

Minutes: Medford Community Garden Commission meeting 6/28/2016

Attendance:

Commission Members and Alternates:

Amanda Bowen
Elise Boerges
Brian Weiner Duran
Mimi Gordon
Michael Lambert
Fred Laskey
Lisa "Riz" Risley

Others Attending:

Alicia Hunt, City of Medford
Joan Parker & Sue Gerould, Winthrop Garden Coordinators
Norman Shacat, Winthrop Gardener
Anita Melton, Winthrop Gardener

Motion to approve minutes of 5/24/16 meeting. Seconded. Passed.

McNally Garden update:

Elise reported that all four gardens are growing.

Winthrop Garden update: Report by Joan and Sue

- There is a new water spigot on the south end of the garden, thanks to Brian.
- They are working on putting in pathways and will discuss fundraising for materials with the Friends.
- In order to accommodate easy access beds chips will not be distributed in those areas.

Willis Garden update: Report by Riz

- 6 Willis plots are planted; the Community Center plots are partially planted.
- Riz worked with 15 enthusiastic kids today (very exciting!) from the Y-sponsored summer program.
- With success the Housing Authority may sponsor gardens at other developments in future years.

Friends update: Report by Riz

Working on fundraising for at least one new garden site this fall.
Alicia Hunt mentioned possibility of CPA funds in the future.

Review and discussion of Plot Turnover

-Alicia Hunt explained that Mayor Burke's position is that the gardens are on public land and therefore no private citizen can keep a plot for an unlimited time if other people are waiting.

-There was lengthy discussion of proposals. Four written proposals (from Brian, Joan, Sue, & Norman) Two proposals were verbal (Anita & Fred) *Note: the written proposals are attached as PDF document.* The proposals and discussion revolved around the need to accommodate new gardeners and make available gardens for all residents who need them vs. the benefits of continuity, commitment and expertise of seasoned gardeners remaining over many years.

Fred said other gardens don't have term limits for plots; at Riverbend there is natural turnover; recommends waiting a few years.

After careful review of all proposals, the following motion was made by Brian, Seconded by Elise.

Motion as Passed:

"Beginning in 2016, every plot holder is guaranteed at least three growing seasons (April 1st to Dec 31st). No more than 25% of a garden's plots will be designated for turnover in a given year. July 1st of each year the individuals who have been on the waiting list for over three years and not yet offered a plot at another garden, will be counted. As allowed by the above, spots will be made available up to 50% of the list for the next calendar year.

By August 1st each year the Community Garden Coordinator shall present to the Commission the Plot Turn Over Guidelines. The Guidelines will outline how plots will be made available to ensure sufficient spots are available for the next calendar year. If no Guidelines are presented, the previous year's Guidelines will be used. Guidelines must be fair and equitable to all plot holders and community members. The Commission will review, comment, approve, or suggest edits to the Guidelines as they see fit prior to them being implemented."

Fred Laskey expressed his opposition to the proposal to establish of term limits on the plots at the Winthrop Street Garden and voted against them.

New Business:

Fred asked if we needed two meetings in the summer; the consensus was that we did.

Riz ...

Brian suggested two topics for next meeting relating to the wait list and waiver of fees.

Next Meetings at 7 pm:

July 26

August 23

Minutes submitted by Mimi Gordon