

**Meeting:** Abkhazi Advisory Board

**Date:** Friday, August 20, 2021

**Time:** 11am

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Cathy Armstrong, Samantha Beare, Barb Gunn, Pam Madoff, Cherie Miltimore, Marg Palmer, Jacqui Paulson

**Regrets:** None

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

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

### **2. Agenda**

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

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

**Barb's Report** (Owner/Operator of the Teahouse)

**Marg's Report** (Informal Friends Group)

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

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

**Eastside Fencing** – no grant money from City of Victoria's Cultural Infrastructure Grant – will go ahead and do the east side from where the new fence stops to the northeast corner. Tower Fencing will start on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. It will take over 2 weeks to do.

**Canada Healthy Community Initiatives Grant** – grant money requested to cover the costs of a new permeable driveway with a centre design, lights for the garden and our future Georgian Garden. We also requested the grant to cover expenses that we have already paid for such as our new Boulevard garden, railing and widening of our pathways to the lower pond and our message board. Grant decision will be made in late August.

**New Waste Management** - GFL Environmental, formally Alpine, is a local company that will be picking up our waste starting in September. Our contact is Ken Proud and he will send out our schedule soon. GFL stands for Green For Life.

**Painted Heritage Buildings** - sidings are a deep red brown colour and the trim is a bluish mint colour. The paint job looks great but we are having problems with paint bubbling on the back side of the toolshed. It got stripped, primed and repainted and cost us an extra \$1500. Victoria Heritage Foundation Grant will not share this extra cost. It has now bubbled again and will cost us more money. Glen from the Master Painters and Decorations Assn has ordered Wes to stop painting until September when the weather is cooler as bubbling may occur due to moisture vapour permeability and the hot weather. Pam, a director of the Victoria Heritage Foundation, has offered to follow up on the painting problems.

**Teahouse Maintenance** – The backflow preventor was replaced in July by Brent Jansen Plumbing. A month later on a Sunday, it flowed water all day long and made noises that caused safety concerns. Karen’s husband, Caylen stabilized the backflow at the end of the day. Brent Jansen plumbing came two days later and charged for their service after saying they would come for free. They reduced the rate after Cherie followed up on the free rate offer. The problem happened again and Cherie called in John Mason, the Back Flow Guy to check it over.

**Abkhazi Garden in the Media** – CHEK TV came on Friday Aug 13 to the garden to shoot weather on Vee Cooper’s last day after 37 years at CHEK. CHEK will be promoting our Sep 6<sup>th</sup> artist event and our Sep 12<sup>th</sup> Open House on their community calendar. Helen Chesnut of the Times Colonist will also be promoting these events. Anny Scoones mentioned AG in the Islander and AG was mentioned in an article about Tanya Bub in the Boulevard Magazine. I will be reaching out to other media and the Victoria Arts Council about these events. They are also being posted on our social media. Will be monitoring COVID health protocols.

**Artists in the Garden** – 9 artists have submitted 14 paintings for the art show outside on Labour Day Monday Sep 6<sup>th</sup> (11am-4pm) and to be hung in the Teahouse until October 11<sup>th</sup> on Thanksgiving Monday. The art will be open to the public on Thanksgiving Monday as the Teahouse will be closed.

**Abkhazi Garden Open House** – will be on Grandparents Day, Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 5pm. Free admission. We will have lots of plants to sell and prizes. Prizes will include plush bears, Naturalist Activity books and 4 Afternoon Teas. (thank you Barb!) The TLC will have a table and tent – Cherie will organize a schedule for volunteers. We will also have a grand opening of the Boulevard Garden. We would like grandparents and grandkids to hold the ribbon for the ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30am. Samantha volunteered to come with one or two grandkids for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Dick may bring a grand child as well. Cherie will invite Tess Van Straaten from CHEK to cut the ribbon.

**Fall Fairfield** – we are going to have a table at the Fairfield Gonzales community fall celebration on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 4pm. Will need volunteers to help.

**Volunteer News – Sandra Smith and Doug Porteous** have retired from the garden. They have been coming to docent in the garden on Saturday afternoon for years. Sandra created a database for the garden. This plant database has been and will continue to be an invaluable contribution to the legacy of the garden. **Caroline Miller** who retired from gardening after having a stroke last fall, died last week. There may be a service for her in Abkhazi Garden.

**Jeff the Cat** – has been quite sick – Jacqui took him to the vet and found out he had broken teeth and a kidney problem. He was returned to the owner but Jeff came back to the garden to live and eat at the Teahouse. He suffered a gash on his back by the tail and Cherie called the owner to come and pick him up.

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

**Greenhouse Update** – greenhouse is installed and electricity is wired to greenhouse. Jim and Dick to add water line. Jim to build benches and Jacqui to purchase heating pads and lights. Old greenhouse will be used for cold storage. New greenhouse will be used for seed propagation. Former gardener and Friend of AG, Jo Wyld, will help with seeding plan.

**Raised Beds in Service Area** – Jacqui plans to grow cuttings of unusual rhodos in raised beds to carry on legacy of the Abkhazi's and to sell them. She will ask for help from Julianne Kimoff from Kimoff Wholesale Nursery who is experienced at doing this.

**Boulevard Garden** – volunteers are working on the boulevard garden to get it ready for the grand opening on Sunday Sep 12<sup>th</sup>. Jacqui will be adding special mulch to spruce it up.

**Deadheading** – deadheading should only be done under Jacqui's direction. Cherie will put out a message asking volunteers to refrain from deadheading in the garden as seeds need to be collected for propagation and the birds like them.

**Georgian Garden Update** – Jacqui will send out an example of tile work that could be a good direction to go for the art in the Georgian garden. She has tried to get Georgian vines but this is proving difficult in the time of COVID. She may have to get local vines that are similar to the Georgian vines. She will choose seedless grape vines so dogs are safe in the garden. Jacqui plans to send out a design for the Georgian Garden soon.

#### **5. Barb's Report (Owner/operator of the Teahouse)**

**Busy at the Teahouse** – lots of people are coming for high tea and lunch.

**Staff Shortage** – will close on Mondays and Tuesdays in September due to staff shortage. Will be open on Labour Day Monday which falls on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Canon Camera Day** – The Canon Road trip is coming to Abkhazi Garden on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Pictures taken at Abkhazi Garden will give us good publicity.

**Abkhazi Anniversary Tea** – Jamie is creating a special Prince and Princess Abkhazi Anniversary Tea that will celebrate their September 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary – the date they got engaged in 1946. **75 years ago.** There will be some Georgian food on the menu. This tea will run for 3 weeks and will start on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6. Marg’s Report** (Informal Friends Group)

**Informal Friends Meeting** – Marg is organizing an informal friends meeting in September on the South Lawn to determine how the group will be moving forward and who will attend the Abkhazi Advisory board meetings.

**Peggy Abkhazi Rhodo** – Ken Webb and Mr. Marquardt are willing to propagate a Peggy Abkhazi rhodo for the garden. Jacqui would be happy to pay for it as long as it is identified as a Peggy Abkhazi Rhodo.

#### **7. Cathy’s Report** (TLC Executive Director)

**TLC AGM 2021** – is on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary, located at 1772 Millstream Road, Victoria

**Densities** - TLC will partner with Aryze Developments Inc to sell Abkhazi Garden densities. The agreement is for two years. If the densities are sold, Abkhazi Garden will be less valuable and monies gained in the sale of the densities will go to creditors.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

**Next Meeting:** will be Friday, September 17 at 11am by zoom.