

Medford Community Garden Commission  
April 24, 2018

Present: Elise Boerges, Mimi Gordon, Joan Parker, Amanda Bowen, Lisa Risley, Susan Schmidt, Julie Hambrook Berkman, Tim McGivern, Bernie Kennedy, Bill Rowe

Minutes from the February and March meetings were approved.

Tim discussed the grant awarded the Health Department to use the Community Health Index Tool. Tim has been hired to develop a method for using the tool to evaluate new sites for community gardens. The first aim is to choose sites based on a variety of factors and the second to design gardens to accommodate use by people with disabilities. He has begun his work and will have a report by the end of June.

Tim also shared the draft plan for the Morrison garden that will include 25 4 x 12' beds. We will continue to develop these plans and submit a CPA application in the fall.

We agreed to pursue a new schedule of community outreach for the Barry Park garden project. In anticipation of the May Parks Board meeting, a new letter to a larger group of abutters will be sent in early May. In addition, Bernie, Rivka and Amanda will drop leaflets at all residences adjoining the park. An open meeting for those interested will be held May 8.

Simran and Brian continue to work on the National Grid site. They are still waiting for several answers from folks in City Hall about questions regarding insurance and water access. The garden is envisioned currently as a communal garden where work and produce will be shared.

With the report that the City has received anticipated grant funding for Harris Park, we agreed to ensure that the planners consult with us about designs for a garden in that facility.

We have been contacted by the minister at the Hillside Community Church asking for ideas to better use the yard behind the church. We need to evaluate light issues and also determine whether a shared garden or a food pantry garden might be the best concept for them.

Riz is working with a Girl Scout troop on an herb garden to be located at the First Baptist Church. Riz's employer, Soluna, will be donating plants for this project.

Riz also reported that she had 25 people attend her seed starting workshop, held at the First Baptist Church.

Joan reported that Julie is the new co-cordinator of Winthrop. They are having a work day this weekend to fill the beds emptied for the Eversource project, postponed until fall.

Susan reported for Tufts that some gardeners have started planting. They are investigating options for composting including possible use of Bootstrap Compost. A small committee has been formed to add some art to the garden and also to plant plants to attract pollinators along the fence.

Amanda reported that McNally finally has four gardeners committed for the season.