Medford Community Garden Commission
Meeting March 23, 2021

Present: Brian Duran, Rebecca Stevenson, Amanda Bowen, Lisa Risley, Syrah McGivern, Barry Batorsky, Sandra Arena, Jasmin Jata, Liz White, Alicia Hunt

Web page: The group reviewed a map that Brian crafted to show the physical locations of each garden in the city. It was agreed that we will add the Walkling and Willis gardens to the map even though those gardens are limited to residents. This will be a useful addition to the web page information available for garden applicants.

Equitable Community Garden Plan: Andreanne Breton-Carbonneau from the city’s Food Security Task Force sent us a proposal for an Equitable Community Garden Plan which would reimburse city residents who participated in the planning effort with a stipend. The goal is to obtain participation from those who have experienced food insecurity in helping craft a plan for access to garden space. While the commission supports increasing access to garden spaces we still struggle to identify available locations for new gardens. Amanda will contact Andreanne to discuss the project further.

Housing Authority: Alicia pointed to the possibility for further collaboration with the Medford Housing Authority and offered to put us in touch with its director, Jeffrey Driscoll. It would be helpful to discuss the benefits of additional gardens with him. We might even work toward new gardens on Housing Authority that could be shared with the public. Riz reminded us of her longterm hope for an accessible garden at the Senior Housing space in the Square. Alicia suggested that DBDG funding might be identified for such projects.

Ed Beds: Amanda asked Liz to describe the Girl Scout who has applied to use one of the educational beds at Winthrop for a project to educate other Girl Scouts. Liz is investigating the possibility that this project might take place at the high school but the Winthrop Steering Committee will ultimately decide how to proceed. Another Girl Scout troop will be creating a pollinator garden in one of the McNally beds.

Tomato plant giveaway: The group discussed growing seedlings to give away in May to patrons of Mystic Market, similar to our effort last year. Riz will start 60 seedlings and ask for help from the group to transplant and foster the seedlings when they get bigger. Rebecca and Sandra volunteered to help.

Commission representation: The call for new members has gone out. In an effort to diversify our group, Amanda will discuss the Commission with Housing Authority staff to solicit involvement from residents there as well as speaking to the new community liaisons once hired who will be working with under-represented community groups.