Biogians Meeting 29th November 2021. Ruben facilitated meeting. Eileen scribed.

Six attended: Helen, Patricia, Anita, Mary, Ruben, and Eileen

Agenda

NRCS Decision Board proposal- Patricia, Anita

Plaza plantings- Matt

Garden- Anita

Beekeeper membership - Brent/Carol

December work party-Anita

Garden gates-Paul

Check-in question. What do you do to stay connected to nature during the winter months?

Silk, wool, and GORE-TEX makes cold weather fun

Chilly, dark, and wet means time for being cozy indoors

Totally dry with bibs and overcoat

Winter with just is cold is fine. Wet and dark, more problematic

Those days just has to make herself go outside.

Important to notice little changes even when days feel the same.

Clear out winter depression fog

Some trees and shrubs make changes almost weekly

Eileen’s West Virginia story about dressing in many layers when weather first turned cold. In 10 to 20 days body winterized itself so thermal underwear, long sleeved shirt, sweater, and heavy coat no longer needed.  
Swamped with school most years so really excited to be outside more this year.

**NRCS decision board proposal**. Draft proposal put out to Biogians after community round table.

Patricia heard some concerns and she made changes to address them. Wherever she used the word forest, changed to hedgerow so no confusion between tree forest or the Miyawaki approach. The Miyawaki method is more towards a hedgerow or the edge of a meadow rather than a tree forest.

**Biogaians approved sending proposal to entire community.**

Currently in conversation with Lindsey Crowfoot and UW folks for scheduling. We need to get plan approved and started soon. This needed to cover payments for UW and Anita’s work.

Lindsey Crowfoot wants us to call plants by their Lushootseed names. (who?) has incredible library of Lushootseed plant names with their pronunciation. (<https://tulaliplushootseed.com/>) We may want to start calling this project the Lushootseed Indigenous Planting or Lushootseed cultural planting.

**Plaza planting.** Matt very organized and 1st day went incredibly smoothly. Mary commented about how many little plants got into the ground, got rained on, and look good. Matt happy with what was completed. He has ideas of directions he wants to proceed. Helen checked what funds could be available to shift to plaza planting. **Biogaians approved shifting ? dollars from community landscaping funds to plaza planting fund.**

Question raised of using our forest area as a source for native plant materials. Sword fern more available in our forest than other local areas. Bring fern from Corvallis yard to Songaia? Could be used in the forest.

**Decision made: Native plant material from Songaia forest is appropriate as source for plaza and meadow when selected with discerment.**

**Garden Update by Anita.** She had photos. Sidewalk crack marks multiple layers of Songaia history. Several Biogians learned important lessons about shut off for garden and multiple other areas. Important to retain these details. Suggestion made and agreed upon, to use website to store picture and amass information to be able to maintain and shut off the landscape irrigation. A series of stories to keep for future reference.

Weekend chips and salsa work party a big success. Picture of Nancy spreading chips. ?? dumped the chips and Nancy spread them the full length of garden. Cute picture of Ella (aka Bean) learning to rake leaves out from under our fruit trees. Nets removed from Big Papa on Crestmont (?). Took 6 people. Mary does not support doing that kind of netting on the Big Papa tree again! Down passed the Eggplant, needed to get netting off the Fuji apple. Tree harvested but netting not removed. With tall people and poles done easily.

**Almost daily, the garden continues to support our shared meals.** Parsley and more enjoyed for many meals. Quince harvest done in pouring rain. Picture of 40 # of quince. Anita still has some quince to process.

Laura went with Brent to get coffee bags. Hard on her shoulder so someone else needed for another run. Since sacks needed again and Brent leaves early December, this sack run needs to be done SOON.

**To grow what we eat and eat what we grow is a significant goal.** Beet pickles at dinner were just a little oil & vinegar! Delicious!!!

New chopping block of a big log round installed for chopping compost.

Piglets continue to put garden to bed.

**Beekeeping: Group approved funds for beekeeper society membership for Brent.** Carol will be included in that membership

**December work party:** Raffa and Christy have already dug out aisles in the NE and SE quads. A work party needed to fully chip those aisles. Hold off on chipping the West quads.

Save A Tree will be here all day on Monday, Nov 29. They are to do arborist work previously approved. Mary and Brian will coordinate so one of them will be on site for questions. Will clear area along as work completed, so we can chip there after their work

Time to order lots of chips for garden aisles and under trees.

**Garden gates-Paul:** This is a placeholder to keep need for gates in front of us. Paul will be away from Songaia on several planned trips. Someone needs to talk with him about his commitment on gates. We may need a Plan B as the current gates need replaced now. No ideas for Plan B.

**Announcements:**

Mary. Plant People NW have asked to come for a tree trimming in the South Orchard. They want to come on Jan 11, 2022. No problem with their prior visit so Mary working with them to plan contingency dates. South orchard has many different species of fruit trees so exceptionally good for training.

Anita. Sometime before Dec 17th the UW Bothell wants to visit. Want to overlap with biochar activity. Mary planning on leading a biochar test run with UW students the first week of December. Songaia has on short-term loan, a kiln to do a sizable biochar burn. Current plan is to do it in parking behind barn where we have good water access. The biggest risk is windy day although heavy rain would also be a problem.

Laura. She got HEARING AIDS. Hurrah

**Evaluation, what was good:**

How much we laugh

Sharing pictures

The amount of information we exchange

Exciting projects

Approved 3 proposals.

Ruben did a great job of facilitating.

Eileen’s first-time scribing

Did not have to go thru budget in November.

Note: We will have to go thru budget one last time to get actuals. Helen plans to put out email of what we have remaining to spend. Likely final budget exchange can be completed via emails. If money in tools budget, Mary wants to purchase a few items.

**What could be approved.**

Improvements needed in attendance.

Not many attendees tonight, only six people. Common to have 8 or 10

Matt, Brent, Sylvan, Brian, Elizabeth, Lucas, West,

**Next time:** Eileen to facilitate. Try Sylvan again for scribe.