

## **Biogaians meeting 4/14/26**

Present: Helen, Marlin, Holly, Sylvan, Reuben, Laura, Brian, Patricia, Anita, MD, Rue, Zarifah  
Check-in: experience of wonder?

Helen Facilitator – Reuben Notes

### **Agenda:**

#### **MD Proposal – MD**

- Use funds from Biogaians budget to support MD hosting 2.5 h garden work party weekly April-November
  - \$2450 to cover 81 hours of work at \$30/hr
- Monthly weekend garden tending, ~7 h for event, to cover food program costs
  - Two-month trial period (maybe May and June)
- Outcomes:
  - help people feel comfortable being involved in the garden
  - create larger garden-tending community
  - support conflict through feedback circles
  - promote events to neighbors
  - tend to and harvest edible plantings outside the garden-tending
  - facilitate proper tool and resource care
- Still funds in Biogaians and Facilities budgets for other paid labor
  - Swale, septic field, mowing, etc.
  - Data for labor from last year
- Questions:
  - pathway for incoming volunteer requests that Anita is directing to Susie's
  - MD is willing to receive these requests
- Notes:
  - This is only a proposal for the current year
  - Experimental; process will be evaluated to collect learnings
  - Noting the social and emotional aspect of this work
    - Growing joyful sharing of the work and reciprocity
  - Plan for backup hosts for weekly and monthly
    - Grow resilience
  - Inviting neighbors, sharing meals with neighbors is a big step(!)

#### **Approvals for purchase, time sheets – Helen**

- Who can approve purchases?
  - Spending limit
    - Can the reimbursement request be signed by the requester if under \$50?
  - Anita holds the card and can lend it

- Bring reimbursements to Biogaians meetings?
  - (Still meeting every other week)
  - Transparency may help all Biogaians track spending
- Can still pre-approve some items
- Who signs timesheets?
  - What happened last year?
    - Helen would sign for Biogaians, Nartano for facilities
    - Helen can sign this year

### **Other support for work parties – all**

- What is needed to empower MD?
  - Timing of fruits/harvests
    - Alerting MD when needed
- A year of looking for systems that work to distribute land tending
  - When are they working? What is not working?
  - i.e., white board, map of beds, volunteer coordinator, MD's proposal
  - sync up systems
- Is a monthly workday the best use? There are other (i.e. coordinating the systems, networking) projects that could be prioritized
- Who are the people who want accessible volunteer activities?
  - Easily notify people when work parties have an accessible option
- Needs for next two weeks
  - MD wants to match priorities
    - More bagging
    - Compost??
    - Tree netting soon
    - Scan for piles/buckets of weeds and move to garden waste pile
  - Bed plantings can be coordinated with Wednesday work parties
    - Bed guardians touch base with MD
  - Others can also let MD know of potential projects
    - harvesting, processing/prepping harvest

### **Request for personal area (Jamie's request) – Holly**

- Jamie used to manage a farm
- Lives in an apartment, wants to engage and have a pea-patch bed
  - Has come for a dinner, helped with dahlias
  - Is on hold pending approval
  - Wants to plant two tomatoes and two pea plants
- Whose responsibility if the bed is abandoned?
  - Holly would take some responsibility

- Still two unclaimed beds
- Associate member? Or would need a host on site.
  - Start associate member process?
  - Or frame them as Holly's plants
- Jamie is very competent, wonderful
  - This is a new precedent
  - We have not been a pea patch
    - Produce (mostly) goes to community/kitchen
- Try it this time with this person?
  - Don't want to make a decision to move towards a pea patch
- Jamie can plant and tend some plants in the sorghum bed
  - Not approved for beyond this year
  - Could take more than the sorghum bed, but he doesn't have time
  - Needs a host on site, does not have to be Holly
  - Jamie will be invited to work parties
  - Thanks to Jamie for his patience!
- Note:
  - Anyone who comes to volunteer in the garden needs to fill out a waiver

#### **Coordinating volunteer work – Patricia**

- All Biogaiaans have volunteered for 1 extra 2-hour shift per week (like G2T jobs)
- Patricia has a spreadsheet.
- Some tasks have a collaborator who picks a time. Volunteers can sign up to work with others on that task
  - Collaborators will commit to a task/time at Biogaiaans meetings
- Other tasks are “on your own” and need to happen weekly or on particular days
- Notes:
  - Location included spreadsheet.
  - Organize like calendar or like G2T jobs
  - Extra space for others to add their own projects
  - Remember timing of harvests
  - Some tasks are more urgent than others (harvest for meals vs. rose weeding)
    - Assign Biogaiaans to recruit for necessary roles?
  - Harvest and prep are separate tasks (prep is more accessible)
  - Volunteer list includes new contacts from Susie's form
  - Revolutionary!
    - How to coordinate with MD's task parties and harambees

#### **Coordinating harvest, cooks and shoppers – all**

- See above

### **“Fresh sheet” + “Harvest Horizon” – Holly**

- List of “harvest ready” crops
- List of “harvest horizon” for soon-to-be-ready foods
- Crop keepers notifications
  - Communication from people who know the crops
  - Fruit trees, herbs, bed “owners”
- Goes out to the community
- Chefs use to inform menu planning
  - Someone needs to evaluate which chef requests we can meet
  - i.e. only two bowls of lettuce can’t cover all meals
  - chefs could highlight produce requested
    - accurate quantities unlikely 2+ weeks in advance of meals
- Harvest Horizon prototype but don’t have someone yet to send out weekly
  - Holly can draft proposal on request
- Remember to weight produce!!
- Is there someone who could receive communications and put out the fresh sheet?
  - Could be a weekly job
  - Add to Patricia’s list
    - (Coordinating garden-produce-shoppers)
- If we know which cooks like to use produce, could be directly contacted

### **White Board + written communication – Anita**

- Who will write on the white board?
  - Crossover with harvest horizon and Patricia’s work sheet
- Question: On going into the garden to volunteer, what would you want to know?
  - Notes for particular beds
    - weed me! (magnets?)
    - water me?
  - Map
    - Identify crop tenders for beds
  - Alerts/general important notes
    - irrigation errors (not too urgent)
    - compost notes (bin ready)
    - wasp nest
  - Groups visiting/important dates
  - What can be harvested for take-home?
  - Who is on harvest for the week
  - Note locations of flowering invasives/higher-priority weeding
    - Locations of weed piles to be removed (or note)
  - Weekly/rotating garden mentor contact info

- Question: What do you want to write on the board?
  - Expertise needed:
    - questions
  - Notes to MD (or text) – requests/tasks
  - Reminders:
    - don't leave tools in the rain
  - Rabbit sightings
    - Other sightings
- Misc:
  - Easy-access buckets for weed collecting

**Greenhouse: disposal of windows + wood – Laura**

New tables – Sylvan

- Sylvan will get rid of the windows and anything else authorized
- Not the wood

**(Parking Lot) Rodents under compost + gate fiddles – Helen**

**Next meeting: 4/28**

**Facilitator: Reuben**

**Scribe: Anita**