committee were suggested but neither of these seemed perfect at this time. Creating a group just for this project makes it more flexible for future changes. The group leaders can decide to change this if they feel it is right at any time. This project might also be continued as another SEEDS course for a different student next year. From this process I learnt how vital it is to be able to communicate information clearly and concisely in order to enable the smooth continuation of a project. The process of forming a leadership group has already started. Megan Halstead, Linda Fietcher, David Grigg and I got together to talk about this project and its future. It was a great opportunity for the students who may take on this project to meet some of the contacts I have been making throughout this term. The next steps for a leadership group would be to encourage different campus groups to organize events at the UBC Commons. I would also recommend contacting faculty and getting them involved as they could add continuity to this project by making it part of the curriculum. For example the First Nations Program could have a project of raising awareness by hosting an annual Salmon Festival or First Nations Celebration.

4.5 Presentation to Campus and Community Planning

I felt that the outcome of this project had to be shared with Campus and Community Planning and other interested groups and individuals. Linda Moore helped me organize this presentation and we invited members from the UNA, AMS, Campus and Community Planning, sustainability office, students and professors. This will be a good way to conclude this project by sharing the information collected and the recommendations for the UBC Commons. It is very important to share the results with everyone who helped and to those who could use this information to make the UBC Commons a wonderful campus space. To make this report accessible to other students it will be posted on the Sustainability Office's SEEDS library where all the other SEEDS courses can be found. This will make it possible for a student in the future to take this project and build on it in another SEEDS course. The report will also be sent to campus contacts within Ceremonies and faculties in the hopes that some of the recommendations will be considered. The presentation has not occurred yet but the results from this meeting will be attached to the document on the online SEEDS course library.

5.0 Conclusion

I feel that this project completely met its goal by creating a foundational understanding of values and objectives for this space as well as recommendations of events. This project has also made many contacts which will aid in the creation of events. Throughout this project I have created awareness of this space, putting it on the map of UBC and in the minds of the campus community. Most people I talked to either didn't know about the UBC Commons or had seen it but didn't know its purpose. Through this course I made people aware of the UBC Commons while encouraging the use and organization events on this space. Throughout the consultation process many great ideas were flushed out from various groups. I sincerely hope that some of them will happen. It has been a grassroots project in that it has been fuelled by the community members the whole way through and it needs to remain this way. It is now time for the community to step in and take leadership for the events that they want to see happen. I think that this will happen as every group that I talked to was interested in creating something unique and innovative in this space for the campus community.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Maged Senbel for being an excellent professor throughout this course. Maged made time to meet with me and always had constructive suggestions which further developed this project. Linda Moore was very committed to this project. Linda's enthusiasm and organization were very important for the success of this project. It was also very helpful for me to talk with someone about all the ideas that were brought up. Without the amazing work of Brenda Sawada this project might never have happened. Brenda made the

initial connections and helped develop the proposal for this project. David Grigg was also always a pleasure to meet with and discuss this project. David's positive attitude and outgoing personality can really bring out innovative ideas. David really made an effort to accommodate this project into his busy schedule. Finally, thanks to Don Erhardt who made my meetings at Campus and Community Planning enjoyable.

Appendix A: Outcomes of UNA Meeting⁶

1) Values/ Objectives	2) Events	3) Needs
mutual respect	flea market	notice board
interaction	earth day	babysitters
alcohol free	trades fair	computer tutors
	arts county fair	connecting people away from their families
	alternative event	
	bike tune ups and safety	dog walking
		high school tutors

Appendix B: Outcomes of AMS Meeting

1) Values/ Objectives	2) Events	3) Needs
farm involvement	movie night	UBC Committee
Farm + AMS + UNA		

Appendix C: Outcomes of FUS Meeting

1) Values/ Objectives	2) Events	3) Needs
openness	forestry logger sports	picnic tables
chance the name to "someone's field"	ultimate sports	benches
		fire pit
		no path through the field

