

Medford Community Garden Commission

March 26, 2024

Attending: Elise Boerges, Amanda Bowen, Rebecca Stevenson, Liz White, Kerry Masteller, Lisa Risley

Andrews garden: Brian was not able to attend but said he would like to help with the Andrews garden. Rebecca and Elise also have kids at Andrews now. Rebecca offered to contact Kathi O'Donoghue, the teacher most active at the garden, to figure out what she plans for the spring. Amanda will check to make sure the hose and hose reel are still in the shed and share the original agreement (including the number of beds school/residents) with them.

Seed swap: Elise was congratulated for holding a seed swap at the makers space at the library this month. She had about 30 visitors and gave away a good quantity of seeds.

Willis garden: Kristin, the activities coordinator for the Housing Authority, has requested a volunteer to work with kids at the Willis Community Center this summer using some of the beds in the adjacent garden. Amanda will post a query to the main garden list.

Tufts garden: Kerry outlined the plans for some rebuilding of garden beds there. She now has access to the garden budget balance! One of the Tufts gardeners is a contractor and will organize the building needed. Long term they would like to consider rebuilding with sturdier materials. She is also going to reach out to the Tufts School about their use of the garden beds as there has been little activity in recent years.

Mayor's support for gardens: Elise would like to establish a temporary garden space in the former farmer's market area near City Hall. She will try to find a time for she and Amanda to meet with the mayor about this and to seek her support for gardens in parks.

Winthrop garden: Liz White has stepped down as coordinator for Winthrop and will now take up the project of fundraising for the pergola originally planned with

the use of Eversource funds. The pergola will be dedicated to Joan Parker. Georgiana Chevy is the new garden coordinator.

Medford Housing Authority gardens: We are pleased to report that the garden requested for the Tempone development on Allston St. will be built in April. This will be our fourth collaboration with MHA, mostly funded with federal community development funds.

Web site: Amanda thanked Rebecca for keeping the web site up to date. She noted that several pages need to be re-written. The history is totally out of date and the map needs additions. Amanda will work on the history and Rebecca will update the map once pictures of each garden are provided.