

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board

Date: Friday, May 20, 2022

Time: 11am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

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

Regrets: Cathy Armstrong, Barb Gunn

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of March 19, 2022, was motioned by Pam, seconded by Jacqui.

2. Agenda

Jacqui's Report (Head Gardener)

Marg's Report (Friends Group)

Cherie's Report (Abkhazi Garden Site Manager)

Samantha's Report (Abkhazi Advisory Board Member)

3. Jacqui's Report (Head Gardener)

Heather Border – replacing suffering Selly heather in upper lawn that borders the Yangtze River. Will install drip line to ensure heathers get enough water.

Spraying of Garry Oaks – Bartlett Trees was in this morning to spray Garry Oaks to prevent moth damage.

Plant Sales – went through a lot of plants at the two-day plant sale. Waiting on plants that have been freshly potted and seeded for more stock to replenish the supply on the plant stands.

Princess Abkhazi Rhodo – picked up a Princess Abkhazi rhodo (a stick with two leaves) from Bill McMillan who is a member of the Victoria Rhododendron Society. Arranged by Friends.

Pond Clean Up – started with the upper pond and then did the two lower ponds with volunteer help. There are four turtles and some small fish in ponds. The Great Blue Heron has eaten the larger fish.

Georgian Garden – grape vines are starting to grow. Molly the Witch peonies are starting to bloom. Waiting for the Georgian alpenines to germinate. Will plant a few things next week and add more rocks for alpine feel.

Joe Harvey – under Joe’s guidance, Jacqui has gathered pollen from the parent Abkhazi Princess Tree Peony and pollinated the Rockii Peony. (Jacqui has performed the bumble bee act.) Joe has donated peony seedlings, golden yew, hellebores, and curly leaf hepatica.

Bee Hives – have not arrived yet. Perhaps due to cooler weather. Samantha noted that was World Bee Day on May 20, 2022.

Chipper – Our residential chipper is down again for repairs. (\$1200 repair in January) Grant Small Motors is recommending a more durable John Deer machine (\$8000). Jacqui would like to see a demo of the machine with the volunteers who are familiar with chipping. In the meantime, Jacqui is dropping off the wood material with invasive plant waste at wholesale plant nursery. She will take her mileage and report back at the next meeting how much she is driving to drop off the plant waste. Another option is to use the repaired chipper and only shred green material.

Potting Shed Glass Roof – a section of the glass roof started to slide out during our meeting. Jacqui left the call to catch the glass pane so it did not shatter on the ground.

4. Marg’s Report (Friends Group)

Indigenous History of the Garden – James with help from David is continuing to work on this research.

Chipper Question – please see chipper item in Jacqui’s report.

Tours – Friends would like clarification on the tours. Barb organizes the tours and asks for volunteers as needed. Barb collects \$15/person for these tours and passes this money on to TLC. Cruise Ship tours are not included as they provide their own tour guides. TLC can arrange tours for small groups (smaller than 10 people) and school groups.

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

Neighbour/West Fence – After consulting with our neighbour, Bill Rimmer, on the west side of the garden, Tower Fence installed a 6 foot fence with cedar railings that matched the fence on the north side and south side.

Plant Sale – held on Saturday April 23 and Sunday April 24. We sold over \$4,200 (taxes included) worth of plants over the two days. Jacqui was present on both days to answer plant questions and volunteers took payments by card and cash for plants sold. **Abkhazi Princess Tree Peony** – these are very sought after plants and we sold as many as were available during the two day plant sale at \$65 and \$75 each.

Spring Fairfield – Abkhazi Garden had a table from 12-2pm on Sat March 19th. We had a draw for High Tea, prizes for kids, info about TLC which is celebrating 25 years, hand outs on our plant sale and documentary. Many thanks to Marg who volunteered at this event.

Year of the Garden 2022 – Both TLC and Barb purchased “Gardens Canada – Live the Garden Life” coffee table books. Abkhazi Garden is featured on a full page. Abkhazi Garden will be listed on Canada’s Garden Route soon. We will have a discount on registration to the International Garden Tourism Conference to be held in October.

Chelsea Fringe Festival to be held in the garden on May 28th has been cancelled. Music about gardens was to be played throughout our opening hours. Our partner, Alison Partridge recently got a job and could not take it on. Alison hopes we can do it next year.

Ukraine Day – On Canada National Garden Day, Saturday June 18th Abkhazi Garden is hosting a Ukraine Day for the Canada Ukraine Foundation who will be taking donations to help the people of Ukraine. We will be open from 11am to 6pm, with a special concert from 4:30-5:30 pm featuring violinist, Tatiana Kostour and guitarist, Douglas Hensley.

Abkhazi Garden Documentary – Geoff Bird continues to gather information and take pictures for the Abkhazi Garden documentary. Cherie and Geoff applied for a Heritage Legacy Fund grant. Results will be in June. Geoff will be filming the AI Frescoes art group in the garden on May 27th.

Artist Looking for Abkhazi Collage – Carole Sabiston created a historical collage to be hung in the Teahouse in 2001. Carole recently visited the garden and did not see the collage in the Teahouse. Barb has not seen it in the time she has been there (over 10 years). Cherie will try to find out where it got to.

Artists in the Garden Program – Artists have been invited again this year to take part in our artists in the garden program and fundraiser. Artists can come and paint Mon to Thu from 11am – 4pm. Five artists signed up for the art show right away.

Abkhazi Collection at Government House – Peggy’s cocktail dresses and Nicolas’ uniform will be on show again in the Costume Museum this year starting from May 24 to Sep 2. Tuesday to Friday from 11am – 4pm. They will also have a special display for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Abkhazi Garden Activity Book - Eleven students and two teachers, from Oak and Orca rode their bikes to Abkhazi Garden on April 27th. We gave them a tour of the garden and handed out the Abkhazi Garden activity books for them to take back to school. Cherie visited 3 local schools: Sir James Douglas, Margaret Jenkins and SMU – Junior Campus to drop off our activity book and to invite them to bring students to the garden.

Maintenance Jim – Jim has been busy. He sold copper irrigation pipes for almost \$200. He is creating a stand in the service area for wheelbarrows on one side and ladders on the other side. He created a collar for the middle post of the front gate. He also plans to fix the ceramic tables.

Paint Failure on Heritage Buildings – will contact Master Painter, Glen Ashmore, regarding the paint bubbles from last summer and those that cropped up since then.

Volunteers – we have five new gate greeters. (Irena, Debbie, Shari, Desiree and Beth). Still need docents and someone to help Jim with maintenance projects.

Abkahzi Garden Volunteer BBQ – Our over 22-year volunteer, Margaret Smart hoped we could have a potluck with volunteers in the garden. Jacqui and Cherie will host a BBQ with meat or veggie burgers on Monday, July 11 from 6-8pm in the garden. We will provide the burgers and fixings and beverages. Volunteers will be asked to bring their own dishes (plates, cups and utensils) and a salad or a dessert to share.

6. Samantha's Report (AAB Member)

Summerhouse Display - plans to show case the garden history with four black and white pictures on a shelf on the left side of the Summerhouse and four colour pictures of 4 seasons in the garden on a shelf on the right side. Once the appropriate photos are selected, Samantha will have London Drugs create them for the display.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Next Meeting: will be Friday, June 17, 2022 at 11am by zoom.