

Medford Community Garden Commission
Minutes of September 27 2016 meeting

Present: Commission members Amanda Bowen, Mimi Gordon, Fred Laskey, Brian Duran, Elise Boerges

Visitors: Linda Julien, Trish Darrigo, Joan Parker

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

A discussion with Mike Nestor was postponed because he was unable to attend.

Garden updates: Elise reported that she and Brian hope to rebuild the McNally shed to make it sturdier and more useful. She think we should pursue the possibility of 4-6 more beds and will present a plan for this. She still hopes to add more signage to make it clear that the produce grown is not for public consumption.

Winthrop: River Fest brought over 200 visitors to the garden. The mayor came and was invited to pick radishes. There is a new Facebook page for Winthrop and includes video interviews with gardeners. Joan reported that the food grown in the educational beds, so recently completed, will be donated to the Food Pantry.

Riverbend: Fred showed off the Transcript article about their garden potluck which the mayor also attended. Riverbend gardeners donated flowers for the Peace Garden opening. This summer they have experienced some serious theft of vegetables and continue to wish for a taller fence.

Tufts: Brian noted that a new drawing of proposed beds is in the works, fundraising is planned and he's hoping to meet soon with the principal of the Tufts-Curtis about coordinated programming.

Friends: Linda and Adrienne are working on a list of potential workshops to be held this winter but a major stumbling block so far has been a place to hold them; suggested locations for further investigation are the West Medford Community Center, Grace Church, UU Church and the Community Room at Walkling Court.

Revolving Fund: There was some discussion about whether the process of depositing funds with the City is working smoothly. It was agreed that contact should be made with the new Budget Director to ensure we are able to quickly register new vendors. We should review this process in a year and consider a revision of the ordinance if it still seems inefficient.

Bylaws: Residency is required for plot assignment yet no process is currently in place to verify current residence. Fred confirmed that Riverbend does ask for a local utility bill; we agreed that this requirement will be added to local garden rules.

After a discussion of ways to assign plots in new gardens it was agreed that the first 50% of plots would be assigned to those on the waiting list for that garden and the next 50% offered to those on other waiting lists. If beds still remain they will be offered to the remaining names on that list for the new garden.

While our wait list is currently private with access for those responsible for adding names we agreed that all commissioners should have access.

We reviewed the draft application for use of the educational beds at Winthrop and discussed who would review these applications. We thought groups should only be approved for a year at a time; the Winthrop coordinators will be responsible for reviewing these applications. There must be a single person designated to be responsible for following the garden's rules. Once the draft is reviewed we'll post it on the Commission web site along with the garden's rules so that potential applicants will understand the responsibilities involved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.