

Biogaians

5/25/2021

Present: Patricia (facilitator), Helen (scribe), Ka, Brent, Matt, Jacob, Elizabeth

Old Business

New Songaia truck fund (Nartano/Helen)

Truck under discussion was sold. We have \$1000 in landscape budget for truck maintenance.

Current truck is running but could die at any moment, repairs may not be worth doing. Need a plan for a truck fund, gather pledges above \$1000. Biogaians would sponsor, have a fund ready to go.

We will need standard size large truck, probable cost about \$6000. Brent will work with Nartano and Helen to write a draft. Olive should deliver the presentation.

Planned garden depot (Patricia).

Depot is part of long-term design for plaza. No urgency on the topic. Won't happen until winter.

Patricia suggests casual conversation about design aspects we would want to include. At some point she will call for a more formal design meeting, including plaza committee and gardeners.

Small current shelter is very useful but fragile.

New Business

What to do with degraded burlap bags?

Patricia suggests layering chicken manure with burlap bags, build a heap that could sit for 6-8 months. Twine at bag ends will remain, won't be a problem for orchards. Chicken manure might smell because bags don't have much surface area. We decide to spread bags around fruit trees; spread loop-poop, then bags, then mulch over the bags. Staging area could be between trees in west orchard.

Rabbit burrow and habitat/west fence defense

Began reducing habitat by spiral. Matt suggests planting deep-rooted or dense bulbs along west fence? Perennial sunflower? In the interim weed-eat outside the fence and stake down new bags outside? Extra bag pins are in little depot.

Compost support needed? Lucas/Raffa planning to work on a pile this week, new intern Reuben coming next week if more help is needed.

Reports/Updates

Garden (Elizabeth)

Great crew, pretty well planted out, greenhouse nearly empty. Moving into maintenance.

Scrambling to protect the beans and peas from rabbits. Squash in NW quad are yellowing, have written to Master Gardeners. It's a joy for so many young people to be involved. Rodent problem is much reduced.

Orchards and food forests (Patricia, Matt)

5 trees were netted, many socked and thinned. One NE tree to net this week, plus one in Patricia's back yard. Nancy's apple ripens first. Ripening date could be entered in database. Plan to chip the west orchard, eventually plant out as more of a food forest.

Plaza landscaping (Matt, Patricia)

Matt has proposed planting plan. One bed based on native understory, one bed with cherry tree with pollinator friendly plants, bed under crabapple would have shade-tolerant plants. Budget and plant list and planting schedule next. Site preparation also needed. Have enough soil, need irrigation, prep and plants.

Microshelter (Matt)

Bought rafters, which were expensive. Reaching end of budget for wood. Might have to do fundraiser/donations to finish it. Met with Paul about next phase, ready now to construct the roof under current budget. Will need some more plywood to finish it completely. Currently \$80 per sheet. Might need 10-12 sheets. Alternative materials? Only finish the outside for now?

NRCS visit/application (Patricia)

Tomorrow Patricia and Anita plan to visit consultant at NRCS to see what else we are doing that might be eligible for funding.

Parking Lot

- garden gates (Paul)
- water retention system (Laura)

What went well?

Thorough process of visual agenda development.
Thanks to Laura's early work.
We like each other!

What might have made the meeting better?

Naps ahead of time.
More key people present.

Next meeting:

June 22

Convener: Helen

Scribe: Anita