

Biogaian Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2017

Present: Helen, Anita, Sadhana, Laura, Brent, Sylvan, Suzie, Misty Dawn, Hayra

Proposal from Misty Dawn

(See communication from Misty Dawn via email to view the proposal)

Misty Dawn has been performing winter work and study for the community as a "Winter Intern".

Her time is about 90% Garden to Table and the rest is for the community. She keeps a detailed log of her time. Susie is coordinating and overseeing her contributions. As part of the internship Misty Dawn has been offered food at no cost to her. She has housing at Songaia as a renter. She will pay the monthly rental fee of \$44.00. One committee member submitted written comments on the proposal before the meeting. Misty Dawn will review the comments and any others and write up a formal Decision Board Proposal.

Gift to the Garden

Patricia's friend, who visited last summer, gave a generous gift to the garden. There was discussion of whether or not the gift needed to be spent in 2017. A phone call to Brian was made and he suggested that we spent it in 2017. The money will be used to purchase two "cattle panels" which will be bent into arches and used for the growing of beans next season. 16' panels will be purchased from Monroe Tractor Supply. As there will be some money left over, it was suggested to purchase any needed supplies, to include another pitch fork and purchase a Home Depot gift card if there is still money left. Helen and Anita will purchase the panels next week. They will utilize help from the business to load them up and may need help to unload them. The committee would like to send a thank you card to Patricia's friend and thank her. (if you are reading this Patricia might you be willing to send us her contact information? Laura will prepare a card)

Paw Paw Trees

There are three small Paw Paw trees left over from the Food Forest installation. After discussion of locations, it was decided that they will be planted in a huglekultur mound behind Sylvan and Brian's house on the South end of the property,

Nartano's contract

Helen will track down the contract for 2017 and make one for 2018.

Blackberries

Laura reported that she had sent out two detailed emails in the past couple of months as to what needs attention. There was no response to either report. She requests that the goats be placed in the area near the upper swale and Willow tree. Susie suggested that Misty Dawn prioritize helping Brent move the goats to that area. Brent will help (as his knee will allow) in getting the panels in place. Laura and Susie offered to pound in stakes around the area. The point was raised that we need a new effective, but less heavy pounding tool to make it much easier to pound the stakes in.

It was suggested that Aditi and Paul be informed of the current plans.

There will need to be some work done with the new super tool to cut down the canes when the goats are done or in areas that we can't put the goats to as well. Help will be needed to clean up the canes after they are cut down. The canes need to be cleaned up at the lower swale and we have the use of the "green bin" belonging to Alpaca Place. Please replace the bin where you found it after filling it. It will be picked up and taken to a garden waste recycling facility.

Chips and Cardboard

Anita and Misty dawn are working on getting cardboard and chips down on the aisles in the garden.

Brent shared information as to where Cardboard can be found. Dumpster diving at a furniture store **in Totem Lake!** Anita will check it out. Question was raised - didn't we also get some from an appliance store in the past?

There is a problem with the chips that were delivered. They are from Cedar trees. The chips have antimicrobial properties that inhibit the growth of beneficial fungi and bacteria so are not suitable to be used in the garden. The chips will instead be used under the play structure and in the Journey's area. Anita will organize a Harambe for moving the chips to those areas so that other chips can be accessed. This Harambe will take place after the January Business /Annual meeting on January 20th, 2018. If it is raining there may be a back-up plan of working on our tools.

Susie's Intern idea

Suzie has been giving a lot of thought to a new program for Dietetic Interns. Susie will need national accreditation to run a program, potentially at Songaia. Dietetic Interns must all have a certain number of hours of hands on experience. Susie is hoping that she would be the director of a program that would help the students meet their requirements and benefit Songaia as well. Susie will be having the accreditation committee come to Songaia in early January to check out the site as a step in exploring this educational possibility. She is hoping that the interns would be doing some activities with the summer garden interns. She will approach Songaia about approving the site after she gets accreditation, and she could site it at 21 Acres instead. She is excited about the prospects and has lots more to share with the community. (Also see an email she sent out on Dec. 12th for more information.)

Chicken Coop Project up date

The "Chicken Pose" met recently. There are currently about 9 members. There is a joining fee of \$200/person. Membership in the "Collective" is not closed. The group is planning to build the coop in 2018.

There has been a decision board proposal up for some time. Clarification was requested as to why the names of NES and LSC folks weren't listed for signing. There was some confusion as to whether this was a decision board for Songaians or for the whole Greater Neighborhood. This was an oversight and Sylvan offered apologies. Suggested that people just sign it up above the text. One person has asked for more discussion of the proposal. Sylvan will meet with that person before a final approval can be made.

After an earlier question was raised regarding what happens if people lose interest or abandon the project, the Chicken folk have added a section in the proposal to address this concern very specifically.

Curiosity was raised about the height of the coop and whether it will shade the garden.

Next Meeting: January 9 (the second Tuesday)

Facilitator: Laura K.

Scribe: Susie or next person on rotation (Sylvan)