



Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board  
Date: Friday August 14  
Time: 11 am  
Location: Zoom meeting

### Minutes

**Present:** Cathy Armstrong, Pam Madoff, Cherie Miltimore, Jacqui Paulson, Lesley Wood

**Regrets:** Barb Gunn

#### 1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of July 24,2020 was motioned by Cathy seconded by Pamela and carried by all present.

#### 2. Agenda

Jacqui's Report (**Abkhazi Garden Head Gardener**)

Cathy's Report (**TLC Executive Director**)

Lesley's Report (**President of Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society**)

Cherie's Report (**Abkhazi Garden Site Manager**)

#### 3. Jacqui's Report (Abkhazi Garden Head Gardener)

Irrigation – Victoria Garden Sprinkler Co accessed our irrigation system and gave us a quote of \$1695 plus GST for repairs. These repairs include changing heads to appropriate heights and changing mixed heads to be the same in each zone. These repairs should reduce the cost of water. Rain barrels are not practical for our setting. It would be better to channel water from the down spouts to the pond.

Pergola - Paul Baker will be on site on Thu Aug 20 and Fri Aug 21 to build the pergola by the west side of the fence line where the wisteria grows. He will bring wood samples in advance to choose from.

Garry Oak – The City of Victoria has authorized the removal of a limb or a cable adjustment to hold up the limb on a Garry Oak by the kiosk. Jacqui will contact Bartlett to get this work done. When Bartlett was here last, they discovered a cable holding the limb was broken.

Boulevard –Pacific Horticulture College students are now coming to help with the boulevard on Tue Sep 22 instead of Tue Sep 15. They will help clear the area and move boulders. Jacqui has talked to the City of Victoria who advised her that boulders cannot be blocking utilities. Planting will be in spring. Jacqui to bring Boulevard plan to next meeting.

Georgian Garden – Jacqui will have a sketch of the mountain and sea metal art next meeting.

#### **4. Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)**

Irrigation – Cathy approves the work by Victoria Garden Sprinkler as reported by Jacqui. Cathy is working with city to classify Abkhazi Garden as a community garden, so our water bill is not so high. It can be over \$12,000 year.

Sept 7 – still waiting to hear from Lieutenant Governor, Janet Austin and the Ambassador from Georgia, Konstantine Kavtaradze to see if they will attend Celebration of Community Support Tea sponsored by Barb. Mow Off event with the 2019 Honda and 1951 Atco will go ahead on Sep 7 at 11am. Ted Murphy who got the Atco up and running will be on site. Drivers to be decided.

Al Ferraby CFAX 1070 – interviewed Cathy about TLC celebrating 20 years of community support at Abkhazi Garden. She talked about our wonderful volunteers and invited people to visit. Cathy also mentioned our Mow Off. Al was very interested in this.

Painters – we have opened up Abkhazi Garden for painters to come on Mondays, our quiet day in the garden and paint our exquisite garden. Three came last week and five are expected next Monday.

Moving – TLC headquarters is moving Sep 1 to 5150 Cordova Bay road near Mattick's Farm.

#### **5. Lesley's Report (President of Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society)**

Membership – although it is a quieter year due to the pandemic, membership is just over 50.

Plant Sales – new plant stand behind kiosk has been successful – over \$1000 in sales so far.

Projects – funds are going to support the installation of the Pergola and the re-design of the Boulevard

Ongoing funding - for hand tools and plants as needed.

Did You Know Sheet Suggestion – by donation box to explain garden expenses.

## **6. Cherie's Report (Abkhazi Garden Site Manager)**

Safe– has been upgraded from one number to three numbers so our donations are more secure.

Fire Extinguishers – have been inspected and serviced for another year.

Celebration Sign – new sign that celebrates 20 years of community support now at Abkhazi Gate mounted on the gate greeter stand. Designed by TLC deputy executive director, Dianna Stenberg. It can be seen by visitors coming to the garden and by people passing by.

Special Guests – Georgian family from Toronto drove across Canada with one last stop at Abkhazi Garden. They were very happy to see this garden and want to contribute.

Rails – Mathew Varley gave us a quote for two rails. The first rail is for safety along a narrow path to the pond from the Teahouse. The second rail is for a viewing place at the edge of the pond. A piece of driftwood blocks the stair way to the pond and will be removed once the rail is put in. Work to be done on both rails in September. Cost - \$3375. We save \$800+ by doing both rails at the same time.

Season's Pass Discussion - It is a way to get more support for the garden (help build data base), encourage more visits throughout the season and make locals feel that it is "their garden" A fee of \$30 for an individual was suggested. \$50 for a family but what constitutes a family. More discussion to follow.

TLC Members Free – at one time membership with the TLC offered free admission to different venues which included Abkhazi Garden. TLC now offers a tax receipt for memberships and cannot offer something for free. If a TLC member expects to get in for free because of past policy, we grandfather them in.

Maintenance Plan – received report from Friends to improve plan which was very helpful. We will improve how we track our maintenance projects and plan for the future.

Nicolas's Lawnmower – after the Mow off, it will be kept in the summerhouse for public viewing. It will be protected from the elements in this location.

**Next Meeting** Friday Sep 18 – 11 am by Zoom or in new office board room

**Adjournment** at 12:00pm

