



**Meeting:** Abkhazi Advisory Board

**Date:** Thursday, July 25, 2024

**Time:** 11am

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Penny Crawford, Pam Madoff, Cherie Miltimore, Marg Palmer, Jacqui Paulson

**Regrets:** Barb Gunn, Dianna Stenberg

### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of May 23, 2024, was motioned by Pam, seconded by Jacqui.

### **2. Agenda**

**Jacqui's Report** (Head Gardener)

**Cherie's Report** (Site Manager)

**Dianna's Report** (TLC Executive Director)

**Marg's Report** (Friends of Abkhazi Garden Group)

### **3. Jacqui's Report** (Head Gardener)

**New Volunteers** – Jacqui is pleased with the addition of Mark who is interested in handyman work and his wife Tara who is interested in gardening on Tuesday mornings.

**Composting** – Jacqui is missing our long-time master composter, David who is on sick leave. Jacqui would like to buy a shredder to replace the clipper and shredder that is nearing its end.

**Stonemason** – Jason McCall recently came to the garden to give quotes on various stonework projects that need to be done in the garden. Jacqui would like him to work on the stairs on the western pathway with the maples that are currently a tripping hazard for our guests. She has allocated money in her budget for this type of work.

**Wifi** – Jacqui would like to have access to wifi in the garden. TLC has no provider in the garden and Barb has Shaw/Rogers. Cherie asked Barb to see if the Teahouse could extend coverage in the garden but Barb could not commit to doing this at this time. Cherie will explore costs of setting up a wifi system in the garden.

**Fundraising** – Jacqui would like to sell bulbs at the Abkhazi Garden Fall Plant Sale on Sep 8<sup>th</sup>. \$500 worth from a wholesale company. She plans to make some teacup bird seed feeders for the Festive Market in December.

**New Bench** – a bench is being installed by the Georgian Garden for visitors to sit on. This bench will be added to our Accessibility and Bench Map. That makes 9 benches in the garden.



**Driveway** – a couple of people have tripped and fallen going up the driveway. Jacqui has asked her volunteer to fill in the potholes with gravel to remove tripping hazards.

**Written Reports for AAB** – Jacqui and Penny suggested that we should send in written reports for the AAB meeting similar to Dianna’s written submission for this meeting.

#### **4. Cherie’s Report (Site Manager)**

**Abkhazi Garden Volunteer BBQ** – went well and Cherie looks forward to next year.

**Walkway Grants - Victoria Cultural Infrastructure Grant** – This grant was submitted in April and we have not heard yet if we are successful or not. **BC Gaming Capital Projects Grant** – draft is almost complete. Working with Dianna on it. Jacqui will be submitting a part.

**Accessibility Map** – the accessibility map with benches marked is now available at the gate to share with our mobility challenged guests.

**Flyer with Spring Video and Documentary** –flyer with QR codes has been handed out at the Teahouse and Summerhouse.

**Parking** – there was horn honking and yelling when the film crew needed parking on Fairfield and Shotbolt was closed for road repair. I have contacted the city regarding these problems.

**Vital Volunteer** – our amazing volunteer, Sue Hara was featured on the vital people section of CHEK TV that is sponsored by the Victoria Foundation.

**Gardens BC** – president of Gardens BC, Geoff Ball came for a tour of the garden.

**Artists in the Garden** –a few artists have signed up for our art show fundraiser in September. Cherie is hoping more will sign up so the event will run.

**International Day of Peace** – is on Sat Sep 21. To mark this day of peace in the garden, we will have 3 choirs perform. 11:30am Vancouver Island Chamber Choir (choir director – Brian Tate) 1:30pm Joy of Life Choir (choir director – Daniel Lapp) and 3:30pm Kalyna Ukrainian Choir (choir director–Lina Streltsov) Cherie will research parking at Margaret Jenkins and St Mathias and acquiring chairs. (a Canadian Tire donation?)

**Abkhazian Culture** – Natalie Marshania and Manana Kvachakhia, are coming April/May 2025 (TLC will be celebrating 25 years with community support) to make a documentary about Prince Nicolas Abkhazi and Abkhazi Garden. They plan to bring the Abkhazi State Song and Dance



Ensemble to introduce local residents to the Abkhazian culture and folklore. Once the date is set and we know how many are coming, Cherie would like to find hosts to take in these visitors.

**80<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration** – in 2026, we will be celebrating 80 years of Abkhazi Garden. Cherie has asked the Costume Museum at Government House to showcase the Abkhazi Collection and they have agreed.

#### **6. Diannas's Report** (TLC Executive Director)

**Volunteer thank you event** was wonderful. Thank you to Cherie and Jacqui for all of their work organizing. It was lovely to meet more of the team, and great coverage by CHEK.

**The mobility map and QR codes for videos** were created by our summer student Helena Jacobsen. Would love to hear any feedback.

I've had a discussion with Cherie about the **Capital grant through BC Gaming** to support the driveway. I've researched the bits requested, but Cherie and I should follow up soon to get final materials together for the submission.

Our auditors have completed their annual work with staff. **Final audited financial statements** are typically available in early September for the public.

**The drafted bylaws for the rezoning process** are to be read on August 1. The City of Victoria anticipated a mid-September public hearing. This should be the final stage of the process.

I've had accounting pull actual to budget figures, please see attached. The **budget is May through July**, but actuals were pulled on Monday, so there are still invoices to come in before the end of the month. I believe the hornbeam hedge came in following the report.

#### **Marg's Report** (Friends of Abkhazi Garden Group)

**No Report this time.**

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

**Next Meeting:** scheduled for Thursday, Sep 19, 2024 at 11am by zoom.