

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board
Date: Friday October 16, 2020
Time: 11 am
Location: Zoom meeting

Minutes

Present: Cathy Armstrong, Sue Hara, Pam Madoff, Cherie Miltimore, Jacqui Paulson

Regrets: Barb Gunn

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of September 18, 2020 was motioned by Cathy seconded by Pam and carried by all present.

2. Agenda

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

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

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

Sue's Report (**Member of Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society**)

3. Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

20 Year Volunteer Event - We are honouring our 20 year volunteers (Dick Bullard, Kathy Farquhar, Diana Knufman, Margaret Smart and Sandra Smith) as part of our 20 years of celebration for community support at Abkhazi Garden. This celebration will be held at Abkhazi Garden on October 27 at 10:30am outside but inside if weather is horrific. Barb has okayed use of the Teahouse if we need to be inside. Limit for 10 people inside due to COVID. All volunteers to be invited if weather permits. The Lieutenant Governor of BC, Her Honour, Janet Austin has been invited but we have not heard back from her office yet.

Abkhazi densities – Cathy would like to see Abkhazi as one density so it can be protected as a heritage property and it cannot be developed. Originally Abkhazi was one density as it was a single residence, but more densities were added when the developer applied to develop the property into townhouses. Cathy has talked to the Victoria's mayor, Lisa Helps about this matter.

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

Artists in the Garden – Over 30 artists have come to the garden to paint. They have all been notified that Abkhazi Garden is open to them on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays after Thanksgiving.

Garden Days Open – The Garden is now closed on Mondays and Tuesdays in sync with the Teahouse. Volunteers will continue into October if the weather is warm enough. Some gate greeters will continue to welcome visitors and sell plants on the weekends after October.

Holiday Lights Cancelled for 2020 – Light show to showcase garden and driftwood animals of the TLC Wildlife Corridor put on hold until next year.

Abkhazi Garden T-shirts – TLC is gifting t-shirts to the volunteers at Abkhazi. Now we have the new TLC logo, we will get this project underway.

Heritage BC Awards – Cathy suggested nominating the volunteers of Abkhazi Garden for a team award. Heritage BC has approved this idea and the nomination will be submitted by mid November.

Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) – Unique Heritage Infrastructure grant – we will be applying for the painting of the exterior and interior of the Teahouse (Pam to send Cherie heritage painter contacts), the restoring of the floor of the Teahouse, and a new electric panel to replace the Federal Pioneer Panel that is known for issues with its breakers and could be a fire risk. For our living heritage, we will ask for more electricity to a new green house with plant propagating equipment and replacement of fence to protect our living heritage from deer.

Don and Wendy Shea – Don and Wendy live in the neighbourhood and knew Peggy and Nico on a personal level. Don was hired as a gardener but was not good at that and he became their handyman. More information and pictures to come.

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

Holiday Wreaths – Jacqui has ordered wreath making materials from Russell's Nursery so we can sell wreaths at the plant sales on the weekend. Sue Hara will help. Volunteers will be asked to donate items such as leylandii cedar, holly, cones and ribbon for this project.

Boulevard Garden Re-Design – the boulevard garden is progressing and Jacqui is working on it bit by bit. It will be ready in Spring and we will have a grand opening.

Winterizing the garden - cutting back on perennials, doing leaf cleanup and storm cleanup.

Hornbeam Hedge – neighbour will trim part of the hedge near the work service area and Abkhazi Garden will finish trimming the hedge next year.

Georgian Garden – on hold.

Irrigation – Victoria Garden Sprinkler Co has done upgrade. Blow out of system will be done soon.

Herb Garden by the Teahouse – project for the spring. New herbs will be brought in. Barb would like edible flowers grown for the kitchen. Cathy suggested selling herbs at the gate as part of our plant sales.

5. Sue Hara's Report (Member of Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society)

Donation - The owner and operation of the Teahouse, Barb Gunn has made a donation of \$1000 to the Friends of Abkhazi Garden. Friends would likely use some of this money for the herb garden.

Plant Sales – have brought in over \$2000 this season.

Pergola – Friends covered the cost of \$500 for materials for the pergola

Next Meeting Friday Nov 20 at 11am by Zoom

Adjournment at 11:35am