

Biogaians Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2015

Present: Helen, Laura, Susie, Kate, Sylvan, Douglas, Brian, Patricia

Facilitator: Patricia

Note Taker: Brian

Agenda:

- commons grass
- gathering space
- cob oven
- interns 2016
- winter plan
- UW students
- David – Anna
- Budgets – garden fence

Renewing the grass in the commons:

Patricia talked to Brian Skinner (through her connection with the master gardeners) about bidding the leveling, aerating, thatching, fertilizing, and re-seeding the commons. The area around the playground could also use renewing. We will need to ask people to “keep off the grass.” Kate raised a concern about the fertilizer –asking to be sure that it is organic. Patricia would send the bid out to the Biogaians for any concerns over the cost.

Gathering Space:

Doug would like us to formalize a bit more the plan for sequencing the work on the gathering space. Doug is willing to put together a draft of a project plan with some additional planning in March and April and starting work on earth moving.

Cobb Oven:

Work continues apace, with efforts this week, weekend and Evan coming out on Tuesday and Thursday next week. Plan is to finish the structural cobb by Thursday next week. We plan to celebrate the end of the season and interns departing on Thursday Oct. 8.

Interns 2016:

We will start now interviewing interns as they arise to try to get the best ones. Patricia, Helen, Doug, Katie and Kate will work via email and Skype to share applications and interview as needed.

Winter Plan / Roles and garden planning/ UW interns

Piglets will organize the winter work plan around when the UW interns start (either Monday or Tuesday beginning October 12). We could have as many as four interns (three from the Sustainability course and one from the Food Justice course), but we are offering fewer times for interns than in the past, so we may not have all the slots filled. We'll know more by the end of next week.

Mark will be here off and on this winter with Doug, Helen, Laura, and Sylvan. The plan is to start at 10:30am to better match Sylvan's schedule – Doug will try to clarify this timing with the students. Mark should be able to work with James on compost.

David and Annjanette Local volunteers:

David O'Connell is a local volunteer (via WOOFF) who is interested in helping this winter. David has been out for a Saturday. He does speech pathology at a local school. Annjanette Kohl is another possible local volunteer who has not been here yet, but Helen and Doug will work to get her oriented.

Budget and garden fence:

Patricia looked up the past estimates for the garden fence costs (about \$1400 for the farm fence option and \$2400 for the mixed farm fence/cottage fence option). Doug will find out how much it would cost to have 200 square feet of concrete delivered with a pumper truck.

One idea is to complete one side of the garden fence per year, starting with the east edge (next to the gathering space) for the coming year. Consider asking for \$1000 for fencing for next year.

Biogaiaans should have a general budget prepared for decision by our next meeting. Patricia will provide a draft budget for next year based on our spending this year.

Next Meeting:

Biogaian meeting: October 26. Brian is leading and the scribe is Helen (list at http://www.songaia.com/uploads/8/8/5/9/8859143/leadership_rotation.pdf)