

Biogaia Meeting 7/26/2022

Facilitator: Anita

Scribe: Paul

Check-in: How does the heat feel in your body?

Unit 3 terraces- irrigation

Sylvan turned on irrigation on the lowest terrace. Ka concerned blueberries should get frequent watering. Perhaps the drip irrigation could be turned on longer so the water will go deeper. Last year the drip irrigation did not go deep enough. Mary suggests sinking empty 1 gallon flower pots to get water deeper. Elizabeth suggested watering long with the drip system as blueberry roots do not go deep. Anita will coordinate with Sylvan to set the timer. Helen: verify that terrace irrigation is attached to the spring water outlet, not unit 3 water.

Cultural Planting More frequent watering?

Patricia: we should dig down and see how wet the soil is and then adjust as needed. Patricia will check tomorrow.

Gifted salvaged cedar planks from Ka

Good wood will get used. Ka will bring a couple of sample boards. Cedar boards are not good for biochar. Paul thinks that if they are in good shape the boards will get used.

Songaia Truck usage: David and Paul

Eileen: Lucky is a workhorse 1976 Ford ¾ ton with recently re-built engine. Automatic that does not go into 4-wheel drive. It currently has a tool lock box across the back of the bed. MPG is about 5-7 mpg. Maxfield's would continue to pay insurance on it. Brent thinks the green truck will run for a long time. An air leak in the carburetor will be improved by a part Nartano will install. Patricia suggests Nartano should assess this old Ford. Mary: What is in the budget? Helen: \$1000 in the budget to support the truck maintenance and compensate Nartano for insurance. Eileen will follow up with Nartano.

Micro-shelter Mural Magic Garden Update

Miranda is an artist and she wants to do a mural here. Currently envisioning the side of the MS facing the A frame. That side will get the least amount of weather exposure so not having siding on it is not a problem. Concrete wall near Libby's door is another good spot for a mural. General consensus that a decision board is not needed for the micro-shelter mural. Ka: is this in the budget, does it take away from her time in the garden or will she get paid separately? Miranda can do it on her personal intern time, the last hour of each garden day. Biogaia have already received \$75 in donations for paint. If you'd like to donate some money toward this, please connect with Anita.

Water to plaza planted areas

Matt's planting is looking very thirsty. Laura watered it today but does not want to continue to drag a hose from Doug's. Mary: Matt is aware of this issue and has a plan for addressing it. There may still be funds in the Plaza budget for a timer. Elizabeth has a timer. Ka: Salim offered some sprinklers, maybe they could be used? Eileen: For now, a hose from unit 9 can be used and left there. Laura: Some weeding in there would be useful.

Purchasing used trash bins for bokashi food scraps

Rueben: Nested bins with the winner bin having holes in the bottom so the liquid drains into the outer bin resulted in much better smelling bokashi. Rueben found some used 45-gallon bins for

\$20. Helen: Budget has plenty of money for consumables. Anita: Well worth continuing this experiment. Elizabeth: Thank you Reuben. Spend up to \$100. "A wizard of procurement". Receipt can be a print out of the ad or chat history.

Raised beds, possible used beds

Reuben: 4' by 9' on legs

Mary: have concerns that the main garden should not be used for accessibility and it will decrease the growing space. Anita: if raised beds are along the main paths they will not decrease

Upcoming Conferences

Garden Updates

Rain water retention system maintenance update

Paul has made good progress on trimming the swales. He does not anticipate needing additional help with clearing. Cleaning up goat poop will require a work crew. August 6th at 10:00. The inspector will contact Laura for when they want to visit and coordinate with Paul. We can update contact to me when the inspector is here.

Conferences

Hawthorne farms in August.

Lou Cabeen herbarium workshop August 5th.

Bee Report:

Carol: bees are in full force. Population is quite large. Susie's interns used some of the honey for making salve. Next challenges are the heat waves. Temporary canopies or shade cloth tents to shade the houses would be good. Water is more important than shade.

Linzey Crowfoot will be back:

August 14th Sunday pizza party.

Garden update:

Zucchini coming in. Garden is wonderful. Interns are wonderful. Hoop houses are amazing. The paths are great thanks to the interns. End walls are built and doors being installed. Parts were purchased for roll up sides. Come weed with us. Come chop weeds with Reuben. Grateful for the water system. Asian pears, plums, blackberries. This weekend zucchini are coming on strong.

Parking lot:

Overall landscape needs.

Individual unit landscape boundaries.

Evaluation:

We got through a lot of topics

Wonderful job of facilitation by Anita

Feeling abundance of

Could hear pretty well on Zoom

What could go better:

Love it when Anita brings photos.

Next meeting:
August 23th
Facilitator: Helen
Scribe: Laura
Tech Support: Elizabeth, Reuben, Anita
On Deck: Eileen