

Medford Community Garden Commission

Meeting February 26, 2019

Present: Lisa Risley, Mimi Gordon, Amanda Bowen, Julie Hambrooke-Bergman, Fred Laskey, Elise Boerges, Brian Duran

Visitors: Syrah McGivern, Barry Batorski, Nic Stuhr, Leo Monin

Harris Park: Elise and Julie attended the open meeting about the Harris Park renovation and reported that the neighbors were opposed to the garden designated as part of the renovation, citing fear of rats, parking problems, and other issues. They put together a petition with 50 signers opposing the garden. As a result the City has decided to postpone the garden until at least phase 2 of the park project. In the meantime, we will consider alternative garden projects in hopes of using the grant funds obtained by the City for the garden.

Alternative sites:

Morrison Park-flyers will be distributed to gauge interest. Rebecca /Syrah  
Walklin Court-is there appropriate space and interest? Riz will talk to MHA  
Willis Ave-renovations of Community Center needed-Riz will inquire  
Tufts space behind their pool facility-Brian will ask Tufts community staff  
River's Edge space-Fred will inquire

In order to expedite use of the grant, we must determine if we could use it for multiple small projects: Riverbend fence extension and bed rehab, pergola for Winthrop, additional McNally beds. Syrah will ask granting source if we can change the project once again.

We are learning that the process of developing the groundswell of support for a site may take years. Amanda will ask Kevin if the Parks Board has sites they would favor for gardens.

Membership: Brian described the labor-intensive process of identifying new gardeners.

-He contacts people on the wait list to inquire whether they are still interested, first by email and they by phone

-He then asks which garden they favor-we recommend that he wait only 48 hours for a response

-once they respond he passes their name along to the individual garden coordinator for sign up

Announcements:

-Riz described her ongoing search for a location for a community greenhouse

-She will be offering a seed starting workshop at the First Baptist Church, Mar. 9 (later moved to Mar. 30)

-The Garden Club plant sale is May 18; she will be growing seedlings for sale on that date

-Nic will be the new garden coordinator for Tufts

