

Medford Community Garden Commission
Tuesday, October 24, 7-8:30PM

Attendance: Mimi Gordon, Amanda Bowen, Lisa "Riz" Risley, Elise Boerges, Rebecca Stevenson

Amanda presented Brian's summary of the meeting held 10/10 about future garden locations. The group reviewed his useful handouts including:

- A list of all city parks with notes about available gardening spaces
- The Mass in Motion map showing environmental justice areas and food deserts in the City
- The Open Space Inventory map
- A comparison of local cities with available community gardens

In summary, the recommendations focused on learning more about the needs of low income areas, focusing in the near term on spots with declared champions, posting a web page so people can register suggested locations, and considering those on our waiting list and their needs.

For the Community Preservation Act process we will begin to prepare possible designs and information about three locations: Barry Park, Morrison Park as well as the available vacant lot in West Medford. In the longer term we will explore an expansion of McNally and investigate the National Grid site on Spring Street. We will measure these lots and develop potential designs for plot layouts in each in addition to contacting the City for technical information.

Amanda also summarized the results of Brian's survey of current gardeners. In general current gardeners are very satisfied with their experience and especially appreciate proximity to where they live and the overall tranquility of garden spaces. Parking and allowing dogs to accompany gardeners are less important than was surmised.

In terms of getting the word out about our activities it was agreed that we need more information in different languages on our web site. Amanda will work with Charlotte to post information about existing gardens; the current plot application is already available electronically.

We also discussed possible revisions to the application for next year. A suggestion is to include a box for Riverbend (or at least contact information) so that we could pass along requests that came to us. The Riverbend board will consider this option. Other suggested revisions include special skills such as carpentry or graphic design and additional contact points such as a secondary email for those without direct email access.

Elise reminded the group to consider Hickey Park as a future garden spot especially because of its proximity to the Roberts School.

We plan to investigate further coordination between the Community Garden community and coordinators for the school gardens. Riz plans to contact the high school coordinator and Amanda made contact with a teacher at the Andrews Middle School recently.

We discussed the possibility of some sort of garden summit during the winter that would bring together the Garden Club, Community Garden members and representatives from the schools. This would serve to identify interested parties for future collaboration.