Medford Community Garden Commission
March 26, 2019

Present: Fred Laskey, Lisa Risley, Elise Boerges, Mimi Gordon, Rebecca Stevenson, Amanda Bowen, Brian Duran
Attending: Jazmin Jata, Julie Hambrook-Berkman, Lois Bronnenkant, Syrah McGivern, Lisa Tonello, Barbara Fleming

Fred reported that Riverbend had filled one vacancy and had 7 names on the waiting list. Their annual meeting is not yet scheduled. Both the McGlynn and Andrews schools have plots within Riverbend.

Riz reported that the McGlynn school was working with a hydroponic growing system and that there was a project underway to provide grow carts for each school in the district.

Fred checked with the manager of the Rivers’ Edge Development about the possibility of a garden there. Because of brownfield restrictions, it is unlikely we could get permission to build in that location.

Grant for gardens: Lisa Tonello and Barbara Fleming attended in order to explore with us building gardens at Walkling Court and adding beds to the Willis Ave. development. Barbara is enthusiastic about putting gardens at Walkling; there 143 units there and a strong Haitian population. As the Walkling population is elderly or disabled, we would focus on easy access beds. Barbara will meet with the modernization director to get his input and then plan a community meeting which a group of us will attend. Riz, Julie, Syrah and Amanda would like to work with Barbara on this project. Lisa also says she hopes we can devote part of the grant to expanding the number of beds at Willis Ave.

Garden design: Elise mentioned that she attended a session on pro bono garden design at the Trustees’ Gardeners’ Gathering. She also mentioned a session on critter-proof compost bins.

Harris Park: Riz distributed copies of an editorial she has written for the Transcript and asked for input from the group. We may want to meet with the mayor to gauge her support for our work. Amanda has requested input from the Parks Board through Kevin Bailey about their jurisdiction in the parks. Syrah will also speak directly with Mark Rumley, the City Solicitor.

Morrison: An open meeting with neighbors has been scheduled for April 9. Syrah has drafted a petition for supporters to sign. We have a list of supporters as a result of Syrah’s leafleting efforts as well as some negative feedback.

Seedling sale: Riz is offering a seed starting workshop on March 30 at the Baptist Church. She has been offered space there to grow seedlings for the Book/Plant sale on May 18.