Appendix D: Outcomes of Interactive Planning Workshop

1) Values/ Objectives	2) Events	3) Needs
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⁶ Appendix A-D can also be found on the CD in the file "Outcomes of Meetings"

openness/ room to play	UBC speaker series	permanent leadership group: AMS Club
flexibility/ not over		
landscaped	back to school BBQ	campfire pit
edible landscape	equinox	picnic tables
alcohol free	recycle day	orchard
community	dance event	collective academic garden on west bank
sustainability	clubs day	notice board
long term vision	Chinese new year	
no path	lantern festival	
	potluck	
	international food day	
	informal sports	
	garage sale	

Appendix E: Contacts

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Tristan Banwell	tbanwell@gmail.com		Vice president FUS
William Rees	wrees@interchange.ubc.ca	822-2937	Professor and Associate Director

Appendix F: Feedback Sheet

ANYA REID: Directed Study UBC Commons Project FEEDBACK SHEET

1. **Are you:** Student Alumni
- Faculty Professor Emeriti
- Staff Resident
- Other: _____.

2. Contact Information:

Name: _____.

Email: _____.

Phone: _____.

I am interested in being a part of a future planning group for this project:

Yes

No

3. What do YOU want to see happen at the Main Mall Commons?

_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.

4. For YOU what was the best campus event?

_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.

5. Other Suggestions/ Comments:

_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.
_____.

Appendix G: Events Objectives by Alternatives Matrix

Events Ideas Objectives	Farmers Market	Bike Celebration	Salmon Festival	Earth Day	Snow Day	Eat Local Event	UBC Speak Series
Bridging the student and residential communities	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Building community with students and residence	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Networking	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Education	5	5	5	5	2	5	
Interaction	5	5	5	5	4	5	
Promoting citizen participation and involvement	5	4	4	5	3	5	
Creation	5	5	4	5	5	5	
Ideas to take home and make change in daily life	4	5	5	5	2	5	
Enjoyment	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Permanence	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Showing an alternate way to live	4	5	5	5	2	5	
Strengthen our connection with the environment	5	5	5	5	3	5	
Mutual support	5	5	4	5	4	5	
Enhances physical, mental and social well-being	5	5	5	4	5	5	
Intercultural and interdisciplinary	4	3	3	4	4	3	
Environmental Sustainability	5	5	5	5	3	5	
Children Involvement	5	4	5	5	5	5	
Alcohol Free	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Farm Involvement	5	5	2	5	1	5	
Total	92	91	87	93	73	93	

Appendix H: Summary of Conclusions

Winter

i) Snow Day

Tasks

Spread the word that the UBC Commons is the place to be when it snows

Snowmen building competitions with cool prizes
Free hot chocolate
Fun for kids, students, professors, staff, parents

Spring

i) Earth Day (April 22)

Is there anything already happening on campus? If so would they want to work with us?
Research what is Earth Day, what events usually take place?
Start advertising in January
Who would want to have a table at this event? Who do we want to have a table at this event?
Who would donate local food?
What activities would promote networking?
Create ways for people to get involved in everyday life
Show alternate ways of living
Guest Speakers?
Recycling information, receptacles and tips

ii) UBC Speaker Series

UBC experts speaking on an environmental issues
Be a showcase for what UBC has to offer
Show we are leaders in sustainability
Give people a reason to live alternatively

Summer

i) Celebration of Arts and Equinox

Who would want to show case their work?
Also make it possible for participants to create their own meaningful art
Could it be a fundraiser?
What type of media should be present?
How would we make it educational?
How would we attract students?

Autumn

i) Eat Local Harvest Festival

What groups would want to show case their products?
Research other events like this
Informational tables
Make your own food
100 mile diet challenge competitions with teams

- Prizes and competitions
- Guest speakers
- ii) Salmon Festival
 - Information about farmed salmon
 - First Nations dance, music
 - First Nations speakers and teachers
 - Mask making or art of some kind
 - Food
 - How does forestry and fisheries interact?

