

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board

Date: Friday, August 19, 2022

Time: 11am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Present: Samantha Beare, Cherie Miltimore, Jacqui Paulson, Joan Peggs

Regrets: Cathy Armstrong, Barb Gunn, Pam Madoff

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of June 17, 2022, was motioned by Jacqui, seconded by Samantha.

2. Agenda

Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

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

Joan's Report (Friends Group)

Jacqui's Report (Head Gardener)

Cherie's Report (Site Manager)

3. Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director) Given by Cherie.

Rezoning – Cathy could not make the meeting as she was meeting with city officials regarding the rezoning of Abkhazi Garden which includes the densities, heritage designation of the house and recognition that the garden has volunteers working in the garden and a commercial business.

Abkhazi Financials – Cathy plans to share the Abkhazi Garden financials at the next meeting.

Cathy is Moving – Cathy will be moving to the mainland in late September. She will continue to be the executive director of The Land Conservancy of British Columbia.

Featured in Douglas Magazine – Cathy was featured in the Aug/Sep edition of Douglas Magazine. Copies of this mag are at the garden and it will be covered in our next newsletter.

4. Barb's Report (Owner/operator of the Teahouse) Given by Cherie

Closing on Mondays and Tuesdays in September – due to staff shortages.

Barb's Holiday – October 11th-25th – plans to keep Teahouse running while she is gone.

Wasps in the Garden – patio service has been cancelled due the wasps and Ophelia killed over 100 wasps in the kitchen area on one day. Wasp traps have been set up, fake wasp nests have been hung around the teahouse and a pest control person was brought in. No active nest was found. Wasps may have come from neighbours where they took down two nests.

Teahouse Customer Service – any items related to the service at the Teahouse, should go directly to Barb.

5. Joan's Report (Friends Group)

Garden Closing – currently we have a last entrance at 4pm and people must be out at 5pm. Joan suggests that we just close at 5pm so people arriving at 4:10pm can still go through the garden and leave their donation at the gate. Cherie will bring this up with Cathy.

Chipper Care – Jacqui is taking away the bigger items from the chipper pile so there is less stress on the chipper. Jacqui takes plant waste away twice a week. Samantha wants to make sure Jacqui is recompensed for the extra trips she makes and the cost of high fuel prices. Jacqui says it is not a big deal as most of time the drop off of waste is not out of her way. She will let the board know if the costs get too high.

Fewer Volunteer Hours – our volunteers are travelling this summer and some have gotten sick with COVID so we are experiencing less volunteer hours. We still have over 50 volunteers volunteering in the garden.

6. Jacqui's Report (Head Gardener)

Summertime gardening – although there is a slow down of volunteer hours, the garden is running smoothly. Jacqui is spending a lot of time watering the garden.

Fall Plant Sale – is on Sunday Sep 11th. Two volunteers (Joti and Lana) will help sort and label the plants for sale on the Friday. Jacqui would like a plant helper at the sale on Sunday.

Cyclamen are Coming Up – there are quite a few cyclamen coming up in the garden. Some of these have been potted for sale at the Fall Plant Sale. Jacqui has some hepatica for sale as well.

Deer in Garden – deer have been an issue this summer. Chased one out of the front gate this morning. Mom and sibling were waiting for the deer on the North Side of the garden. Cherie suggested it might be time to replace the north fence. She will talk to Cathy and the neighbour who is willing to share the cost.

New Fish in the Pond - Jacqui's daughter Fiona released 20 comet goldfish into the middle pond. A couple of Cooper's Hawks may be keeping the Blue Heron away.

Billardiera by Summerhouse – has come back after a very tough winter. Jacqui has some seedlings and cuttings that will need to be over wintered. Lesley has a friend whose billardiera is thriving. Jacqui would like some seeds from this plant.

New Raised Beds – Geoff has created new raised beds in the service area. Jacqui will use these beds to over winter some plants and in the future she will fill the beds with rhodo cuttings.

Winterizing Table Plants – lost plants left on tables in the service area over the winter. Will put hoops over these tables to protect these plants from snow and frost this winter.

Hiking Group Fall Clean Up– a group of hikers helped with fall clean up a few years ago and they are coming again in late October or early November to help with the fall clean up.

Waste Behind the Tool Shed – Old signs and rusted tables stored behind the tool shed have been taken away to Hartland. It was mostly metal items but there was a fee for the wooden items.

Development of the Herb Garden – Unfortunately the Grevillea in the herb garden died. Jacqui plans to replenish the herb garden area and upgrade the irrigation in this area.

Plant Donations – Samantha will donate a pussy willow plant to the plant sale and she will donate a bay tree for the garden. Bay leaves are used to make edible wreaths at our Festive Season Plant Sale. Edible wreaths are a very popular item.

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

Ukraine Day – raised \$3,000 for the Canada Ukraine Foundation on Canada National Garden Day, Saturday, June 18th.

Abkahzi Garden Volunteer BBQ - on Monday, July 11 from 6-8pm was well attended. We would like to make this an annual event.

Pacific Opera Victoria Pop Up – will take place on Thursday, August 25th at 2pm. Volunteers have been invited. Cherie will send out a reminder of this event.

Abkhazi Garden Art Show Fundraiser – Outside art show on Mon, Sep 5, Paintings on display in the Teahouse Sep 6-Oct 9 and Indoor art show in the Teahouse on Mon, Oct 10. There will be some fabulous paintings this year created by local artists who have been part of the plein air Artists in the Garden program. Many thanks to Barb for making this possible.

Abkhazi Garden Open House – on Grandparents Day on Sep 11th. Free Admission. Fall Plant sale and prizes to be won – draw for an Afternoon Tea for Two (thank you Barb), plush bears and Abkhazi Garden Activity books.

Deer Prevention – sign on Front Gate post says Deer! Keep Gate Closed on both sides. Jim has repaired lattice south fence where fawn broke in. Jim and Geoff have added stucco wire at the bottom of this fence as well to prevent deer from coming in.

Walkway/Driveway – still calling in contractors to sort out cost and design of the walkway/driveway. We would like it to be wheelchair friendly, permeable and incorporate garbage screening and bike racks.

Summerhouse Roof Leak – hard to get roofers in at this time of year. We are on some waitlists and Kevin the Roofer is coming this Saturday to check out our leaking problem.

Bubbled Paint on Toolshed – now the junk behind the tool shed has been cleared we can start stripping the bubbled paint on the east side of the shed.

Freezer Blocking Electrical Panel – new freezer in Teahouse storage shed is blocking the electrical panel. It is on wheels and can be moved out but it needs better wheels for a quicker pull out. Cherie is working with Barb on a solution.

Our Volunteers are Heroes – the Abkhazi Garden Volunteer Team has won a 2022 Year of the Garden Hero award from the Canadian Garden Council. The council thanks our team for contributing to Canada's garden culture.

Abkhazi Garden Documentary Grant – TLC in partnership with Royal Roads University applied to the Heritage Legacy Fund for a heritage awareness grant to produce a documentary on Abkhazi Garden. TLC was awarded \$10,000.

Special Guest Visits – Caroline Duncan who raised funds and publicity to save the garden from development came to the garden to be interviewed for the documentary.

Birders in the Garden – one of our docent volunteers, Gail has offered to do a bird assessment of the garden with other expert birders throughout the different seasons.

Four Season Pictures for the Summerhouse – Cherie will work with Samantha to pick out 4 pictures to show the different seasons in the garden. These pictures will be on display in the summerhouse.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Next Meeting: will be Friday, October 21, 2022 at 11am by zoom.