

Medford Community Garden Commission  
Minutes for March 27, 2018

Attending: Joan Parker, Mimi Brian Duran, Amanda Bowen, Elise Boerges, Lisa Risley, Bernie Kennedy, Rebecca Stevenson, Simran Somal

Approval of the minutes for February was postponed.

Riz reported that Liz White from the Winthrop garden is hoping to coordinate efforts to donate excess produce from all gardens to one of the four city food pantries. Procedures for offering excess will be discussed by each garden individually.

Riz will be offering the annual seed starting workshop Saturday, April 7, at the First Baptist Church. There will be a seed swap and seed catalog social following the workshop.

Amanda inquired of Clodagh Stoker-Long, in the Economic Development office, about the timeframe for renovating Harris Park, which will include a community garden. She replied that there are several more steps in the coming months to get final approvals and funding so that the project will not start until early 2019.

The group discussed modified plans for Barry Park. Joan learned from the Parks staff that the new location for a garden is no longer used for football practice. Amanda, Bernie and Rivka will leaflet the Barry Park area to let neighbors know about our plans. We will also obtain a new abutters mailing list from City Hall and send the same flyer by mail. We will appear before the Parks Board on May 15 and plan an open meeting with neighbors shortly before that. Joan will be in touch with Tim about revising the plan.

Morrison Park will need the same process. Joan and Rebecca are willing to leaflet there. Tim has a design prepared which can be presented to the Parks Board on June 19. We will also do a mailing based on an abutters list for Morrison and get both projects in line for the second round of CPA funding.

Simran and Brian will walk the neighborhood near the National Grid to consider options for that garden. Simran has made contact with Ryan at National Grid and is waiting for answers from City Hall and water and insurance.

Joan reported that Eversource has delayed their excavation project near the Winthrop garden until fall. They will cover the cost of new garden soil to fill those beds that were emptied for the project. Eight beds at Winthrop have turned over and been made available first to gardeners who want to move and then those on the waiting list.

Sarah Florenz emailed her concern that the City will follow through with bollards and a path along the parking lot there. Amanda confirmed that Mike Nestor has it on a list of spring projects.

Amanda is still looking for two new gardeners for McNally.

Advertising our new garden sites is critical to support and success. We will add the sites to the web site and make new "Coming Soon" signs to place in each location.