

Feb 22, 2011 Second Founding Members Meeting of Culverhouse Community Garden

To Culverhouse Community Gardeners
From Catherine Dente

Another productive gardeners meeting! 37 people attended on Feb 22, and we got a lot of business done. We made a common decision about annual fees (see below), decided on the Leadership Structure for next year, and gardeners commented on reports from the various and hard working committees.

These are my notes from the Feb 22, 2011 Culverhouse Community Garden meeting. The slides shown at the meeting are attached.

The meeting began promptly at 7 PM in the Turtle Rock Community Center.

Thank you to Marci Freeman and Pat Brandon for collecting money and handing out the t-shirts that people ordered!

Catherine Dente welcomed everyone and showed a PowerPoint (PP) of the timeline for when we expect to open the garden. Expect to get your hands dirty this summer in anticipation of a Fall 2011 opening date.

Catherine recommended, and the assemblage assented, to a 3-person Leadership Team for after the garden opens:

- 1- Garden Coordinator
- 2- Treasurer
- 3- Master Gardener

The Leadership Team would be supported by Membership Chair and ad hoc committees as they are needed.

Marcia Freeman volunteered to be Treasurer next year, since Valentina is stepping down when the garden opens.

Leila Frangie will be our Master Gardener.

Gisela Vaughan will continue as Membership Chair

Sara Slate will continue as Founders Brick Chairperson.

Catherine is stepping down as Coordinator after the garden opens. We need someone to volunteer for this position for a minimum one year term. The chief responsibility is managing COMMUNICATION. (See the PP for more details.)

Gisela Vaughan announced that we now have 53 plots reserved. Gisela distributed the membership cards to new plot owners.

Valentina Pippin sent in a Treasurer's Report, and Catherine summarized it. Bottom line is that we only need about \$3,000 more to actually open the garden. We've been awarded a \$10,000 Sarasota County Neighborhood Grant to help pay for the garden fence, the Culverhouses donated the well (priceless!) and are donating the pump, Marcia Freeman is

donating the garden shed, and the rest of us gardeners are and will do our share in the fundraising effort.

Sara Slate, our Founders Brick Chairperson, sent in a report that 20 engraved bricks have been donated so far. Only 30 more bricks need to be donated for us to reach that \$3,000 goal!

Jim Vaughan, our designer, presented a beautiful circular layout of garden plots and a central focus feature. He described how our garden will be irrigated: we'll have a solar pump that will fill a central cistern. Water will flow by gravity through a system of underground PVC pipes to hose stations spaced conveniently around the garden. Final details of the irrigation system are being designed by our solar consultant, Rob Struckman. Leila Frangie, Master Gardener, suggested that gardeners use drip hoses attached to these stanchions.

Marcia Freeman, our Community Grant Coordinator, listed our many chances to fulfill pledges of Volunteer Hours for the Neighborhood Grant, for example:

- March 19, Springfest booth - chat with visitors and hand out flyers about Culverhouse Nature Park & Community Garden. Tell visitors about the Sarasota County Neighborhood Grant we won for the fence, answer questions about the garden using the Fact Sheet we'll give you that day. THANK YOU to the 12 attendees who signed up for booth hours at Springfest. Eliza Culverhouse wants everyone possible to wear a silly hat that day to call attention to good sun protection.
- After access is permitted, Marcia will schedule work parties at the garden site

Leila Frangie our Master Gardener described the many terrific Gardening Workshops here in Sarasota County. Look at the County Extension's website <http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/> and reserve your place at workshops by calling 941-861-9807.

Marcia Freeman reminded people that we are only selling 100 tickets in the Quilt Raffle, so buy your tickets now, \$5 each!

At our next meeting, we may have a seed exchange. See the PP for information needed for each bunch of seeds you share.

Comparing the attendance at the Feb 22, 2011 meeting compared with the Oct 28, 2010 meeting:

Oct 28, at 4PM at Health Plex, 24 (or sixty-nine percent) of the 35 reserved plots were represented, 9 people were excused, 2 absent

Feb 22, at 7PM at Turtle Rock, 33 (or sixty-three percent) of the 52 reserved plots, 7 were excused, 12 absent.