

Minutes of the January 23, 2018 meeting of the Medford Community Garden Commission

Attendees: Amanda Bowen, Eliise Boerjes, Brian Weiner Duran, Lisa Risley, Mimi Gordon, Joan Parker, Nicholas Stuhr, Rebecca Stevenson, Sarah Florenz, Fred Laskey

The potential of placing a beehive in one of the gardens was discussed. It was the sense of the group that this would require the City's approval and that the issue should be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

Amanda reported that she had a verbal confirmation from the CPA coordinator that the Community Preservation Act applications for three new gardens, Barry Park, Morrison Park, and McNally Park, were considered eligible to be submitted as full applications. The Arlington Street application was postponed because of questions regarding ownership.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commission members unanimously decided to pursue one proposal, Barry Park, for this round of CPA funding. It was the sense of the group that funding for Morrison Park should be pursued in the next round of funding.

After reviewing and discussing the Barry Park application, a schedule was laid to meet the March deadline for the application:

A community meeting for the neighbors will be held February 6 at the DPW meeting Room. Prior to the meeting a notice will be mailed to the residents near Barry Park.

The Friends of the Community Gardens, who will be the formal applicant, will meet on February 20 for final review of the application.

The Commission will meet February 27 for any final action that may be necessary.

The garden design and budget presented by Brian were reviewed. It was the sense of the group that two "easy access" plots should be added to the plan.

Our proposal will include notes about volunteer labor to create the garden including 460 volunteer hours at a rate of \$18 per hour for a total value of \$8,000 and that the Friends will donate \$1,000 to the cost. Further, the Friends will absorb any cost overruns.

There was a discussion about garnering letters of support for the application;

Elise agreed that she would solicit letters from all current gardeners and those on the waiting list.

Brian reported that the Eversource project had not begun yet and with a 6 to 8 week construction estimate, there was a growing possibility that the project would interfere with the growing season. The Commission was unanimous in authorizing Brian to send a letter to Eversource demanding a “no go date” of February 12 for the project.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40PM.