

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board

Date: Friday, February 18, 2022

Time: 11am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Present: Samantha Beare, Cherie Miltimore, Marg Palmar, Jacqui Paulson

Regrets: Cathy Armstrong, Barb Gunn, Pam Madoff

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of January 21, 2022, was motioned by Marg, seconded by Samantha and carried by all present.

2. Agenda

Jacqui's Report (Abkhazi Garden Head Gardener)

Cherie's Report (Abkhazi Garden Site Manager)

Marg's Report (Friends Group)

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

Hornbeam Trimming – the hornbeam hedge will be trimmed on the west side (service area side) and on the south side (boulevard side) by Bartlett trees in the next three weeks. Bartletts will also prune the plum tree by the service area.

Georgian Garden – Jim has installed wires along the fence so grape vines can grow along them. Jacqui will add more boulders and plant some alpine plants. The qvevri will be placed and Molly the Witch peonies that are indigenous to Georgia will be added.

Joe Harvey - Jacqui visited Joe Harvey to pick up some peonies to cross with garden peonies to create some Abkhazi Princess peonies. She also dug up some Molly the Witch peonies for the Georgian garden. Joe gave her a curly leaf hepatica and Jacqui is trying to identify it.

Garden Volunteers Are Back – volunteers have come back after a January break. They are working hard and the garden is looking good.

Student Pruning – Students from the Pacific Horticulture College are coming to Abkhazi Garden to prune next Thursday on February 24th. There will be an instructor and two helpers to instruct the students on how to prune.

Lawn Treatment – will aerate the lawn. Micro clover is filling it in nicely.

Pond Cleaning – Jacqui will clean the pond in March with volunteer help.

Bees – Kate Fraser from Bees Please Farms is bringing two beehives to the garden. These hives will be placed in a sunny spot on the rock by the tool shed.

Plant Sales – more details to come at the next meeting.

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

Rezoning – TLC is in the process of rezoning the Abkhazi Garden property: selling densities to Aryze, moving the heritage designation to the house, changing zoning to commercial and park. Meeting with updates on rezoning and heritage designation will be on Tuesday, March 1 from 6pm-8pm at Cook Street Village Activity Centre.

Back Gate – new change link gate has been installed by Tower Fence.

Peggy's Manuscript – with permission from the UVic Archives Special Collection Peggy's manuscript, 'Dragon Aunt Remembers', was emailed out to volunteers and supporters.

Abkhazi Garden Plant Sale – will be on Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24 from 11am to 4pm.

Maintenance Report – Electrical – Jim is working on labeling our electrical panels. Fencing – plan to replace West Fence soon. Walkway/Driveway – seeking quotes for this work.

Volunteers – New – Laurie who has just retired from Russel Nursery and Adam who is a UVic student. Celebrated Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day with volunteers at coffee break.

Spring Start – hope to bring gate greeters back on Saturday, March 19, first day of spring break.

Year of the Garden 2022 – planning classical music event on Canada's National Garden Day on Saturday June 18th. Also partnering with Chelsea Fringe Festival in May.

Abkhazi Garden Documentary – Geoff Bird brought in a time lapse camera. He will be speaking to the Rotary Club on March 16 at the Union Club and applying for a Rotary grant.

Abkhazi Garden Activity Book – TLC is working on this book for kids.

Spring Fairfield - we will have a table at this community event on Saturday, March 19 from 12pm-2pm.

Abkhazi China – a neighbour, Romi Lagadin donated 5 limoges plates that are the same type of china that the Abkhazi's used.

5. Marg's Report (Friends Group)

Feb 4th Meeting – 8 people attended, 3 could not make it.

School Tours – Friends suggested that there are 10 children in a group and that docents help so children don't wander freely in the garden. Cherie liked the idea of 10 or less in a group but would not ask docents to help. Samantha (former principal) remarked that there will be adults with the school groups and schools would prepare the children for the visit to the garden such as staying on pathways.

Memorial Stones – Friends recommend against adding a sign, plaque or quotation to mark the memorial site so visitors walking by know what the memorial stones represent.

Cruise Ship Tours – in the past volunteers have given tours after garden hours to cruise ship passengers. Volunteers are not being asked to give tours this year. Cherie will ask Barb about cruise ship donations to the garden.

Research – James is contacting the National Archives in Ottawa regarding Peggy's stay in San Francisco before arriving in Canada in 1945.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Next Meeting: will be Friday, March 18, 2022 at 11am by zoom.