

Minutes of the February 27, 2018 meeting of the Medford Community Garden Commission

Attendees: Amanda Bowen, Brian Weiner Duran, Lisa Risley, Mimi Gordon, Joan Parker, Rebecca Stevenson, Fred Laskey, Bernie Kennedy

The minutes of the January 2018 meeting were approved.

Following up on public comments from the February 6 meeting, Commission members attended the Parks Board meeting on the 20th to discuss the garden location. We were unable to receive approval from the Board without a specific designated location thus delaying the opportunity to obtain CPA funding this first round.

A group of Barry Park neighbors represented by Bernie Kennedy request that we relocate the garden south of the trees opposite the baseball field adjacent to the playground. In order to verify whether space is available given sports activities, we will review the following:

- Joan will discuss outstanding and past permits for Barry Park with Kevin Bailey
- Amanda will ask Mike Nestor about past uses of the park
- Bernie or Fred will mark out the potential space needed and photograph
- a new community meeting will be scheduled using an expanded list of abutters. Neighbors will be invited via leaflets.

In preparation for the second round of CPA funding we will pursue neighborhood interest in the Morrison Park project.

- Rebecca will contact Carl Cincotti, a neighbor living directly opposite the park
- Joan & Rebecca will canvas the neighborhood in anticipation of a community meeting yet to be scheduled
- Amanda will contact Danielle Evans before April 13 to verify that one garden or the other will be submitted in the second round (final application due July 13)

Membership: Existing gardeners have been contacted to see if they plan to continue this year. There are 7 spaces to be filled at Winthrop, 2 at Tufts, and at least one at McNally. Fred noted that the waiting list has shrunk at Riverbend but the annual planning meeting has not been scheduled.

McNally: Amanda will do outreach to existing McNally gardeners. If gardeners can't be found the beds might be offered to the Food Pantry gardeners. A sign has long been needed and Brian says he can do this in May.

Tufts improvements: Plans for bollards to separate the Tufts driveway from the garden, as well as a strip of gravel, have stalled. Amanda will ask Mike Nestor about this as he initially agreed to make this happen.

Winthrop: Joan reported that Winthrop received approval from the Conservation Commission for a pergola and bee boxes to be built this year. She also mentioned the expense of paint to decorate the concrete blocks and was reminded that CPA has micro-grants which might help with the cost. She noted that Eversource contractors have staked the ground for their excavation project but not started work yet. The company has negotiated a lump sum payment to the city as compensation but it is not clear that the garden will directly benefit from these funds.

Girl Scouts: Riz noted that she is working with a local Girl Scout troop to plan an herb garden at the First Baptist Church.

Fundraising: Riz is also in touch with Nicole Burkart, through the Food Security Task Force, who has experience with grant writing and will be helpful as we identify future garden projects.