

Medford Community Garden Commission  
November 28, 2023

Present: Fred Laskey, Amanda Bowen, Rebecca Stevenson, Kerry Masteller, Liz White, Elise Boerges

Update on gardens:

Winthrop: Liz noted a real problem toward the end of the season with gardeners not picking and cleaning up their produce; this can encourage rodents. Certain gardeners are perennially slow to respond to suggestions by the steering committee and the Commission may have to get involved.

We were all sorry to hear that Eversource and the City did an about-face and stated that no funds for garden improvements would be forthcoming as a result of the digging project in the garden a few years back. Of all the hoped-for items, the gazebo is the one most desired and there will a fundraising effort for that; the Friends bank account will be helpful for that.

Riverbend: Rebecca said most of her garden rotted because of all the rain. Not such a great first year.

Tufts: Kerry said some gardeners seemed too busy to visit the garden; speculation that so much rain meant folks didn't have to show up to water.

Beds will definitely need to be rebuilt in the spring. We can put out a call for carpentry assistance as needed.

Workshops: Elise is will to arrange for the seed swap at the library again possibly as part of one of the makers' clinics. Riz said that she can solicit seeds from vendors but will bow out of organizing a seed starting event next spring. Several local pollinator groups are offering winter sowing workshops in the next few months that we should publicize.

Membership: We understand that Brian is ready to hand over the reins as Membership coordinator. Amanda and Elise will try to share those duties after the first of the year.

Future: Amanda encouraged all to think of those who might be good additions to the Commission. We need a few new people! Elise and Amanda plan to visit the mayor to explore ways to get new gardens incorporated into park renovations.

Future meetings: We experiment in the new year with holding more hybrid meetings so that at least some of us can meet in person.