

Medford Community Garden Commission 1/24/17

In attendance: Elise Boerges, Mimi Gordon, Fred Laskey, Brian Duran, Lisa Risley, Joan Parker, Sue Gerould, Amanda Bowen, Sarah Florenz, Julie Hambrook Berkman

Congrats to new members Joan and Riz and returning member, Elise, on being sworn in to the Commission.

CPA: City Council has voted to approve the ordinance. They've posted for four people from the community to submit letters of interest. Summary of what they're looking for: experience in open space, historic preservation, recreation, affordable housing, fiscal accounting, etc. Other members coming from existing commissions including Parks, Historical, Housing Authority, Community Development Board, and Conservation.

Tufts Garden Planning: Build date up in the air; shooting for 4/1. Working with school for the classroom area. Current design will have 20-25 beds and a 4' path. Need dates for water and tilling to finalize build date. Amanda will try to get a firm commitment from the mayor on the fence. Chicken and Rice fundraiser: \$25 tickets for an all you can eat dinner. They get \$5 and we get \$20 per ticket. Only 7tix left as of 1/24/17. Music and raffle. Friends have raised \$2025 in other donations including \$850 from Syrah from her grants. Current funds as of 1/24 are \$6303.03.

Plot assignments for Tufts: The Commission may promote plot assignments for two individuals who have worked on the project above and beyond the call of duty. Currently only 13-14 people on Tufts waiting list. Half of the beds will be assigned from the Tufts list and half from other waiting lists.

Renewal process: Garden bed renewal process is starting soon. The annual gardeners' meeting for Winthrop is 4/3 at 6:30 or 7pm. Garden rules have to be finalized; Joan has drafted the revision to include volunteer hours for the Friends.

Educational beds at Winthrop: Application available at the Medford Community Garden site. Sue and Joan will publicize.

Marijuana and Medford Community Gardens: After discussion and general guidance from the town solicitor commissioners agreed to prohibit marijuana to be grown in MCG plots.

Annual Membership report was sent to the commission via email.

Upcoming events:

Tentative Grand Opening for Tufts Garden: 6/10; rain date 6/11.

Seed Catalog Social 2-4 2/25

Board Night at City Council 2/15 6-7:30

Seed Starting Seminar 3/5/17

Garden updates:

McNally: shed damaged and taken along with contents by the city. Request the City fix it. (Elise to do)

Willis: Project Orange grant application completed. Hoping to fund tools and trellises as well as raising the beds at least another 6" if possible.

Still need to approach New Budget Director for a sit-down meeting about the process to add vendors for purchases.

Other potential garden sites with partnerships: Walkling Court and West Medford Community Center