

Medford Community Garden Commission 5/23/17
South Medford Fire Station

In attendance: Elise Boerges, Mimi Gordon, Brian Duran, Lisa Risley, Amanda Bowen, Joan Parker, Julie Hambrook Berkman, Taylor Harriman, Simran Somal

A reminder that no April meeting was held. The March minutes were approved.

Tufts Garden: No water yet but reportedly this week. Many garden beds are planted. The purchase order for the fence has been processed but it may not be up by the official opening. There is still some turnover in membership.

Winthrop Garden: Most plots are planted. There is a May 21st deadline to cultivate the soil and planting by June 1. The compost project was successful! All large sticks and stems were ground or chopped. The volume was reduced and it will now be moved monthly. There are now work days scheduled each month.

The issue of installing a beehive was discussed. It probably can't happen until the Eversource project is complete. The Winthrop steering committee will vet the beekeeper's proposal.

The educational beds at Winthrop had two applications. The Boy Scouts' proposal needed work so both will be planted by the Medford Master Gardeners who will use them for demonstrations and deliver all food to the Food Pantry. We will discuss a proposal at a future meeting to consider a reduction in fees for the educational beds.

McNally: A shed for the water apparatus has been ordered. DPW is storing the old hose, reel and stand pipe.

Willis Gardens: Riz noted the hiring of an intern to work with kids in the garden this summer. The plots at the Community Center will be worked as collective plots. Supplies will be ordered and plants are available for this. Lisa Tonello of the Housing Authority will be convening a meeting of the resident gardeners.

Membership: Brian noted a few more plots are yet to be assigned in each garden due to turnover. The waiting list for all gardens will be merged for easier management. All offers of plots need to be tracked; phone numbers will be added to reach those who don't use email. There was discussion of adding addresses to the list as well, culled from the applications. However some of this data can be out of date so we will not add for now.

New gardens: Simran discussed possible locations in East Medford. A vacant lot on Washington Street is owned by National Grid. Other spaces are located in parks. We should do more research including sun studies and potential water access. The area at Morrison Park, for example, already has water accessible.

Friends: The seedling sale was smaller this year; many plants will be of good size for sale at the Tufts opening. We will have a table at Medford Community Day and also at the Tufts Opening event.

Community Preservation Act: A committee has been formed and recruitment for an administrator has begun. Applications will be sought for funds to be dispersed in mid-2018. We plan to have a proposal ready when the call goes out.

Eversource: The cable project is still going through a variety of approvals. Details of what is included in the recompence document are not currently available. More details on the timetable for the project will be sought.