

Biogaians  
Oct 17, 2017

Present: Jacob, Laura, Douglas, Brian, Anita, Helen, Brent, MistyDawn, Susie, Mary

Facilitator: Jacob

Scribe: Helen

1. Jacob passed around bunches of collards from Root Connection.
2. Budget Discussion: Biogaians receive funds from two separate budgets, one from Songaia/GN for landscaping and one for Garden Operations from Garden-to-Table Club.
  - a. Landscape: we reviewed each line item. Brian introduced the idea of deferred maintenance that our neglected forest and wetland could be assessed next year, starting a process of actually taking care of these areas. We would use funds that were spent this year for the microshelter and blackberry control. Susie said that we could also limit ourselves to management of potential problems like dangerous trees or keeping parking areas safe. After discussion we decided to ask for the same amount as last year, reducing that line from \$2000 to \$1900. We also listed things still we still need to purchase in 2017: replacement tools, carts, enough goat fencing for two blackberry enclosures and enough posts for four semi-permanent enclosures.
  - b. Garden budget includes a line for taking better care of orchard with another "deferred maintenance" item. This year we might do evaluation and planning, possibly training in pruning, etc. The remaining items are essentially same as last year. Should we consider having a line for a second microshelter, in case cottage availability changes? That question could be part of the discussion of the whole G2T and the GN/Songaia budget process.

We approved the draft Biogaian budget for the general budget discussions starting Saturday. The approved Biogaian budget is appended at the end of these minutes.

3. Mushroom chalet is in the way of a path around the Common House, but can easily be moved out of the pathway. Anita's partner David may be interested in reviving the chalet.

4. Anita updated us on her intention to develop the Garden Steward position into a Land Steward role that would eventually provide planning and care for the forest, orchard and wetland over the winter. This would be a contract, not hourly position, and would need wider community approval via a decision board since it has longer-term implications.

Laura remarked that she would like the Biogaian committee go to the community and start a discussion about the importance of caring for all of our land, not just the garden. She would like us to participate in a process of education and a discussion of the importance of turning some of our attention to the orchard, the health of the forest and the wet land. We can lead a discussion of how this work fits in with our values. She felt that people might be willing to put in some resources if they feel it reflects their values. She excitedly stated that Biogaians should champion a growing awareness of our responsibility to care for of our land. Then, we should talk about the need to make plans and the wonderful resource we have with Anita whose field of study was Restoration Ecology.

After extensive discussion we decided to call the forest, wetland, and orchard care line items "land stewardship" rather than "deferred maintenance" as being more direct, since some or all of these line items could be awarded to Anita once her proposal about a trial period for this position is more developed. Since the community has been reluctant to monetize our labor, her contracts would need to be very specific. Brent believes we should be asking for more money, not less, as realistic care of the

land does require funding. On Saturday we will be presenting the budget lines, not Anita's proposal, but will need to be building expectations about stewarding all our land not just the garden.

5. Brent presented a proposal to purchase a Stihl Kombitool (new tool to cut canes) this fall, using the blackberry control line item in the 2017 Songaia budget. Brent will also buy more panels and posts, enough for two enclosures of panels and enough fence posts for four enclosures.

6. Brent also presented a proposal for thornless blackberries, naming a location in the meadow west of Units 7 and 9, away from other blackberries. Concerns were expressed about water supply, and about putting them in a new location that will need continued care, rather than a location like the food forest that already has water and attention. Mary and Anita are talking about replanting the raspberries elsewhere, and blackberries might fit in the old raspberry location, but Brent and Neil couldn't move into the current raspberry patch without more help. Anita wants to focus on two food forests in 2018, and thinks thornless blackberries would fit well there. Brent will look into both suggested locations.

**e  
Operation  
s**

	<b>2016 Actuals</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>2017 Actuals</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>
Parts	\$276	\$300	\$104	
Tools		\$150		
Tools and Parts				\$450
Invoiced maintenance labor	\$285	\$500	\$450	\$500
Gasoline			\$60	\$100
Fencing	\$956	\$-		\$250
Stewardship (Forest and Wetland)				\$1,900
Trees		\$250	\$170	
Additional Labor - bb clearing		\$2,000	\$832	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,517</b>	<b>\$3,200</b>	<b>\$1,616</b>	<b>\$3,200</b>

**G2T  
Garden  
Operation  
s Budget**

	<b>2016 Actuals</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>2017 Actuals</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>
Stewardship (Orchards)				\$1,500
Consumables	\$795	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,236
Hardscape	\$490	\$350	\$700	\$700
Plants & Trees	\$20	\$50	\$22	\$200
Seeds	\$104	\$100	\$120	\$130
Equipment Maintenance		\$300	\$300	\$300
Equipment Repairs	\$260	\$200	\$200	\$200
Microshelter			\$1,610	
Fencing	\$394	\$400		
Tools	\$140	\$100		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,203</b>	<b>\$2,300</b>	<b>\$4,152</b>	<b>\$4,266</b>