

Medford Community Garden Commission
September 28, 2021
The meeting was held remotely on Zoom

Attending: Amanda Bowen, Rebecca Stevenson, Marie DeBenedictis, Brian Duran, Lisa Risley, Syrah McGivern, Matthew Page-Lieberman, Fred Laskey (recording)

Amanda opened the meeting and reported that she confirmed to the Mayor's office that there are vacancies on the Commission.

Amanda and Syrah announced that a new online application for prospective gardeners had been created by an intern in the Energy & Environment Office; she also created a response spreadsheet that will be integrated into the master wait list. A lengthy discussion followed regarding how it would work and how it would be integrated with the current paper application process. We agreed that we could fill in the form over the phone for those without good internet access. Syrah verified that she regularly emails applicants acknowledging receipt of their application and noting that they have been added to the Google group.

The expansion of plots at McNally Park was discussed. An application has been submitted to the Community Preservation Committee. The Parks Board has given verbal approval once an accurate measured site plan is submitted. Amanda and Fred agreed to meet at the location to work on an accurate set of drawings. The proposal is to develop four more beds at the location and add a fence.

The proposal to create a garden at the La Prise Housing Development has received preliminary approval for Community Development Funds. A few more details are required before the proposal is approved.

There was a discussion about the abandoned garden next to the Andrew School. The principal of the school indicated that the Garden Commission could take over the garden. Syrah and others cleaned the beds up this summer. A \$5,000 proposal to rebuild the garden was received. There was doubt whether that would be a good investment given the limitations of the site. We will contact any Girl Scout troops associated with the school and gauge their interest in participating.

The garden plots at the Brooks School were discussed, including the successful efforts of the Girl Scouts and parents.

Matthew Page-Lieberman attended the meeting seeking advice and support for a proposal to develop a garden in the front yard of his building, an MHA property at 15 Canal Street. Amanda agreed to contact administrators at MHA first. If they are willing, Matthew will poll residents about their interest.

One version of plans for renovating Carr Park include a community garden. Members were encouraged to attend a public meeting and offer support for this new garden.

The city has entered into a contract for household compost pick-up with Garbage to Garden and participants can get compost delivered in return.

Other potential garden/orchard locations discussed briefly including Spring Street, Arlington Street, the Torbert MacDonald Park, and the Budweiser property. Syrah will contact someone at DCR about MacDonald Park and Rebecca will attempt to contact someone at Budweiser.