

Medford Community Garden Commission
May 22, 2018

Present: Lisa Risley, Mimi Gordon, Elise Boerges, Fred Laskey, Amanda Bowen,
Brian Duran, Jon Parker
Also attending: Bernie Kennedy, Rebecca Stevenson

Barry Park:

The group discussed the Barry Park project in light of at least one neighbor's objections and also some resistance from the Parks Board. The decision was made to pursue the CPA application in light of considerable neighborhood interest. It will be important to tap interested neighbors as co-applicants.

There was some discussion of the process we would undertake to build the garden. Two weekends, as with the Tufts project, should be enough assuming a good volunteer turn-out. We are not yet decided about a 4- or 5-foot fence. The group agreed to align the garden along the trees rather than along Marston Street to minimize impact on the baseball field.

National Grid:

Brian gave an update on the National Grid site on Spring Street. We need confirmation from the DPW that they will provide the water lines; the City Solicitor has said that insurance couldn't simply be covered with existing policies. National Grid will require access to their underground utility lines so the plan calls for 4x4' moveable beds, 24" high, built on pallets.

Morrison Park:

We will apply for CPA funding in the fall. Over the course of the summer Rebecca and Joan plan to mail a letter to the neighborhood, leaflet abutters and carry a petition that supporters can sign.

Revolving accounts:

Sarah Florenz reports ongoing frustration with using funds in the revolving accounts for small purchases. Open P.O.s with Home Depot and Hillside Hardware help but beyond initial construction, costs are often small. It was agreed that a discussion with Alicia and ultimately the financial folks at City Hall might clarify procedures. Joan reported that Liz White from Winthrop is having few problems.

High School orchard:

Riz reported that Retta Smith, the nutritionist at the high school, is planning a project to build an orchard in a parking area to teach students about this aspect of growing food. Trees and blueberry bushes will be donated.

Use of city land:

Riz has identified a vacant city lot next to her new house that she would like to explore populating with an orchard. If used by the public stairs and other

infrastructure would be required. She is going to consult with neighbors about their interest in the project.

Garden Corps:

Riz described a project to recruit high school students to be trained as gardeners and mentors starting the summer of 2019. They would be responsible for maintaining the various school gardens and teaching younger students the basics. Retta Smith from the high school is interested and Kevin Bailey, Recreation Director, is enthusiastic about it as well.

Outreach:

Amanda reminded the group of upcoming events, Medford Day, June 3, Circle the Square, June 21 and July 19. We will be sharing a table with the Food Security Task Force at Circle the Square.