

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board

Date: Friday, September 17, 2021

Time: 11am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

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

Regrets: Barb Gunn

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of August 20, 2021 was motioned by Pam, seconded by Jacqui and carried by all present.

2. Agenda

Jacqui's Report (Abkhazi Garden Head Gardener)

Cherie's Report (Abkhazi Garden Site Manager)

Marg's Report (Informal Friends Group)

Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

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

Fall Open House – busy with preparing for the Open House. Beautified the boulevard garden for official opening and the inside garden for public viewing and got ready for the plant sale.

Greenhouse Update – Jim has built benches and is working on the heat lamp stands. Electricity in greenhouse is now installed. Water pipe will be installed after the irrigation blow out.

Oak Tree Health– Joe Harvey concerned about insects eating sap of Garry Oak on Summerhouse lawn. Jacqui checked out the insects and water damage to the oak tree. Insects are black jackets and do not bore into the tree. Jacqui will make sure that water from the sprinkler system does not hit the trunk and cause damage. Bartlett trees confirmed Jacqui's diagnosis of the tree's condition.

Acorns a Plenty – many acorns are falling this year. It may be due to the cyclical nature of acorn production or it may be triggered by the heat wave this summer.

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

Official Opening of Our Boulevard Garden – we had the official opening of the Boulevard Garden on Sep 12th at 10:30am with TLC board member, Tom Watson and AAB board member Samantha Beare holding the ribbon. Samantha's grandsons, Sam & Ben cut the ribbon with Jacqui looking on.

Fall Open House on Grandparent's Day – on Sep 12th 11am -4pm. Over 270 people came to our Open House. We were so pleased to see so many families and grandparents in the garden. We had a table set out on the Summerhouse Lawn for prizes (TLC rubber duckies, plush bears and Naturalist Activity Books)for the kids. We also had a draw to win one of four Afternoon Teas at the Teahouse.

Fall Open House Plant Sale – on Sep 12th 11am -4pm. Jacqui put out a variety of plants ranging from our unique Bella Bella Magnolia trees, Spanish Fir seedlings, Pacific Iris, Cyclamen and more. The plant sale brought in about \$800. Jacqui and Cherie would like to make this an annual event on Grandparent's Day. Fall is a good time to sell plants.

Art Show in the Garden – 11 artists submitted 20 paintings for the art show outside on Labour Day Monday Sep 6th (11am-4pm). Over 160 visitors attended this event. These art works are now hung in the Teahouse until October 11th on Thanksgiving Monday. The art will be open to the public on Thanksgiving Monday as the Teahouse will be closed. 6 paintings have sold so far. (\$965 raised for TLC) 50% of sales go to the artist and 50% to TLC.

Fall Fairfield – we are going to have a table at the Fairfield Gonzales community fall fair on Sunday, September 26th from 12pm – 4pm. Karen from TLC will represent TLC. Abkhazi volunteers (Marg, Lesley and Jenny) will also help at this event.

Eastside Fencing – Tower Fencing started on Monday, September 13th. It will take over 2 weeks to do.

New Waste Management - GFL Environmental has taken over from Waste Management. Transition to new company was not smooth. GFL did not drop off totes as expected and needed follow up. Waste Management did not inform their drivers that we had terminated our contract and needed follow up.

Painted Heritage Buildings - Glen Ashmore from the Master Painters and Decorations Assn is going to research why our newly painted buildings are bubbling and he will get back to us on how to correct this problem.

Volunteer News – Joe (12 years) and Linda (13years) Harvey are going to retire from the garden this Fall. Tess Van Straaten from CHEK TV plans to come on their last day – Monday, September 27th to do a story on these wonderful volunteers. We will have a special presentation for them at coffee time with Monday volunteers.

Summerhouse Display – Samantha is doing research on the Summerhouse for a display in the Summerhouse. Cherie will help with the project when the garden is less busy.

New Turtle – Animal Control called up the teahouse and asked if they could drop off a turtle that needed a home. The new turtle is in the lower pond.

5. Marg's Report (Informal Friends Group)

Informal Friends Meeting – Marg is organizing an informal friends meeting on Friday, September 24 on the South Lawn.

7. Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

TLC AGM 2021 – is now via zoom on Saturday, September 25th at 1:00pm. Please call TLC or contact membership@conservancy.bc.ca to sign up for this meeting.

TLC Deertrails Naturalist Program – was cancelled at last minute due to fourth wave of the pandemic.

515 Foul Bay Road Open House – Cathy to attend in person on Monday Sep 20. Pam will send out invite for online event to Cherie and Samantha. GMC projects are having a virtual open house on Tue Sep 21 from 5:30pm-7pm. The land-use application is to secure the existing 5 suite heritage rental manor and to create up to 18 new rental dwellings units contained within 9 townhome footprints. Register at: 515foulbay.com

TLC Membership – Samantha brought up concern that The Land Conservancy has only 3500 members. Membership could be promoted more at Abkahzi Garden to our visitors and on our message board. It was noted younger people do not become members like the older generation.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Next Meeting: will be Friday, October 15 at 11am by zoom.