

Biogaian Meeting Minutes 1/28/13

Facilitator: Patricia

Notes: Brian

Present: Helen, Kathleen, Katie, Brian, Patricia, Brent

Not Present: Doug, Sadhana, Michael

Topics:

Report on the Pruning Workshop

Grafting workshop

Moving Trees – when to schedule the Harambee

Goats

Seed Ordering

WWOOFers

Visitors – Report from Douglas

Biogaian Income - CSAs

Password on the website

schedule a “get together”

greenhouse?

Report on Pruning workshop

Cost of hiring Rita was \$150 and we raised \$75. The workshop was appreciated for the new skills, new ideas, new tools, and the possibility of having Rita come back for free.

Grafting workshop

March 23rd, 10:00AM to 3:00PM. The workshop is \$85 per person, Gill is bringing 5 mini-dwarf root stocks to graft up to five varieties (\$6 per additional tree). We are shooting for 15 people. We agreed to pay him \$300 plus his cost. A brochure is coming (Michael is working on this with Gil and Patricia.)

Katie will be sending an email out to the community with a request for sponsorships

Helen will send it out to the pea patches.

Moving trees

We decided to plan a Harambee day after the March 16th meeting.

Trees to be moved: Blue Atlas Cedar in the peace garden

- weeping mulberry
- currant
- Kiwi from NES
- clematis from NES
- aronia in food forest
- pruning fruit trees – hiring a professional to help us prune the trees, cost?
- blueberries
- perennial sunflowers
- roses – alba

Goats

A goat meeting is being scheduled by Michael via doodle.

Seeds

We have almost all the seed purchased. We still need to order from the Kitazawa book, and a Goliath tomato variety.

WOOFers

Two exciting intern options – a couple for April through June, and two women for June through August. Some discussion about the applications. One issue is housing. We are talking to Helen and Phil about using their basement, and LSC about the cottage.

The Biogaian approve moving forward with the internship process pending housing and approval of the FFF.

Biogaian Income

The Garden Manager proposal passed with new options for income: the Garden Pantry CSA, the workshops, and selling garden-related items. CSA: The Piglets will come up with a plan for the CSA options and bring it back to the Biogaians in March. Developing a workshop/events schedule –brainstorming: rose workshop, cobb oven, root cellar (earth bag), garden dinner party in late summer, weed dating, pickling, jam making, garden chair creation. Katie will ask Michael to call a meeting. Sale items brainstorming: grocery bags from burlap, tomato starts, jams, syrups, pickles, stenciled t-shirts, Christmas wreathes, garden chairs.

Website Password

There is a private section of the Songaia website that lists Biogaian meeting minutes and assignments. The password is 'community'. Patricia will send out an email to the community.

Schedule a “get-together” for the Biogaians

One option is following the March 23rd workshop. Helen will check her calendar about possibly hosting.

Another Greenhouse?

Yes! Biogaians approve the idea of a second greenhouse. Kathleen will ask Larry to price it out.

Grant possibility

The WOOFer organization sent out an email regarding grant opportunities for developing WOOFer sites. Helen, Patricia, and Marnie will do some thinking about this.

We also have a meeting, March 7, 7:00PM, with Glen Martin and Journey's board members regarding development of the Journey's area and what overlap we might find: composting toilet, potable water, tent platforms.

Bio-swale maintenance

Notice from the county regarding required maintenance for the bio-swale near the detention pond: mowing grass, removing trees, and cutting blackberries. Douglas

has taken charge of managing this and contacting the county when completed for review.

Next Meeting

March 25, 2013 – 7:30 PM

Facilitator: Brian

Notetaker: Sadhana

Garden Manager Funding Proposal

Vision

This proposal would establish a solid funding base for the Garden Manager position and share its costs among the Food Program participants and all Songaia Neighborhood families. Other income sources would also contribute to the funding.

History

Songaia began an internship experiment with our Garden Manager, Patricia Newkirk, in 2010 funded through Abundance Fund and individual donations, with lodging donated by Carol Crow, and Food Program support in waiving the food fee. With the success of the eight-month internship, the community agreed to establish a Garden Manager Position for a three year term, through 2013, funded through an expanded Food Program contribution and donations (no funding provided by the Songaia Association Budget).

At our December circle, the community reflected that the Garden Manager Position has helped us tremendously grow our capacity to:

- Be surrounded by land abundant with produce and to use that abundance well in providing produce to individual households and the community.
- More fully interact with the land as a local, sustainable source of sustenance for Songaians, promoting resilience in our infrastructure and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Nurture the land that Songaia Neighborhood rests on with care and attention, creating a more valuable and beautiful interaction between the land and all Songaians.
- Provide opportunities for the community to gather in large and small groups around common, shared experiences within a beautiful garden and landscape.
- Have experiences and grow in learning with people who share our common values through internship, workshops, speakers, community networks, celebrations, etc.

Though very successful in reaching its goals, the funding model for the Garden Manager position has not proven sustainable. The Food Program no longer has the large surplus that served as the position's main funding source. Voluntary donations have not grown as projected. As such the Garden Manager position is underfunded by \$850 through 2012 along with a \$10940 budget in 2013.

Proposal

- I. The \$850 short-fall through 2012 would be covered by the Abundance Fund.
- II. For the 2013 and 2014 seasons, the Garden Manager funding will include:
 - A. \$1440 in food program participation (meals) funded by the Food Program
 - B. \$5400 from the Food Program budget (down from \$7000 in 2011 and 2012)
 - C. ~\$2450 from the Songaia Neighborhood. Each family contributes \$12 per month (collected as a special assessment or a separate fee for roomers and proximals.)
 - D. ~\$2250 from alternative income streams: community-based CSA, garden-related sales, workshops, and events.



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Garden Manager Internship Proposal

Alternate Income Overview

Garden-Fresh Produce Pantry \$15 /mo (average), 7 to 9 members, 10 months/year

This community-based CSA would use a pantry-like model (flat monthly fee, self-regulated usage) for in-home use of Songaia garden produce. Three participation levels with different pricing would be offered:

1. Boxed pick-up: produce is boxed and ready for pick up
2. U-pick: harvest produce from current crops and make your own box
3. Work/Pay: contribute significant time to CSA and general garden tasks

Workshops and Events \$100 /event (average), 4 to 6 events /season

Workshops might include composting, pruning, permaculture, etc. Events might include a Holiday Gift event, speakers, and outreach events soliciting donations.

Garden-Related Sales \$500 sales / season (average)

Income from garden-related sale of produce like eggs, compost, mushrooms, dahlias, etc. and services like neighborhood landscaping.



Garden Manager Funding Proposal

Garden Manager Expense Budget

	2013	2014
Stipend	\$9,000	\$10,000
Board	\$1,440	\$1,440
Ongoing Training	\$500	\$500
Total	\$10,940	\$11,940

Garden Manager Income Budget

	2013		2014	
<i>Food Program</i>	\$5,400		\$5,400	
<i>Food Program (meals)</i>	\$1,440	63%	\$1,440	57%
<i>Neighborhood Fee</i>	\$2,448	22%	\$2,448	21%
<i>Garden-Fresh Produce Pantry</i>	\$900	8%	\$1,350	11%
<i>Workshops & Events</i>	\$400	4%	\$650	5%
<i>Garden-Related Sales</i>	\$400	4%	\$650	5%
Total	\$10,988		\$11,938	