

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board

Date: Friday, May 21, 2021

Time: 11am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

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

Regrets: Barb Gunn

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of April 16, 2021 was motioned by Pam, seconded by Cherie and carried by all present.

2. Agenda

Jacqui's Report (Abkhazi Garden Head Gardener)

Sue's Report (Informal Friends Group)

Cherie's Report (Abkhazi Garden Site Manager)

Cathy's Report (Executive Director of TLC)

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

Boulevard Garden – the boulevard garden is now finished. They will be weeding to be done in the future and there are some pop up surprises such as the Aliums at the end of the garden.

Bartlett Trees – has been in to spray the Garry Oaks and the old Cherry Tree.

Weeding – work as usual in the garden. Some new volunteers are coming on board.

New Greenhouse –purchased a new older model greenhouse from Russell Nursery for wholesale price which saved us about \$1000. Total cost of new greenhouse is \$3,913.60. Will be rearranging the service area to accommodate the new greenhouse. Cathy suggested making a plaque for the new greenhouse thanking the Friends of Abkhazi Garden.

Plant Sales – We have sold a lot of plants and it is hard to keep stock on the shelves. A lot of Abkhazi Princess Peony trees have sold and there are no more to sell this season. Would like some raised beds in service area to propogate unusual Rhodos we have in the garden.

Georgian Garden – Working on the design of the garden and with Metal Mermaids for the metal artwork. Metal Mermaids works with recycled metal and can work with corton steel.

4. Sue's Report (Informal Friends Group)

Season's Pass – wondered if there could be a pass for people who come regularly so they do not have to donate each time. TLC accounting has ruled out season's passes as it could jeopardize our admission by donation. Discussion on how gate greeters ask for donations. Those who cannot afford to give can come free. Cathy suggested bringing back passes for neighbours that border on Abkhazi Garden.

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

Closing – Cherie worked with Barb to close the garden in a way that the garden was not left unattended before security arrived.

Costume Museum - Cherie dropped off Peggy's sweater for a new exhibit on Peggy's travels that will be showcased with five cocktail dresses and a Georgian uniform from the Ambassador. Working on getting Costume Museum/Government House handouts for the front gate. The costume museum has Welcome to Abkhazi Garden handouts to give out.

Painting Heritage Buildings –the Victoria Heritage Foundation will cover 34% of our painting costs and 50% of the Master Painter and Decorator's Association cost and 50% of our paint consultant costs. Simone Vogel Horridge, principal conservator, has determined the heritage colours – similar green to what we have and a red brown colour. Painting should start the third week in June.

Fencing Neighbour – Cherie is meeting with Richard Gill, Development Manager of GMC Project that just bought the property on our North Side next Tuesday. Pam has met and chatted to Richard about Abkhazi Garden so he has some familiarity with this heritage garden.

Cultural Infrastructure Grant – applying for funding for the Georgian Garden for fencing, irrigation, plants and artwork. Need 50 word bios from Abkhazi Advisory Board team.

Award Certificate – received the award certificate for outstanding distinguished service from Heritage BC. It's a volunteer team award and Diana is able to add in our volunteer names. Plan to give these named certificates out at an event later in the summer.

Yoga in the Garden – Kaitlynn Raymond approached us about doing Yoga in the garden and she would donate the monies to The Land Conservancy. The class is on Wednesdays from 5-6pm until August 25. \$10/class. Only 9 are allowed in the class due to COVID restrictions.

New Volunteers – there are 5 new garden volunteers and five new gate volunteers.

The Square Reader – Last year in 2020 the square took in over \$10,400. We started on May 25th. As of May 21, 2021 we have taken in over \$6,700. On Mother’s Day we took in \$578.64 dollar on the square. We are still receiving cash donations on top of this and cash for plant sales.

Marketing – a new volunteer with marketing skills has launched a Facebook and Instagram account. Please follow and like us @abkhazigardentlc. Jacqui still has a head gardener Instagram account to share information on.

Fairfield Gonzales Observer – put out a Neighbourhood Asset Map which did not include Abkhazi Garden. Cherie contacted them and they will add Abkhazi Garden to this map. (Samantha is going to check to see if Abkhazi Garden is on the Nature Canada Map)

Cathy’s Report (Executive Director of TLC)

Densities – Cathy is working on removing the densities off Abkahzi Garden. Currently Abkhazi Garden still has a townhouse designation site. She would like to sell these densities to a developer. Any monies raised by the sale of densities will go to creditors.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Next Meeting: will be Friday, June 18 at 11am by zoom.