

Medford Community Garden Commission
May 24, 2016
South Medford Fire Station

Commission Members and Alternates in attendance:

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

also attending

Linda Julien - Medford 4H Club
Julie Hambrook Berkman

Reports:

McNally-3 of 4 beds are planted. The shed has been secured and a new hose and reel are on order. Elise is working on signage. Given some plants have disappeared and labels removed, there is consensus that a low fence is needed. We will need to work with the City to get this in place

Winthrop- most beds are planted. The water is now on and functioning. Mike did a major job of mowing the surrounding grass. Plans to build the remaining 4 beds and complete the compost structure are in the works. Voke students are building the shed.

Willis-12 gardeners have signed up for and been assigned beds. The horseshoe bed will be assigned to the YMCA afterschool program. Riz will meet with Christina, the instructor, to provide support. Supplies have been ordered. Housing Authority staff are still discussing a way to provide fixed water to each garden but there is a spigot and soon hoses for temporary access. The group discussed ways to provide water including rain barrels and various types of hose covers.

There was discussion of including non-Willis Medford residents if not all beds are taken. For now the MHA wants the beds to be reserved for housing residents.

Elise has met with a Trustees of Reservations volunteer who provides workshops for children at Trustees properties. She may be available to work with the Y program.

Friends-The seedling sale went well thanks to Riz and all the seedling hosts. \$759 was raised; there are numerous seedlings left and will be sold as opportunities present themselves. Linda pointed out that 4H has seedlings left over as well and may reserve a table at the farmer's market June 9 to sell them. Riz will prepare a

report with recommendations for future sales.

We'll work on providing more t-shirts, patches and other items for sale; Circle the Square planning will begin soon.

Bylaws discussion-Brian provided a new version via email of suggested wording for term limits/plot turnover. Multiple Commission members felt that a specific set of rules should be incorporated into the bylaws rather than a general statement of intent. Even if it never has to be invoked it was thought better to have a plan in place. The text suggests a formula to analyze the wait list each year and use those numbers to determine if turnover is needed in a given garden. There was considerable discussion about the number of years people should be guaranteed plots (3, 4 or 5) and thus how many years someone might wait before receiving an assignment. Brian noted that one or more current Winthrop gardeners felt that a term limit reduced the community building aspect of the garden. Linda mentioned that soil amendment takes time and that three years were minimal to improve the soil as needed. Some tweeking for the formulas was suggested. The consensus of the Commission members present was that a revised version of the formula should be voted on at the next meeting.

New business:

Riz introduced free project management software, Trello, that she's been using at work. She suggests that we consider using it to share project work and documents.

Brian noted that he'd like to explore a possibility for future flower garden somewhere in Medford that would allow residents more access than current gardens.

Brian and Amanda agreed to do soil tests at several target parks for future gardens.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 28, 7-8:30PM, Medford Public Library