

Medford Community Garden Commission

Present: Amanda Bowen, Georgiana Chevy, 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