

Medford Community Garden Commission meeting 3.22.22

Present: Brian Duran, Fred Laskey, Lisa Risley, Rebecca Stevenson, Elise Boerges, Amanda Bowen, Syrah McGivern

Membership: Brian has been identifying new gardeners for each of the gardens. Winthrop had six openings. They now have an automated membership process using Google forms. They have also determined how to use voter registration information to verify residency. He is helping Tufts get their membership process going. McNally has two vacancies.

McNally: Amanda noted that the CPC has approved funding the McNally expansion. It will probably be built in August. The Parks Board gave their approval last week.

La Prise: This garden which has been funded with block grant money had to be put out to bid. There was only one bidder for an amount that was twice the original quote. We are going to try to phase the project in order to stay under the 10K threshold.

Andrews: Syrah set up an IOBY fundraiser for the Andrews garden renovation and has secured seed money from the Medford Community Chorale and Wegmans. The work should be done during the April school vacation. Syrah and Amanda met at the garden with Mea Mustone, Principal Downs and Kathi O'Donoghue, the teacher who build the garden originally. Due to questions about the use of these garden beds we drafted some guidelines, including who can use the beds, that assignments will be reviewed yearly, and that the school has first priority for beds. The arrangement will allow three beds to be used by Medford community members who will be asked to maintain the school beds during the summer. Their assignments will be for a year at a time, depending on school interest. These guidelines will be shared with the mayor's office to answer any questions she may field. We will publicize the availability of these beds soon.

School gardens: Syrah mentioned that she was involved in planning the Roberts school garden. Other schools have variable interest and participation. We agreed to invite Retta Smith, who has been involved in numerous school garden projects, to our next meeting.

Riverbend: Fred reported that there are two vacancies so far at Riverbend. Their first meeting will be April 21. In order to ensure that there is no overlap in membership, we will compare garden rosters once all new plots are assigned.

Winthrop: In answer to a question about how our late member Joan Parker would be recognized in the garden, it was noted that the pergola to be installed this year will be dedicated to her.