

Medford Community Garden Commission  
November 22, 2016 meeting minutes  
Medford Public Library

Commission members and Alternates in Attendance:

Amanda Bowen  
Elise Boerges  
Lisa "Riz" Risley  
Joan Parker  
Mimi Gordon

Others attending

Sarah Florenz  
Melanie Adem

Motion made, seconded, and approved unanimously to approve minutes of 10/25/16 minutes.

Amanda announced there will be no December 2016 meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday January 24, 2017 at the Medford Public Library.

**Composition of Commission:**

-Amanda contacted Mayor Burke who approved renewing Elise's term for three years. All terms are now three year terms.

-Amanda also noted the bylaws allow adding a position to the commission to represent specific gardens. She requested that Mayor Burke add Joan Parker to the Commission representing Winthrop.

-Motion by Amanda to appoint Riz to a "regular" 3-year term instead of her current alternate position. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.

-Now there is a vacancy for a second alternate (Riz's former position). Amanda can recommend to the Mayor. Please contact Amanda with suggestions.

**Garden Reports:**

-McNally: Elise reported: Water issues appear to be solved. Elise will not be a McNally gardener or the coordinator next year. She has an idea for a possible coordinator.

-Winthrop: Joan reported that Thanksgiving is deadline for cleaning up gardens. 12/3/16 is "clean-up day". Final Steering Committee meeting for 2016 was last night. Steering committee meetings will start again in March 2017. Amanda said she has a note from Brian regarding the Eversource project; Brian is the most up-to-date about the possible timeline for the project.

-Willis: Riz reported that gardens need to be cleaned up. The after school program has a new coordinator. Amanda suggested meeting with Lisa to be proactive for next year. Goal for next year is to do more planning and education. Brian is investigating a grant for an intern for next year.

-Tufts: Sarah reported plans for the winter are for fundraising. Total budget is \$6400. There will be a table at the City "Holiday Glow" tree lighting 11/30. Launching crowd sourcing and other fundraising efforts. Waitig to hear from the mayor about funding the cost of the fence.

Next Tufts meeting will be 12/13/16, (2d Tuesdays).

**Fundraising:** Amanda reported that we have hats and patches; t shirts soon. Some bulbs are left; ideas were discussed for selling what is left. We also still have solar flowers. We did get a \$1500 donation from East Boston Savings!

### **Planning for 2017 season**

-Garden Beds

March last year was the month for contacting existing gardeners to determine interest in renewing. Brian has spreadsheet of gardeners and wait list. We should discuss how coordinators can help Brian with process.

Joan has draft application for Educational Beds. She will update it with suggestions discussed.

-Work/Volunteer hours (current requirement for Winthrop )

Joan reported most, but not all, people completed the required 5 work hours.

Riz is beginning to plan the seedling project for next year. We agreed to have a seed catalog/seedling planning event in January.

### **New concept for fundraising for 2017**

There was also a discussion with suggestions for adding a nominal number of required hours (or pay a fine) for “fundraising activities”. The concept is that all gardeners should be committed to the concept of building a community to support and encourage gardens. Many possible activities were discussed including: sitting at a table for city events, selling bulbs or other items for fundraising. There was also the possibility that we would ask folks on the waiting list to contribute an hour or so. Joan will draft suggested wording for our review.

### **Meeting schedule for future**

There was a brief discussion about whether to combine or have separate meetings for individual gardens/fundraising. Example is planning for Tufts new garden.

*Minutes submitted by Mimi Gordon*