

Biogaiaans

9/24/2024

Facilitator: Anita

Scribe: Miranda

Present: Patricia, Miranda, Eileen, David, MistyDawn, Helen, Brian, Anita, Laura, Susie

Check - in question:

What was a shimmering moment from the Harvest Festival?

Laura: taste of focaccia

Eileen: gratitude altar

MD: gratitude altar, making clay figures

Brian: seeing activities from perch of oven, walk up to concrete art piece - Karly directing

Patricia: poetry - Mary closed with a song

David: gratitude altar, energy around the oven; sharing music and poetry

Helen I loved seeing how much next generation was generating/initiating this

Miranda: fire cider making workshop

Anita: co-creation of altar together

Reports:

Budgets

Helen: 3 sections of budge (pots of money) on spreadsheet. Top: what we have left this year, bottom: 2025, below: both (NRCS grant). Songaia Assn, GTT. There are certain amounts we know we're going to keep spending from - this includes fees related to : brush dumpster, Nartano's work, invasive removal, UW supervision, chipping / supplies, mows in Crestsong. After these things are spent, there will still be money left, mostly from the arborist reserve.

In 2025 we moved most things over, will need to add a line for orchard care, but we might not use as much for Crestsong Food Forest, etc.

NRCS grant: we have already spent quite a bit out of this grant. There is still a little bit of money here to go toward invasive removal. Next year we'll get a relatively small amount. We'll add a little to invasive removal, landscaping budget, other things.

Things to discuss: labor, supplies, UW interns.

Not too hard to spend down extra money - \$200 for ZooDoo. Owe Patricia \$. Freezer. Wood for compost bins. Tools. Rabbit fence.

Labor Possibilities: have about \$1000 for general labor. \$1200 for Crest song. Windfall from Sylvan (\$5000).

Discussion:

UW Student Participation: (Anita): Past 3 years have been hosting UW Bothell students for capstone projects. Have participated in meadow projects, things like that. Had a meeting with the coordinator of these students last week (Amy Lambert). Painted pictures of a few things - challenges, debrief, etc. from managing students. Anita shared she felt burnt out on leading UW students. Shared shifting moment of community - labor, energy, work that there is. This program is also trying to find balance. What emerged: desire to find ways that will work for us and students.

Anita wants to learn how to care for orchards, and put more energy into that. Mary is excited to teach Anita throughout winter to teach Anita about orchard care. Asked UW if it is appropriate for students to learn about orchard care and maintenance, preparing ground in orchard / enhancement for cover crop, cover crop (as a way to learn more about ecological restoration, which is central to the program.) Agroecology and ecological restoration weaving together. UW is excited to work with orchards.

Also important: matching the right people (UW students) with the projects offered here this year.

Do Biogaians still want to use that money from the NRCS to pay Anita to work with the UW students again this year?

Brian: appreciation for discussion around what was/wasn't working w/ UW program.

Conclusion: Yes, we agree to have UW students come, with Anita leading and orchard care being the focus.

“Adopt a tree” idea for orchard.

Freezer Proposal: (Anita): Anita's brain is pooping out.

Desire to purchase a different freezer to replace the chest freezer.

Then, what to do with the chest freezer? Anita is willing to help figure out what to do with the chest freezer. Replace, or move (related to space, electrical capacity, etc.)

This year there has been a lot of discussion over freezer space. Organization, ease of access, and space are all issues that have been brought up. Chest freezer have access to year round, and Journeys freezer have access to ½ the year. Fruit and applesauce filling freezer(s) quickly this year. Conscientious nibblers looking into ethically raised / slaughtered meat. More space needed. Bulk purchase seems to be the way to go cost-wise for meat. Chest freezer is difficult to keep organized. Freezer also sits open during this, not good energy-wise.

Proposal: purchase a large midrange frost-free upright freezer. \$750 with tax. Price includes hauling off an old freezer, and installation of the new freezer.

Rotate through produce more easily, label shelves, etc. Let's do it!

Miranda thinks we should put money towards flying her and a willing companion to the arctic to harvest ice chunks breaking off of the icebergs and bringing them back to do the ol' ice chest method of cooling foods.

Conclusion: Yes let's do it!

Anita is down to look into what to do with the chest freezer.

Task Force Formation Suggestions:

Labor Prioritizing 2024 Task Force

Anita: Who would like to be on the labor prioritizing 2024 task force?
Laura, Anita, Patricia, MD, Eileen, Miranda.

“Windfall wondering” Taskforce

Anita: \$5000 gift from Sylvan - what to do with it? (labor, ...)
Revisit list that we made of possibilities of what to do with that money.

Helen: *Lack of clarity around what Sylvan actually wants.* Does she want \$ to go to new project, or something already here? She doesn't want to manage that money, just give it away. But instead of given to GTT, needs somebody to manage checks, etc.

Anita: we need someone to follow up with Sylvan to get clear about what she wants.
Brian: happy to do this.

Task force could present list of options to Sylvan.

Conclusion: Brian will circle back with labor task force after checking in with Sylvan if she doesn't have specific project in mind.

Announcements:

Logs at LSC (Laura) : Logs from tree taken down. Does someone want logs? LSC wants to send to landfill, is there another way ? Edging on a path? Sit on? Bury in a hugelkultur ?

David: Cottonwood is not good firewood.

Patricia: contact West? Use for Journeys?

Helen: lie on side for parking barriers?

Lots of ideas.

MD / Anita: Could be part of paid work for MD/Saturn to remove from LSC, somewhere else.

Conclusion: Can keep looking out for spots; no specific timeline for taking away. Could be for MD / Saturn to take away as landscape job. Laura: not consensus on budgets for work at LSC. So, the logs will hang out there for a while.

Chipping Update: (needs coordinator) (Helen): Mary doubtful about whether current arborist would find this amount of work worth doing. Call Danielle.

Patricia can call Danielle - arborist coordinator.

Conclusion: Patricia will connect with Danielle Walsh from the arborist company to see if this work is worth it for their company. David is going to be on site to support.

Gratitude: Cards, Mary Send-off (Helen):

Paul donated use of his truck, labor, and David has used more materials on his chainsaw than he has asked for reimbursement. Since these people contributed (off-setting the budget), there are cards to sign tonight for the generosity of these folks.

Helen checked in with Mary. Mary is thinking she'll be doing wine deliveries through the end of the year. After she's settled, she'll come down on a Thursday, and we'll give her a card and see her off. Late October / early November is a good time for that.

Helen: Idea: Pool money and give her a gift card for a tool shop or something. Favorite company?

MD: She also loves bones. Bones from the land = gift idea.

Anita: Whole community would want to say goodbye to her - Mary altar being built. Gift card. A bone. Invite people to think about Mary over this next month.

Miranda will make a string of shrunken heads out of apples to represent each of us. Will need a lock of everyone's hair.

Conclusion: We'll be thinking about what to give Mary over the next month (offerings). Poem, song, bones, etc.

Extra October Meeting? (Anita) : For budget 2025 proposal , whatever.

Helen: It's a draft at this point anyway. Send David a draft and it will get tweaked in October.

Brian: No questions for it - propose to see if we have consensus for it. Is there anyone who would like to look at it more?

Conclusion: No extra meeting. Wiggles all around.

Extra:

Sometimes we do a meeting evaluation. Not tonight I guess. Ending 5 minutes to 9.
David: Erin and I got wood chopped and cleared from the forest. Firewood for Journeys. Erin got limbs drug off the septic field.

Need info from MD about Crestsong \$ for next year. Also updates from Nartano.

Next Meeting

October 22, 2024

Facilitator: Miranda

Scribe: MistyDawn