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| FOG Board Meeting | |  | | --- | | February 2, 2021 | | 7pm | | Via Zoom | |

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| Meeting called by: | Monthly | Type of meeting: EExecu | Board meeting |
| Facilitator: | Janet McLean | Note taker: | Jessica Huber |
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| Attendees: | Ieuan Evans, Diane Bell, Brett Zawadiuk, Katherine Irwin, Debra Meakins, Janet McLean, Melanie Kruger, Nicole Stratton, Shaffina Mohamed, Zahra Merali, Carl Charest | | |
| Absent: | Zahra Merali | | |
| Guests: | Ken Willis | | |

## Minutes

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Topic** | **Presenter** | | 1. **Welcome & Adoption of current agenda** | **Janet** | | * Debra motioned to accept last minutes and current agenda. Shaffina 2nd. | | | 1. **Administrative Update** | **Jessica** | | * AGLC Financials have been submitted * Drafts have been made of what each page will look like on the website – minus the stories, I will be waiting until I receive several to get an idea of how to display it in a consistent way * Compiling & scanning information for financial year end * Hopefully March I will be able to have a rough draft of the website done to show the board before it goes live – fingers crossed restrictions are lifted soon! * Packing up and storing 2020 files and organizing for 2021 | | | 1. **Stories – Updates & Progress Reports** | **Janet / Everyone** | | * Diane spoke with the Chickadee researcher and gathered a lot of information from him * In the future, anytime someone gives a talk we will be sure to gather their notes / materials so that we can use it on our website * Janet gathered information on Pines from Bruce Dancik – things he found interesting * You can send any information you have gathered to Jessica and she will post it on the secured section of our website for other board members to see if they have anything to add, etc. * The password to access the secured part of our website is: **fOg1971!** (That is a capital “O” not a zero). It is the “Administrative” tab in the top right corner of our website | | | 1. **Contacting other Friends organizations** | **Janet** | | * If anyone wants to call around let Janet know prior to make sure we aren’t calling the same organizations twice. * Brett has offered to assist. | | | 1. **Plant Sale Proposal** | **Janet** | | * The garden wants to use the plants grown in the greenhouse and display up front at the welcome centre – eventually to sell these plants. Carl hopes that FOG can assist with this in terms of assisting with information on the plants, stories, basically to showcase the plants. * So plant sales would go over the summer rather than one weekend – the FOG members could run on a schedule, 1-2 times a week to help with these plant sales, they wouldn’t have to be on site all the time. * Ken believes we can potentially start bringing in volunteers again with FOG, educational institutions, Master Gardeners, etc. by restarting Plant Sale & Nursery – but not by competing with other greenhouses but more so in a specialized aspect – i.e. focusing on native plants. The Edmonton Native Plant Group does site restoration & areas of plant responsibility with local governments and it would be great to bring in partners & initiatives such as this to benefit ourselves as well as the community (governments, municipalities) * The garden is certainly open and willing to start partnerships with other organizations and feels that FOG is the organization to help assist with these partnerships * It would be fun to have QR codes link the plants to a story / information on our website * This might not be attainable until 2022 with covid restrictions, credentials will not be necessary but there will be some training regime for individuals coming on as volunteers. * The garden hopes that over time there are bigger initiatives for FOG, and when the time comes we can set goals for the future. * Janet suggested having some of the board in on discussions, what work might be needed / done, FOG might recruit deciding on the initiative the garden has for us. * The Garden will get something in writing for FOG so we can start on that initiative – something this summer on a limited scale, following AHS guidelines. * The Portager (?)Garden – phase 1 was completed last spring (soil & path laid out, all American seed selection done). Phase 2 will be to put in the fence – currently looking for a funding source to finish that. | | | 1. **Director’s Update** | **Carl** | | * Just ended Luminaria season last Sunday. Over 30,000 attendees, that was tripling the regular attendance by extending it. $500,000 in ticket sales. * Over 100,000 visitors in the last season, absolutely NO covid cases were linked to the Garden. * March 31 is the fiscal year end, ending with a small surplus. The garden generated enough profits to fill the gap from the funding that was cut. * Winter offering for February & March – open from Thursday – Sunday 5pm – 10pm. Date night at the garden, there will be entertaining programs and activities and food offerings (winter tapas box). Starting February 11 – end of March. Launching Wednesday, February 3. * The Devon Pavilion estimate came back higher than expected, construction will not be starting right away (likely Summer 2022). * Expectations for the upcoming year – hoping to increase capacity to 75%, have picnics 7 days a week, have Luminaria 30 days again. January to March will be the Winter experience (date night with tapa boxes) * Northern Light Dining Experience had to be cancelled due to the current restrictions, which is unfortunate as there was an extreme interest. * If anyone has an idea as to what the Garden can do with the igloo domes they purchased for the winter dining during the spring/summer months – please let Carl know. * Brainstorming ideas on how to use the canopy – coffee / tea shop – so that the gift shop is not the main interest. * Concession will be going towards partners and businesses within the community rather than the garden creating the foods / beverages. * The University wants to keep Carl as the director but nothing is official yet! | | |

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**Finance:** January’s finances were reviewed.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7pm, via ZOOM.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm by Brett.**