

Minutes of July 26, 2016 meeting of the Medford Community Garden Commission

Attendance

Amanda Brown, Elise Boerjes, Sarah Florenz, Susan Schmidt, Linda Julien, Joan Parker, Michael Lambert, Mimi Gordan, Brian Duran, Fred Laskey, Lisa Risley, Alicia Hunt

A draft of the minutes of the June meeting was presented. Fred Laskey asked that the minutes reflect his opposition to the proposal to establish of term limits on the plots at the Winthrop Street Garden. Amanda Bowen stated that she would make sure that the minutes were amended to reflect that point.

Status reports were received and discussed regarding the individual community gardens in the city - McNally, Winthrop, Willis and Riverbend.

Alicia Hunt reported that discussions were underway with the Medford Housing Authority regarding the possibility of a community garden at Walkling Court as well as the elderly housing on Riverside Ave.

Amanda Bowen brought up the possibility of fundraising options for the "Friends" including tee shirts and hats. Riz was not able to provide a balance in the account at that time.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Community Preservation Act (CPA). There was much information put into play during the discussion including a comprehensive breakdown of projects around the state that was prepared by the Community Preservation Coalition. There was a strong consensus that preparing an application for the first round of funding should be a priority for the commission.

It was decided that a neighborhood meeting would be held on August 23 at the South Medford Fire Station to discuss the possibility of a garden at Tufts Park. The community meeting will be held at 6PM and the regular monthly meeting of the commission will be held afterwards at 7PM. A flyer will be distributed in the neighborhood beforehand and other methods of notification will be utilized. The group reviewed Brian's draft garden layout and discussed options for access to water and possible materials for raised beds.

Brian raised the issue of a reduced hardship fee of \$5 for those without the means to pay for the plot. A pro-rated fee will also be adopted for gardeners who receive notification of plots part way through the year.

Alicia noted that the City would welcome informational slides for the Community Access TV channel. We will work on some simple ones to raise awareness about our activities.

The meeting adjourned prior to the closing of the library.