

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board
Date: Friday September 18
Time: 11 am
Location: Zoom meeting

Minutes

Present: Cathy Armstrong (late), Pam Madoff, Cherie Miltimore, Margaret Palmer, Jacqui Paulson

Regrets: Barb Gunn

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of August 14, 2020 was motioned by Pam seconded by Jacqui and carried by all present.

2. Agenda

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

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

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

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

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

Boulevard Garden Re-Design – Pacific Horticulture College students are coming to help with the boulevard on Tue Sep 22. They will help clear the area and move boulders. Planting will be in spring. Motion: Approved in principal, the purchase of materials for the Boulevard Garden subject to final pricing and source of funding to the satisfaction of the executive director. Motioned by Pam, seconded by Cherie and carried by all present.

Garry Oaks – Bartlett Trees finalized work on Garry Oaks by the kiosk. Limbs were removed and cabling was done as permitted by City Hall.

Irrigation – Victoria Garden Sprinkler Co adjusted our system by matching heads and lowering the heads so our watering costs will be lower. They have come back to give another estimate to add pipes along the back by the north fence, so we do not have to hand water.

No Baby Turtles – Jacqui did not find any eggs. They may have dissolved because of the irrigation. Hole has been filled and the lawn has been fertilized.

Pergola – the pergola is built and the wisteria is being trained to grow over it. Visitors have already posted pictures on their own Instagram.

Georgian Garden – Jacqui presented two sketches of the mountain and sea metal art. The second sketch was more popular. Jacqui suggested that it be about 4 ft by 2 ft and coated with a black powder coating. Corten steel was suggested. Jacqui will get feedback from Island Metal Art and cost for next meeting.

4. Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

Sept 7 Event – was a success. Special guests included Lieutenant Governor, Janet Austin and the Ambassador from Georgia, Konstantine Kavtaradze and Victoria's Mayor, Lisa Helps. There was good relationship building. Cathy thanked Pam Madoff for coming to the event.

Boulevard Re-Design: Cathy approved expenses for the Boulevard Garden.

Garden Stone – stone unveiled and presented to the Ambassador on Sep 7. It has a slight error and will be corrected. Jacqui suggested the garden stone fit into pathway.

5. Marg Palmer's Report (President of Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society)

Plant Sales – new plant stand behind kiosk has been successful – over \$1456 in sales so far. Plant sales started June . Cherie recommended adding a second stand beside the first stand for next Spring.

Abkhazi Rhodos – Jim has sourced the Prince Abkhazi Rhodo (plant from Mr. Campbell, Shawnigan Lake), Princess Abkhazi Rhodo (plant from Mr. Maquardt on Cordova Bay Road) and the Peggy Rhodo (cuttings from Finnerty Garden). These rhodos will be planted at Abkhazi Garden as they do not exist in the garden at present.

Chris Ball Slides – Nicolas gave Chris 1100 slides that Friends hope will be donated to UVic Archive. Cathy will send a letter to Chris asking that he donate these slides or permit copies. Friends would be willing to contribute money to the cost of copying.

Stats – How are we doing compared to last year? Cathy reported that we are down in donations. COVID 19 has affected tourist numbers but we have more locals coming.

Garden Costs Displayed – Friends requested a sign at front gate explaining the costs of the garden. Cherie suggested a small sign on one side of the PlexiGlas donation box so people can read where their donation goes as they drop the money in.

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

Rails – A rail for safety along a narrow path to the pond from the Teahouse and a second rail for viewing place at the edge of the pond are now installed. Visitors are already enjoying standing by the pond rail for a view of the pond and garden.

Season's Pass - A fee of \$30 for an individual was suggested and \$50 for a family which would include four guests.

In the News – Since the last meeting Abkhazi Garden has been covered in the following media: CFX news, Neighbours of Fairfield, made front page of Victoria News with artist program and Sep 7 event on CHEK TV, CTV and Victoria News and Oak Bay News.

Artists in the Garden – Over 20 artists have come to the garden to paint. Once we close on Mondays, we will invite them to come on Wed, Thu or Fri.

Video Tour – visitors can now point their phone camera at a QR code at the gate and take the Spring Tour that was narrated by Sue Hara and Margaret Palmer.

Garden Hours – volunteers will continue in to October as long as the weather is warm enough. Plan to be open on Thanksgiving Day if the weather is nice. The Teahouse starts its schedule from Wednesday to Sunday on October 1.

School Partnerships – Cherie to meet with Margaret Jenkins and Glen Norfolk Lyon regarding students coming to learn in the garden.

Portable Hand Sanitizing Station – Barb has donated a hand sanitizing station to the Garden. It will be put at the front gate. Jim to assemble.

Recognition of Head Gardeners – A list of all the head gardeners from the Abkhazi's to Jacqui will be posted on site. Research on names and dates needs to be done.

Holiday Lights Discussed – A TLC themed Wildlife Corridor with animals. Admission by donation. A pamphlet on TLC at front gate would be handed out. Safety in dark a concern. It would be one way on one path only marked by lights (solar). Electricity may be a problem – power packs to be considered. Storage could be an issue. Jacqui could create some space at the garden. Existing spot lights to be checked out. Holiday treat like hot chocolate?

Next Meeting Friday Oct - 16 at 11am by Zoom **Adjournment** at 12:15pm