Medford Community Garden Commission

Present: Amanda Bowen, Georgiana Chevry, Brian Duran, Fred Laskey, Kerry Masteller (recording), Rebecca Stevenson

1. Garden news
   - Riverbend
     ○ 205 people on the waiting list, and 3-5 new members
     ○ Held annual meeting earlier in the week
   - Tempone Apts.
     ○ Brand new garden built last week!
     ○ **Action**: follow up with Medford Housing Authority about supplying surplus seeds and donated plants, tools for new gardeners
   - Willis Ave.
     ○ Asked on garden list for volunteers interested in working with children at the summer community program
       - **Action**: organize meeting for prospective volunteers; solicit seeds and donated plants; use some Friends money for tools
     ○ **Question**: are there any necessary releases or liability to consider with volunteers and/or tool safety (especially since children are involved)?
       - **Answer**: we’re generally letting the Housing Authority handle this kind of question, once we supply names of people who are interested in helping
     ○ Consider working with Boy Scout troop 416, since they garden as a merit badge; could be a good opportunity for peer learning.
       - **Action**: Georgiana will follow up with contact information.
   - Andrews
     ○ Contacted teacher, but details still in flux
     ○ Everything necessary for gardening (water, etc.) is available
     ○ **Action**: mid-May, check in with school and work with the waiting list to assign gardeners
   - Winthrop
     ○ Workday on Sunday - everything went smoothly
     ○ Upcoming projects: repair of compost bins; putting pergola in; two picnic tables (one ADA-compliant)
     ○ 3 new gardeners
     ○ **Request from Winthrop Gardeners**: some kind of city-wide gardeners’ gathering + garden visits/open houses
   - Tufts
     ○ Annual meeting/bed repair rescheduled to this weekend
     ○ 5 new gardeners
     ○ **Action**: Amanda to supply contact information for Carli Fence
- McNally
  - Eight beds; 3 new gardeners
  - Some wooden beds need repair; some soil amendment needed

2. Reminder: Community Preservation Grants under $5000 can be submitted at any time. Could be good source for Winthrop.

3. New information for the web site
   - Ready to add: commission/garden history post-2017
   - [Almost] Ready to add: updated map of gardens with photos
   - Action: Rebecca will update the site

4. Water
   - On at Riverbend, so might be on at other gardens later this week
   - New meters allow closer tracking of water use

5. Environmental justice/Cool cities/Water runoff
   - Can the commission and/or gardeners be part of advocating for tree cover, etc. when the City/DCR/etc. add blacktop/paths
     - Compare to Somerville’s initiative to reduce residential paved space

6. Ideas from holding hybrid meetings
   - Revisit idea of in-person meetings in fall

7. Tree seedlings being given away at Medford Library this Saturday, 10-12

Next Meeting: May 28, 2024