

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board

Date: Friday, January 27, 2023

Time: 11am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Present: Cathy Armstrong, Samantha Beare, Pamela Madoff, Cherie Miltimore, Jacqui Paulson, Joan Pegg

Regrets: Barb Gunn

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of November 18, 2022, was motioned by Jacqui, seconded by Cathy.

2. Agenda

Jacqui's Report (Head Gardener)

Cherie's Report (Site Manager)

Joan's Report (Friends Group)

Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

3. Jacqui's Report (Head Gardener)

Tree Assessment – Jacqui discussed the Bartlett tree assessment report of the Garry Oaks, plum and cherry trees. She prepared a map with trees that are high risk, moderate risk and low risk in the garden. Bartlett does recommend removing some trees. Jacqui will meet with the city arborist, the head of Bartlett Trees and Cathy (by phone) in the garden to make recommendations on how to move forward – which trees to take down, prune or cable. Jacqui suggests replacing trees with Acer Rubrum or Perrotia.

Wasp Prevention – Jacqui has plans to prevent a wasp invasion this year. She recommends the following: ceramic eggs on the patio infused with peppermint oil, wasp repellent plants on the patio (geraniums), fake wasp nests around the patio and house, wasp traps away from this area, screens on the doors to kitchen (Barb), wasp nest patrols, and communication with neighbours (Cherie).

Pathway Renewal – Jacqui with volunteer help will edge pathways with small boulders as needed and add gravel screenings. She will rent a compactor to compact the pathways. She plans to adjust the flagstone pieces by the Bella Bella that cause a tripping hazard.

Propagating for Spring – has started propagating plants for the garden especially for the Georgian Garden and pollinators for the bees.

Garden Mapping – has created a map with about 35 beds. Will ask volunteers to take pictures of plants of a certain bed in four seasons. This will help create a digital data base for the garden. Recently she met with Maureen to update the plant books that are used at the Front Gate and at the Summerhouse. Some plants are no longer in the garden and new ones need to be included.

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

Volunteers Party – The volunteer holiday party was rescheduled to January due to lots of snow. We would like to make the New Year Luncheon a tradition as the Teahouse is closed and we are not in the holiday rush. Many thanks to Barb for the meat pies and allowing us to use the Teahouse for such a special event.

20 Year Celebration – we celebrated Marg's 20+ years of volunteering at Abkhazi Garden at the New Year Luncheon. She was presented with a Victor Lotto painting.

Events Calendar – Cherie sent out an events calendar for the year. New this year would be a celebration of International Peace Day on Thu Sep 21.

Fundraising – Festive sales brought in over \$3600 and wood sales brought in over \$1100 this season. That is impressive. Jacqui worked very hard with volunteers to create festive wreaths and other holiday decor. Cherie is grateful to the volunteers who came out in the cold to sell these items. Posting our festive products on Facebook Marketplace increased our sales.

Maintenance Report – Cherie sent out a maintenance report in advance of this meeting. Recently we upgraded our electrical panel, installed two new receptacle boxes in the kitchen and replaced cable running to the Summerhouse to bring more voltage to the Service Area. Many thanks to Barb who will pay for the new receptacle boxes and who will share the cost of the new electrical panel.

Summerhouse Pictures – Cherie sent out 4 pictures of the garden in different seasons with different views of the garden to be put into the summerhouse. She will work with Samantha on this project.

Documentary News – Geoff will be showing the film, Abkhazi Garden – Sanctuary from War to Peggy's goddaughter, Philippa Proudfoot next week by zoom. Please let Cherie know if you would like to attend.

Cherie Holidays – Cherie will be going on holidays from Feb 6 – Mar 8th. She is going to Australia to visit her son and his fiancée and won't be able to pop over to the garden.

5. Joan's Report (Friends Group)

Reference Books – Docents hope reference books can be kept in the Summerhouse this season. Cherie does not have an issue with the books being stored in the Summerhouse for the season.

Documentary – Cassie Cangas of the Oak Bay Heritage Foundation is planning to invite Geoff Bird to one of their meetings to show the documentary, Abkhazi Garden – Sanctuary from War. They hope Cherie and possibly Cathy will attend to answers questions at the end of the show. Date to be decided.

6. Cathy's Report (TLC Executive Director)

Rezoning – TLC is still 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. Cathy recently met with Aryze who hopes the city will approve the Aryze development by the summer. When that development is approved, the rezoning of the garden can move forward.

Documentary – Cathy and Geoff Bird, the director of the film, Abkhazi Garden – Sanctuary from War have been invited to travel to Georgia for a special screening of this film which will be shown on Georgian public television. Date to be decided.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Next Meeting: will be Friday, March 17, 2023 at 11am by zoom.