

Biogaians

2/27/2024

Facilitator: Mary Scribe: Helen

Present: Mary, Eileen, Bonnie, Laura (on zoom), Anita, Helen

Check-in question: what do you see every day that you'd like to work on, but don't have time or ability to do? Circle garden, old blueberries, unpruned trees/shrubs, original Songaia sign area, entrance/driveway impression, LSC grapes areas.

Announcements:

Patricia is waiting to hear exactly when in April the contractor for thatching and reseeding the loop will come.

Caltrops cleanup is still on Eileen's list to organize.

UW students will give final presentation on 3/14 and will cook dinner. They went to Restoration Camp-out on Sammamish River, planted 93 alders/cottonwood and layered hazelnuts. Lots of hands-on experience. Linzie Crowfoot is now contracted to do planning on that site. Students are here 2 more weeks, will focus on weeding/mulching native forest garden, inaugurating propagation space, and Katie Vincent's classes.

Reports:

Financial: Helen passed around spreadsheet with actual vs budgets. It's early in the year, so not many expenses yet. NRCS grant amount for this year only \$4218. In prior years we have allocated \$4000 for UW intern support. We still have money left from last year, so bees and goats etc. can be funded, but this year's grant isn't enough to continue in the same manner next year. If dollars are shrinking, how much return to the community are the UW students giving? How about using the grant money to support the dry farming project? We will ask the bookkeepers for monthly reports.

Garden steward: No completed summer intern applications yet. Big projects are in pipeline: transplanting asparagus (done), plan to transplant raspberries in fall, dry farming in chicken run, reinforce west rabbit fence, new compost tea system, re-do keyhole irrigation, NE irrigation reconfiguration, emerging wetland/bog in NW quad, rebuild garden gates. Person power: projects will be spaced out, also will plan work parties to supplement.

Greenhouse squirrel plan: Anita contacted Sylvan about live trapping the squirrel. Sylvan thinks the traps might still be in goat shed? Anita will look for traps. Discussion about ethics of transport versus some method of killing versus toleration. Are we a farm or are we a sanctuary?

Discussion:

Crestmont mowing: We received word that last year's landscapers will not be renewing our contract. We would need to start mowing sometime in April but have no leads. Permaculture landscaping company? Bulletin board at local high schools? Mary will ask Katie and Matt for any leads. Laura will call Gardens Alive. Bonnie will try to find contact info for PuppySong neighborhood people who were doing homeowner yard care. Helen will ask Patrick for any info about Crestmont landscapers, and Patricia to put the word out at Pollinator group.

Brush pile near Journeys: Quite a bit has accumulated behind the new nursery. Some had been used for hügelkulturs in the past. Also, in the past we have chipped big piles, either by renting a machine or hiring a company with a big machine. Jenny from Journeys is on site tomorrow; Mary will ask if she has any plans/desires for the brush or for chips? The wood is pretty rotten, so is not currently a fire hazard.

Is Forest Work Group part of the Biogaians? Arborist work is in our line item. Group not currently active, but David hopes to do more later in the spring. Biogaians is bigger than piglets, is also an umbrella org. If something begins to emerge, we can invite Forest attendance at the Biogaian org. We could also invite Paul when his projects overlap with Biogaian agenda, and Reuben to give a compost update.

Parking lot:

Path up to compost bins needs repair.  
Check in with Reuben and compost team status.  
Orchard cover crop project for NRCS—are we deciding not to do it?

Evaluation of meeting:

Organization of topics excellent

Got quite a bit accomplished in spite of small attendance.

Laura is here on zoom!

Good pace, ending in timeliness.

Suggestion: continue to pre-organize into announcements, reports, discussions etc. Past minutes are useful to generate the agenda.

Next meeting: March 26, Helen convenes, Bonnie scribes