

**Friends of the Central Experimental Farm
Amis de la Ferme expérimentale centrale**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors
1:30 p.m., Oct. 17, 2021**

PRESENT: Richard Hinchcliff, Eric Jones, Randy Taylor, Shirley Ewen, Susan Kehoe, Donna Pape, Dell Durnin, Blaine Marchand, Robert Stuart, Deborah Higdon-LeBlond

AGENDA:

- **MOVED by Blaine Marchand and SECONDED by Donna Pape THAT the agenda be adopted as revised. CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

- **MOVED by Shirley Ewen and SECONDED by Susan Kehoe THAT the minutes of the September, 2021, meeting be approved. CARRIED.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Eric reported that there had been many e-mails regarding the new hospital plan, and that the Friends were dealing with them in accordance with their mission and agreement with AAFC.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL ISSUES – Randy

- FCEF finances are in a good position considering the lack of fundraising activities due to the pandemic. Membership income, book sales and donations have increased over the previous year.
- All the costs for the Building Book have been recorded by Randy.
- **MOVED by Randy Taylor and SECONDED by Shirley Ewen THAT the financial report as of September, 2021, be approved. CARRIED.**
- **Budget for 2022** –Randy has placed the budget form on the shared Google Drive and has asked all directors to fill in the budget for their area(s) of responsibility prior to the next meeting.

PROJECTS AND FRIENDS

- **Bench Project:** - Deborah – Three of the four people on the list for benches have made appointments to meet with Shari. On November 2, the program will be open to the public to purchase the other three benches. If they sell quickly, she may approach Jeremy to ask to increase the total number to 8 benches,
- **Autumn in the Arboretum:** Susan –
 - The event was a success as an outreach to families.
 - The weather did not cooperate and it was rainy.
 - Due to COVID restrictions, names were taken for contact tracing.
 - 345 people signed in but due to other entrances, over 400 likely

attended the event.

- o The glass pumpkins sold quickly.
 - o FCEF will receive 10% of the net sales from the glass pumpkins which will be \$1,193.00.
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- **Building Book:** Richard – The books have arrived and are stored in the basement of Building 72. The Zoom event to launch the book will be held November 18, and invitations will be going out by post and e-mail. A few VIPs have been invited to speak.
 - **Garden tours:** Robert - Old Ottawa South Garden Club has asked for a tour of the peonies next May. Brochures will be sent to them and to the OHA. A spreadsheet will be drawn up to keep track of the brochure distribution. Next step is to bring together a team that will consider FCEF's role in garden tours.
 - **Woodland improvement:** Eric – The inventory is complete and a report will be prepared with AAFC. We hope to move forward on this project next year.
 - **The Tree book:** The concept of the book is changing and the timeline has been lengthened to 2023.
 - **Master Gardener lectures:** Donna – FCEF received \$750 from the lectures with an equal amount going to the Master Gardeners.
 - **Greeting Cards:** Dell – Cards sets have been selling well. A suggestion has been made to put the four sets together to sell for \$70. An inventory has been set up to keep track of the card sales.
 - **Creation of pathways** between the gardens to facilitate visiting by the elderly and the handicapped – long term project (Blaine). **Note: priority to be checked with AAFC.**
 - **Upgrading of the arches at the entrances** to and the fencing along the Heritage Rose Garden - long term project (Fiona). **Note: priority to be checked with AAFC.**

GARDEN REPORT- Blaine

- Team Leaders
 - o Three team leaders are stepping down this year (Denise Kennedy, Bill Wegman and Nancy Finn), and Polly McColl is stepping down the following year.
 - o Nikki Quintero, who has taken on the Perennial Gardens, will determine at the end of this year or the beginning of the next, if she can continue in this role.
- The team meeting was held in the morning with Jeremy attending. Blaine will meet with Jeremy to clarify some of the issues. Topics discussed included plant theft, soil exhaustion, and overgrown plants.
- Targeted recruitment of new volunteers - Blaine, Donna Deborah and Helen, a newly recruited young retiree with the peony team, have put together several options for recruitment based on how younger people

connect and seek opportunities. One suggestion is to ask new volunteers how they were recruited.

- Blaine met with Jim Davidson to discuss the future of the Organic Garden.

FCEF OUTREACH INITIATIVE - Eric

- The Farm needs protection from further development. The MP for Ottawa Central, Yasir Naqvi, included this as an election promise.
- FCEF is also in need of a social media coordinator, and we are currently exploring the possibility of a team that will be able to expand awareness of the Farm.

MEMBERSHIP –Deborah

- A total of 372 memberships which includes 473 people.

PROPOSED EVENTS FOR 2022 – Donna

- The list of events was placed on the shared drive.

OTHER BUSINESS

- There was discussion of possible FCEF vacancies in coming months, and it was recognized that the Board would have to take steps to address this in the near future.
- Erica Claus has expressed an interest in evaluating the art donated by Pamela Burns.
- Blaine has found some rose plates that were donated and we will sell them at the Plant Sale.
- The plaque for the rock garden is ready to be installed. Blaine will pass it to Jeremy to install.

NEXT MEETING

- The next FCEF Board meeting will be held on November 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Eric Jones, President

Shirley Ewen, Secretary