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| FOG Board Meeting |

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| May 4, 2021 |
| 7pm |
| Via Zoom |

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

## Minutes

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| **Topic** | **Presenter** |
| 1. **Welcome & Adoption of current agenda**
 | **Janet** |
| * April minutes and May agenda acceptance moved by Katherine and seconded by Brett.
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| 1. **Administrative Update**
 | **Janet** |
| * Reviewed Financial Spreadsheet and Administrative Report provided with Agenda. No comments or concerns. No concerns from FOG members subsequent to Annual General Information mailout. Comments were that FOG members were eager to have a meeting at the Garden. Jessica advised that an in-person meeting to review the 2021 season was planned for the end of summer if Covid restrictions permit. **Special thanks to Nicole Stratton for completing the Financial Audit on short notice!**
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| 1. **Luminaria Update**
 | **Janet**  |
| * Grant application to EPCOR for $75,000 was submitted. Deadline for submissions was April 30th. The application was submitted by FOG with Janet providing signature. Waiting for response.
* Possibility for workshops to incorporate light into Halloween and Luminaria costumes depending on Covid restrictions.
* Possible application to the Edmonton Community Foundation for support.
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| 1. **Plant Sale**
 | **Janet / Diane** |
| * FOG membership provided seven volunteers in addition to Janet & Diane.
* Very pleased with response. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions announced May 4/5 will eliminate any further volunteer participation at the Garden for the time being.
* Garden staff will continue with the Plant Sale through May.
* The FOG website will continue to provide plant sale information.
* Notices will be sent to all volunteers.
* It is hoped that FOG participation in the Plant Sale can be resumed later in the summer/fall.
* Ieuan suggested that people could be encouraged to drop-off larger potting containers (over 10”) at the Garden when they pick-up plants. FOG could clean and possibly decorate for feature plantings at future Plant Sales. Discussion with Ken will be required.
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| 1. **Website & Stories**
 | **Janet** |
| * Jessica has cleaned-up old information from the FOG website and included new information – stories & Plant Sale.
* More work on the website is required to categorize and select specific information.
* Ieuan is working on a series of articles covering trees for urban landscapes. He completed one story on horse chestnut and has begun working on pines.
* The Master Gardeners may want to post Ieuan’s stories on their website to encourage collaboration with this group.
* Lee Foote provided an article on architects in the Garden.
* Submissions from Board members and others are encouraged.
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| 1. **Garden Report**
 | **Carl** |
| * Premier Kenny’s announcement on Covid -19 restrictions for Outdoor social gatherings will be limited to 5 people (previously 10 people). Outdoor recreation is restricted to members of the same household, or cohort. The Garden will open as planned on Thursday, May 6th. **Note: Restrictions will prevent volunteers working at the Garden.**
* Brunch boxes are almost sold out for Mother’s Day Weekend.
* Garden is Promoting Experience bundles twice per year: May/June and November/December. Experience bundles include Free admission, 2 Luminaria tickets, discount on food and local retailers.
* Large corporations (e.g. Blue Cross and Sun Life) have expressed interested in purchasing tickets for their employees. The Garden will be giving away tickets in July to targeted groups (e.g. restaurant workers – July, Health Care workers – August, Seniors – September.
* Planning for Luminaria is underway. There is interest in expanding/enhancing displays in the Aga Khan Garden. The Japanese Garden has been the main feature to date. Grant application to Epcor for $75,000 submitted.
* Edmonton Community Foundation Chair - Zahra Somani -involved with the Aga Khan Garden has agreed to help with Grant applications for the Garden.
* Budget planning – The planning scenario predicts a $500,000 surplus for 2021 that would be re-invested in the Garden.
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**Finance:** April’s finances were reviewed.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 at 7pm, via ZOOM.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.**