

Submitted by Lauren Keinath

Summary

History/Why/What:

I was approached in 2016 by Richard Miller and Dave Halstead to see if I would be willing to head up a revival of a committee that once existed at UUCGT, but does not at this time: a Landscaping Committee. There is a perception that there is a need to address landscaping of our property in a holistic, overall fashion, working in concert with both Facilities and the Memorial Garden committees. This document provides an overall Summary, plus some further detailed information as to how this may happen.

Funding:

Is a prime concern for our whole Congregation. We have addressed this in initial conversations with Facilities and a representative from the Finance Committee: see p. 2. , Phase One, #2. Funding for Phase One will not be extensive, as it consists of Planning activities. Until/unless the team determines that professional assistance is *necessary*, the largest cost here could be soil analyses.

Who:

I, Lauren Keinath, will head up the initial efforts for the current year, and into 2018, health permitting. Myself, I think of this as a Team. Team membership will be open to any interested person (I propose a two-phase team). I suggest we place notices in the Flash and Beacon (and Sunday announcements, if that is appropriate).

Some individuals who have expressed past interest may be contacted personally and invited to join in.

Why:

To provide an overall, comprehensive, and holistic approach to our outdoor space which reflects our mission and values; especially those of being a welcoming space, with reverence for the environment around us.

How:

Initially, this Team is currently envisioned as a **two-phase** effort:

Phase I: Planning

- focuses on creating an **overall plan, procedures and policies**;
 - works in conjunction with Facilities, Memorial Garden, RE programmers, Green Sanctuary, any other UUCGT group wishing a voice;
 - carries out basic planning information (such as: soil testing, determination of phases/steps/sections – again working with various groups and needs within UUCGT, needs for irrigation, tools, storage, etc.)
- from information gathered, creates a general, overall plan

Phase II: Doing

- focuses on selecting and **carrying out** the various Steps/Phases outlined in the general plan, most likely on an annual basis.
- **Note:** The Team should be empowered to make changes to the General Plan as circumstances and needs change; flexibility will need to be a key guideline.

When:

Phase One would begin as soon as approved by the UUCGT Board (perhaps in the late summer/early Fall of 2017, and most likely continue through the summer and fall of 2018. Phase Two would then begin.

Notes/Details

Phase One:

Create a landscaping plan for UUCGT; pass on careful records to next phase.

1. Plan must be able to be broken down into Steps (or Phases/Sections or other wording), for greater ease in planting, maintenance, and funding.
 - Phases/ Steps would most likely be divisions of the General Plan, based on *sections* of the grounds, larger vs. **smaller** plantings, certain specific targeted projects (e.g. a Children's Garden; a Welcoming Garden at the entrance to drive; a Meditation/Serenity Garden; a walking path; designation of various plantings done as Memorials)
2. **Include** ideas for meeting potential obstacles/problems
 - **Explore funding options:**
 - i. Currently, there is a small line item (\$200) in the budget: this is insufficient to address what this Team means to address;
 - ii. I've been informed through the Finance Committee that we'd need to set up a Restricted Reserve Account for the purposes of pursuing funding for landscaping. Paperwork towards that end has been prepared
3. **Determine** general policies we will use to make future changes/adjustments to the general plan
 - a. E.g. Do we keep strictly to the "native species only" policy, or allow some branching out -- if so, what are parameters for other species that might be used?
 - b. A plan made today may not work next year (or in 5 years), so procedures for making changes to a General Plan need to be addressed.
 - c. How can we best encourage/plan for succession leadership? This effort will not happen in a short time, and it is unlikely that those who begin it will be the people to finish it.
4. During Phase One, some planning activities need to occur:
 - a. **walking** the entire perimeter and land area, to **establish** initial areas for landscaping;
 - b. **soil testing** of what are envisioned to be those initial areas;
 - c. and, **observation** of the amounts of sun/shade in the areas.

Summary of Phase One: Round 'Em Up! [see p. 2]]

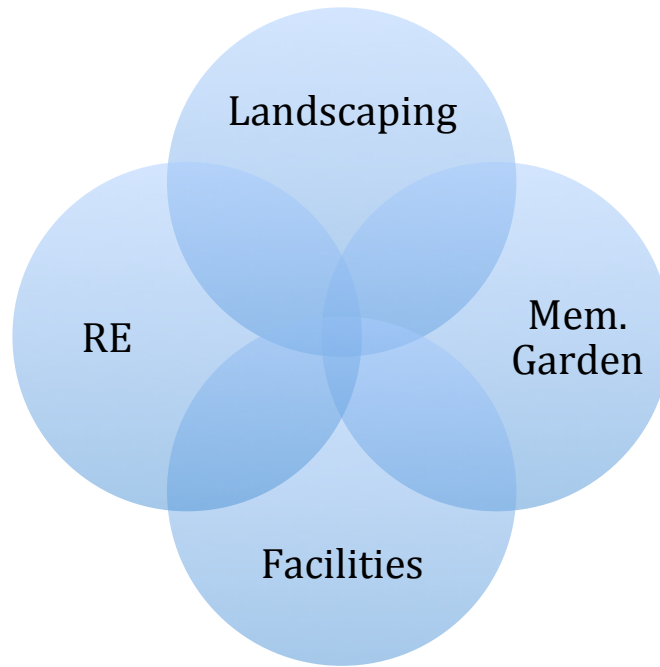
- A core group of people will
 - develop general policies (including a process for change)
 - a stepped/ phased plan,
 - address ideas for our challenges,
 - plan how to turn this over to Phase II team
 - conduct planning activities
 - soil testing
 - determining phases/sections/steps
 - observation of sun and rain amounts in various areas
 - others as they arise
 - work with other areas within UUCGT to determine what folks need/want (including, but not limited to)
 - Facilities
 - Memorial Garden
 - Green Sanctuary
 - RE
- Time: approximately 18 months.

Phase Two: Head 'Em Out!

- Time: in perpetuity (we need to do succession planning).
- This may be seen as the "**do-ers**" phase:
 - Team will select a step/phase (s) each year to accomplish
 - Determine planting & equipment needs; plan for funding options
 - Complete First preparation and plantings;
 - Carry out maintenance (e.g. improve irrigation, pruning, etc.), monitoring, moving and/or replacement planting for previous areas;
 - Maintenance also of any equipment (sharpening, replacements, storage).
- Each Phase **must** keep careful records, to make it easier to pass on to others. Therefore, it may be part of our policy that we have a designated Keeper of the Records on board. Some discussion should happen as to how that happens, and what records are useful year to year.
- Phase II Committee will be a great one to involve/include new folks, and people who only want a limited time commitment: e.g. "come for one hour to our planting party (trimming party, pruning party, irrigation party), get free pizza and a handshake from the Prez!"

Qualifications of Lauren Keinath:

- Master Gardener
- 30+ years of gardening experience (including 17+ years in Northern Michigan)
- 10+ years of Team Management



Etc. (any/all groups that wish to be involved)