

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board  
Date: Friday July 24  
Time: 11 am  
Location: Zoom meeting

## Minutes

Present: Cathy Armstrong, David Greig (for Friends), Barbara Gunn, Pam Madoff, Cherie Miltimore, Jacqui Paulson

### 1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of June 16,2020 was motioned by Barb, seconded by Jacqui and carried by all present.

### 2. Agenda

Barb's Report

Cathy's Report

Jacqui's Report

Cherie's Report

Friends of Abkhazi Garden's Report

### 3. Barb's Report

Teahouse opened June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Coverage by CHEK's Upside program helped advertise the re-opening. The Teahouse is busy with many repeat clients.

Barb is very grateful for Jacqui and the volunteers who make the gardens look fantastic. There were two weddings in July. Abkhazi Garden is a good place for a COVID 19 wedding.

### 4. Cathy's Report

TLC has a new location for the head office at 5150 Cordova Bay Road near Mattick's Farm. A lease has been signed starting September 1<sup>st</sup>.

TLC is celebrating 20 years of community support for Abkhazi Garden. TLC has plans for a small official celebration on Sep 7 at the Teahouse sponsored by Barb. TLC has invited the Lieutenant Governor of BC and the Ambassador of Georgia. Sep 7 is the date Nicolas and Peggy got engaged in New York.

The ambassador of Georgia is wondering if there will be a plaque regarding the donations to the “Georgian Garden”. Jacqui has proposed a metal etching art piece of the Caucasus mountains and the Black Sea on the fence. AAB would like to see an example of the mountain and sea metal art.

Cathy is considering potential patrons for Abkhazi Garden and the Land Conservancy.

### **The Abkhazi Garden Maintenance Plan**

- has been shared with board members and feedback is coming in.
- Jim Thomas has two pages of feedback that will be incorporated with the plan
- Lesley is planning to gather feedback on behalf of Friends and will write a report
- David on behalf of the Friends pointed out that present plan includes the physical aspects of the garden and the living part needs to be included. Jacqui will create living part to be included in Maintenance Plan.
- Cherie has already approached Jim Sharp to help inspect the site and buildings in September and to add anything that is missing in the present Maintenance Plan.
- A daily maintenance log and spreadsheet should be started soon.

### **Jacqui’s Report**

Jacqui suggested that we consult a specialist about the irrigation system as water is being wasted. Barb offered to contribute \$300 to this project. Rain barrels would be included in this consult. Jacqui will get consultation quotes from two irrigation specialists.

Georgia Garden – Jacqui will develop a plan for this garden and do some clearing of the garden for potential planting. She will follow up on the mountain and sea metal art for the fence for board approval.

Shared picture of pergola design that will cover part of stone bench that can sit two people. Friends has set aside money to pay for this project. TLC to add funds as needed to make sure the pergola feature with dove tail joints is built with the best materials.

The 1951 Atco lawnmower is up and running thanks to a new volunteer, Ted Murphy. The vintage lawnmower will be displayed in the garden on the left-hand side of the path just before the South Lawn. Feedback was given about a shelter structure to showcase the lawnmower. It was suggested that the lawnmower be chained to the structure and visitors can stand by the vintage lawnmower for picture taking.

Boulevard Garden – will reflect the garden design inside. There will be a large boulder at the entrance with a weeping conifer. The plants will be chosen and planted in a way that it looks like a flowing river down the slope. Students from the Pacific Horticultural College will help with this project on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Jacqui will rent a skid steer to move the boulders and will seek permission from the city to cordon off the sidewalk while the work is going on.

Turtle eggs may hatch by the first week of September.

### **Cherie's Report**

Memorial Plaques – there are two memorial plaques in the garden. One is attached to a bench by the Wisteria, the other fell off the bench by the Gunnera. Cherie will research to find out more about them and ask about them in the next TLC Abkhazi Garden E-Newsletter.

Maintenance Plan – gets us started with a plan that we can improve on. Feedback received so far is really helpful and appreciated.

Teahouse Security – fixed and upgraded our security system with Telus for the Teahouse.

Gate Greeters - Using the square which is bringing in more money for the garden and are selling plants for the Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society. More plants are being sold at the gate than were sold at the Teahouse last year.

Media –Cathy Armstrong was interviewed by CHEK TV at Abkhazi Garden on National Garden Day on June 20. On July 2nd Cathy was interviewed by All Points West – CBC afternoon radio. Helen Chesnut of the Times Colonist mentioned Abkhazi Garden in her garden column July 11.

Working on getting mentioned in Neighbours of Fairfield in September. (magazine goes out to Fairfield, Gonzales and Rockland) Will contact Fairfield Community Centre about Abkhazi Garden being mentioned in the Fairfield Gonzales Observer and in the FGCA e-newsletter.

### **Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society's Report**

David Greig attended on behalf of Lesley Wood. David suggested that we get a maintenance log set up and he suggested we include the living part of the garden in the maintenance plan.

### **Correspondence or feedback (letters, emails, conversations)**

Jim Thomas will be in touch with Fay Clark, a distant relative of Peggy who is researching her family connection with Peggy. Fay has a picture of William and his wife in Shanghai.

**Next Meeting** Friday Aug 14 – 11 am by Zoom

**Adjournment** at 12:30pm