

Medford Community Garden Commission

March 28, 2023

Present: Elise Boerges, Rebecca Stevenson, Lisa Risley, Brian Duran, Amanda Bowen, Kerry Masteller, Liz White, Brenden O'Donnell, Shari Racanelli, Elizabeth Stevens, Cameron Flicker, Amber?

Seed swap: Riz plans to bring her extensive seed collection and sharing supplies to the Seed Swap, Saturday, April 1, from 1-3PM. Elise will be there too and Kerry and possibly Rebecca will come for an hour. It has been well publicized so we hope for a good turnout.

Several commissioners may have extra seedlings to share by early summer so we hope to host a giveaway for those as well.

Wait List: Brian has assigned three Winthrop plots; there are two each at McNally and Tufts to be assigned. There are also three places at Andrews. We discussed the long wait list; most applicants wait two years to get a plot.

Amanda asked garden coordinators to consider inviting all potential gardeners on the email list to events and work days as a way to promote community.

La Prise: Amanda noted that we have just received Community Development funding to build a second group of 10 beds at La Prise Village. This should happen in early summer.

Missituk: We heard from a parents' group at our last meeting about their effort to build a pollinator garden at Missituk. The Friends have purchased five beds and they will be installed and filled this spring. We arranged to have wood chips delivered and they will need more to complete the paths.

New Gardens: We need more gardens! We decided that, rather than pursue individual locations as did unsuccessfully in the past, Elise and Amanda will partner to approach the mayor and other city officials to get more buy-in for adding them to parks under renovation. We continue not to advertise the garden program because we don't have space for those we have reached already!

We were curious to see where the folks on the current wait list are located and Brian figured out how to map most of the addresses for a snapshot of where everyone lives.

Rebecca asked about the vacant lot at approximately 9 Valley Park Street and whether it might be available.

News about gardens:

Andrews needs wood chips in the paths. We will have them delivered and spread them during the school break, April 17, at 10AM.

Tufts needs information on ordering wood chips.

Winthrop will be losing at least one permanent parking space due to the installation of a bike lane on the east side of the street.

Elise noted that Roberts School is moving forward with building a garden as soon as this spring after considerable delays.

A group of gardeners is planning a pollinator garden for one of the islands on Governors Ave. there will be ample volunteer opportunities when this is planted.