

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board

Date: Friday, June 17, 2022

Time: 11am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

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

Regrets: Barb Gunn

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of May 20, 2022, was motioned by Samantha, seconded by Pam and carried by all present.

2. Agenda

Jacqui's Report (Head Gardener)

Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

Cherie's Report (Site Manager)

Sue's Report (Friends Group)

3. Jacqui's Report (Head Gardener)

New Volunteers – two new Monday volunteers, Don and Elizabeth, a couple from South Africa, are working out nicely as well as a new handyman, Geoff who is working with Jim.

Georgian Garden Update – added in two golden yews and some perennials. The golden yews were cultivated by Joe Harvey and fits with the Prince from the Land of the Golden Fleece and the fact that Peggy gave Nicolas a Yew tree as a birthday present one year.

Bee Hives – arrived on Monday June 13th. The beekeeper, Kate Fraser of Please Bees farm, installed two beehives on a new site that is not too exposed to the wind and off the east pathway. The beekeeper also created a sign asking visitors to give bees space.

Rhodo Clean Up – there is much deadheading to be done and pruning. Pruning will help with supporting the rhodos so they are not so susceptible to falling over in extreme weather.

Chipper – Still researching options for how to use old chipper and replacement of it. For more detail please see minutes from last month.

Wollembi Pine – has been planted up by the Harry Lauder bush and the Cunning Hamia tree. This cultivated tree was gifted from Anthony Marks of North Saanich. There are about 100 Wollembi pines growing wild in Wollembi National Park in New South Wales, Australia.

4. 6. Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

Ukraine Day – on Canada National Garden Day, Saturday, June 18th, we are hosting a Ukraine Day to fundraise for the Canada Ukraine Foundation. There will be a concert from 4:30-5:30pm and the garden will close at 6pm. CTV will be interviewing Cathy about our Ukraine Day and will take pictures of the garden for the evening news. A representative from the Canada Ukraine Foundation will be present to collect donations.

Abkhazi Garden Rezoning – the rezoning application is well underway. Aryze is now on the city's development tracker. Aryze is preparing our rezoning application. Cherie distributed a parking survey and collected feedback from our neighbours. Cathy thanked Cherie for doing the parking survey.

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

Bus Parking – some neighbours complained about the buses parking by Abkhazi Garden. Buses are not allowed to idle on the street. Buses should drop off the passengers and find parking elsewhere and return for pick up. Cathy advised Cherie to sort bus parking out with Barb.

Ukraine Day – Devon Sereda Goldie, president of the Ukraine Cultural Centre will be collecting donations for the Canada Ukraine Foundation. The concert with Ukraine violinist, Tatiana Kostour and guitarist, Douglas Hensley will run from 4:30pm-5:30pm. Ukraine Day has been promoted with the Black Press, Helen Chesnut of the Times Colonist, CTV, CHEK TV and various social media.

Abkhazi Garden Documentary – Geoff Bird continues to collect video for the Abkhazi documentary. He filmed the Al Frescoes art group painting in the garden and interviewed Cherie and three volunteers – Jane, Marg and Dick. No word yet on the Heritage Legacy Fund grant that Cherie and Geoff applied for.

Abkhazi Garden Collage – Pam followed up on the missing Abkhazi collage created by Carole Sabiston in 2001. Unfortunately, it got misplaced between the move from Gonzales Hill to Cordova Bay. Carole has been informed that it is lost. We do have pictures of this historical piece of artwork that was donated to the garden. It had not been hung in the Teahouse for several years.

Destination Greater Victoria Commercial – A film crew came to Abkhazi Garden on June 7th to shoot a commercial. There was a photographer, videographer, and zoom operator, talent, production crew and make up artist. This commercial will be shown across Canada and into Washington, Oregon and California.

Paint Failure on Heritage Buildings –Master Painter, Glen Ashmore reviewed the paint job of our heritage buildings on Friday, June 3rd. He gave recommendations on how to fix the paint bubbles. The large paint bubble on the front of the Summerhouse was filled with water which indicates a leaking roof. Cherie is sharing this information with our two handymen, Jim and Geoff.

Abkhazi Garden Volunteer BBQ – Invitations have gone out for the volunteer BBQ on Monday, July 11 from 6-8pm. We will provide the burgers and fixings and beverages. Volunteers are to bring their own dishes (plates, cups and utensils) and a salad or a dessert to share and let us know if they would like a beef or veggie burger.

Georgian Contact – Natalie Marshania, of the Ministry of Culture of Georgia, has recently contacted us regarding her research about Prince Nicolas Abkhazi. We have sent her information about Nicolas and Peggy. She has sent a virtual book that she has written about the Abkhazian Aristocracy in Exile.

Front Gate Bench – We tried placing a bench in the garden but could not come up with the right location. A couple of gate greeters insisted that we have a bench for people to sit on by the front gate so we moved the bench by the front gate. It is a perfect fit under the hydrangeas. Now people can sit and wait for family or friends or wait for a cab.

Walkway/Driveway – Gord Doucette is coming on Monday, June 20, 2022 to share his plan for the walkway/driveway and give us an estimate.

4. Sue's Report (Friends Group)

Deer Threat – Dick dropped by the garden on a very rainy day when there were no gate greeters present and noticed the gate had been left ajar which would allow deer to enter. He would like to see a sign put up to remind visitors to keep the gate closed. Cherie will look to see where a sign can be placed so visitors can see it as they open the gate.

Motion: that the Abkhazi Advisory Board meets every second month instead of monthly. Moved by Pam and Seconded by Cathy. Carried by all present.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Next Meeting: will be Friday, August 19, 2022 at 11am by zoom.