

Medford Community Garden Commission

The meeting of Tuesday, June 27 was called to order at 7:10PM

Attendance:

Mimi Gordon
Brian Duran
Amanda Bowen
Elise Boerjes
Julie Hambrook Berkman
Lisa "Riz" Risley
Fred Laskey

Garden Reports:

Tufts Garden - Brian

The garden is progressing. The fence is up and water is on. The gate will be in soon.

The opening fair was a big success. People are gardening.

Winthrop Street Garden - Julie

The composting day was a big success. A shredder and rototiller were utilized. There was a discussion about whether a lawn mower is needed. There was also a discussion whether painting the blocks was a good idea. It was also pointed that there is a problem with flea beetles.

McNally Garden - Amanda

The shed and water are ready to go thanks to Mike Nestor. There is still the need for a gardener to take one of the plots.

Willis Garden - Riz

6 garden plots are taken. A spare bed will be used as a pollinator bed. The intern is working out very well. There is the need for another section of fence.

River Bend - Fred

There are five new gardeners this year and the last gardener signed up in June 2015.

Other issues discussed include:

Brian is going to combine the waiting lists.

There was a lengthy discussion about the revolving fund remaining a problem. In summary, it is paper intensive and unnecessarily complicated and time consuming. Amanda attended a meeting with Alicia Hunt and Tufts garden officers to get them up to speed. It was suggested that it may make sense to have the Commission report to the City's new recreation director in future.

Riz presented a thorough written report on the annual seedling project that she manages. She had good news in that she has found someone to sell the seedlings at different locations. She believes that one more year should determine whether the process is worth the effort and proposed several changes including soliciting pre-orders.

Both Amanda and Brian stated that there needs to be a better breakdown of the Friends expenditures. They said Tufts fundraising records provided a good model.

Brian gave an update on the finances of the Tufts garden. \$6,600 of the \$11,500 raised had been spent. There are other expenditures necessary including \$600 for tools, gravel, tables and chairs.

The Eversource project which will run through the Winthrop Garden is not yet scheduled. DCR is now looking for Eversource to build a path near the garden. There is still no commitment or schedule from Eversource yet.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.