

Medford Community Garden Meeting
March 29, 2016
South Medford Fire Station Community Room

Commission Members and Alternates in attendance:

Amanda Bowen
Elise Boerjes
Michael Lambert
Brian Weiner Duran
Frederick Laskey
Lisa "Riz" Risley
Mimi Gordon

also attending

Joan Parker - Winthrop Garden Coordinator
Linda Julien - Medford 4H Club
Norman Shacat
Adrienne Appel
Jeff Hoel
Julie Hambrook Berkman

Alicia Hunt - Medford Office of Energy and Environment

Amanda called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved unanimously.

Amanda reported that she, Alicia and Syrah met with Louise Miller in the Finance Dept. regarding the revolving fund. The fund has been set up and checks are now being deposited into the account. It is possible to set up an open purchase order for a particular store or vendor of the garden's choice. It will be a two-day turn around. It was also mentioned that it is possible for an individual to be reimbursed for a garden expenditure. It was also reported that a small number of people will be authorized to access the account. Later in the meeting Alicia Hunt provided further explanation of the process.

The discussion then moved to the proposed bylaws. There seemed to be a consensus that the long running discussion of certain issues must be brought to closure.

It was discussed that the provision outlining the removal of inactive commission members should be flexible.

It was further discussed that the provision requiring notification of abutters of a new garden was important and that communication should be multi-layered so that the neighbors know the plan.

Brian reported that there were three vacant plots at Winthrop Street Garden and that there were three applicants remaining on the list from last spring - so they would each be offered a plot.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the waiting list(s) and how to award the plots. The discussion was wide ranging. In the end, it was decided that for 2016 the 16 plots (14 already built and 2 planned) would be awarded to individuals who signed up in 2015 for the waiting list at Winthrop Street Garden and at McNally Park Garden. It was also decided that the accessible plot will be awarded to someone on that waiting list for one year, if no one applies for that accessible plot. This process was approved unanimously by a vote of the Commission members. The process for future years remained unresolved.

There was also a discussion of the issue of plot turnover or term limits with many good points raised on all sides of the issue. The matter remains open for discussion at the next meeting.

Riz expressed her interest in making sure that the bylaws require that special accommodations be made for the work requirements for those who may be disabled.

Under new business:

Linda Julien announced that a 4H Club has been formed in Medford. She described the program and indicated that the club was looking to find a plot to start a garden. The club will be applying for a grant from the state 4H program.

Amanda notified Commission members that she had received a letter from Medford resident Tom Lincoln urging that the aesthetics of the Winthrop Garden be improved. Joan Parker and others assured everyone that various plantings had been made and that they would need time to grow and fill in.

Elise Boerjes mentioned that she had found a cooperative where an organic soil enhancement could be purchased in bulk for an affordable price.

Brian announced that an all garden meeting and potluck supper would be held April 11 at 7PM at the library. He also noted that work has begun on the shed for Winthrop!

Joan Parker announced that a 10-plot garden was being built at the Osgood

House on High Street. The purpose of the garden is to provide fresh produce for the food pantry at the Unitarian Universalist Church. The “build day” is scheduled for April 16 for anyone who is interested in volunteering.

Amanda ajourned the meeting shortly after 7:30PM.