Appendix I: SEEDS Project Proposal

Credits: 3

Tasks: September – December 2007

- research: other events and what is already happening
- create and present a presentation to raise awareness and support for this project
- develop contacts and create a committee/ leadership group
- collect feedback from the campus community
- meet with students and staff to discuss this project and gain further insight
- get a wide variety of input from all campus groups
- brainstorm with committee about funding, infrastructure, parking, waste, food, toilets, media coverage, advertisement, volunteers, etc
- create a detailed contact list
- write an easy to read report for the leadership group to use
- present recommendations to Campus and Community Planning

Objective:

The objective of this directed study is to enhance ‘social sustainability’ on campus by bringing students, staff and community members together at annual events. These events would take place at the UBC Commons, a green recreational area between the Forestry Building and Thunderbird Boulevard. By working with the music, cultural studies and visual art departments annual events that appeal to a variety of people could be created. Possible events include cultural concerts, art showings, harvest festivals, and fundraising events.

The theme of environmental sustainability would run throughout these events. Raising awareness about environmental issues will further develop the culture of sustainability on campus. Interaction and information will develop a passion to create change while opening doors to get started. The events will be an opportunity for networking between like minded individuals. New groups of friend may then create further change on campus and beyond. People who may not be familiar with environmental issues would also be attracted to these fun events. Learning

from the informational booths and hearing other stories or ways of life may inspire these people to make their lives more sustainable.

These annual events will enhance UBC's reputation as a leader in sustainability and create opportunities for staff, faculty, students and community members to meet. An easy to read report outlining the research, contacts and event plans would make it possible for a committee to hold these events yearly.

Ideas:

- events would take place outdoors on a seasonal basis
- present this project to the University of Landscape Architect, Campus and Community Planning, the University Neighbourhood Association, Waste Management, Student Environmental Centre, AMS and UBC Farm
- committee would ensure that the events happen every year
- events in the summer would mainly appeal to staff, faculty and community members around UBC and summer students
- cultural (First Nations or Asian) concert in the spring, art show/fundraiser in the summer, and a harvest festival in the fall with the food produced from the MacMillan garden and the UBC Farm
- booths/ tables would provide information and ways to get involved
- events would be interactive to get people thinking and hopefully more involved in there community

Appendix J: UBC Commons Location



UBC Commons

Forestry Building



UBC Commons

Appendix K: UBC Commons Phase One Proposal

The University is about to begin construction of the “Commons”, a green recreational area between the Forestry Building on Main Mall and Thunderbird Boulevard. Phase One is due to start in the first week of August 2006. This information bulletin is to provide you with a background on what can be expected before completion in September.

Phase One, in current parlance, is an “extreme makeover” of the area. Currently the area consists of grassy slopes and lawn divided by a through road. It is proposed to makeover the area into a level recreational space with a treed and grassy terraced perimeter. New lighting will be added along the footpaths.

Phase II will see Thunderbird Boulevard traffic calmed - it will be constructed to provide a pedestrian-friendly plaza connecting the “Commons” with the Hawthorn Place Community Park. The footpaths constructed during Phase One will be enhanced and a garden like trellised walkway is proposed for the east side of the commons. Both Phase One and Two plans are attached. The origin of the conceptual design is the 1992 Main Campus Plan for Main Mall. The conceptual plan was subsequently refined following a 2005 workshop and open house information sessions. Phasing of the project has been necessary to reconcile the funding and construction windows. Phase Two will follow in a year or so. Campus and Community Planning is working actively in the funding for the commons and the upgrading of Main Mall in general.

To construct the “Commons”, we must first remove the roadway, paths, and the four maple trees adjacent to the road and then excavate down to form a level play-area. Below the thin veneer of soil and wild grasses is a mix of sand and silt with hard clay-like layers. The silt and clay make excavation and re-working of the mix into terracing very difficult in wet weather and so the work must start in the driest weather window (August). The upside of

scheduling construction during the summer is that the grass will begin to re-establish before winter and will be ready for use next spring.

A note on sustainability practices applied to this construction project: First. We have taken advice from experts on whether the trees could be replanted and, unfortunately, the answer was they would not survive. Therefore, we are dedicating the budget amount allocated to tree retention towards the purchase of more replacement trees. They will be to be planted in October when the rains arrive. Second. We are not hauling any material off of campus to dump sites. All excavated material will be used for landscape terracing in a balanced cut and fill operation. Third. After, taking into account the environment and site's sun aspect, we will strive to use local plants, materials, and products, whenever and wherever possible.

Appendix L: References

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