



Culverhouse Community Gardeners

Nov. 12, 2011 Meeting Notes
9:30 AM at Turtle Rock Community Center

We now have 62 plots spoken for. Among the thirty-five attendees, there was VERY high enthusiasm and excitement, and this increased as the meeting progressed.

Marcia Freeman opened the meeting by mentioning the names of garden members who have been very active on committees over the last 2 years, and the last six months in particular. About one third of our members have been really active in our preparations. We wouldn't be here without you!! THANK YOU!

Our gardeners sat at booths at two Springfests, at the Palmer Ranch Park festival last June, at the Potter Park celebration, and at the Girl Scouts environmental learning day; our gardeners collected tools and paver bricks; they designed the layout of the garden and a water distribution system; and much more. Our garden leaders wrote grants, sent hundreds of emails, organized meetings, talked with County Commissioners, negotiated with the Parks Department, sought donations, attended public meetings, met with other community garden leaders, and much more.

Announcement: A County Coordinator of School and Community Gardens was hired this month. Her name is Stacy Spriggs, and we hope to meet her soon.

To make information shared at the meeting easily found, the notes below are in the form of FAQs.

1) When will we have access to the property to lay out the plots and install the pump and solar panels? *Early 2012. We should have our hands in the dirt by March.*

2) What can our members do right now? *We have lots to do! Marcia passed around clipboards which people signed enthusiastically. THANK YOU! Ten members signed up to assemble the standpipes and faucets, four people will sell raffle tickets and t-shirts at various events, five people will be present the day the pump is installed and will take notes for our future maintenance needs, five people will use their vehicles to move pavers from their storage place over to the garden, and a team will work with Jim Vaughan the day we lay out the plots and label them. Jim also has a team to help him design and execute the Appreciation Board to recognize our donors. Please collect more stakes to mark the outline of our plots and give them to Jim. If you'd like to join any of these teams, just reply to this email.*

3) How will water get from the well to our plots? *There will be a submersible pump powered by solar panels affixed to our shed roof. The water will be first pumped into a large holding cistern. Then a surface pump will force water into an auxiliary pressure tank. With this arrangement, we should never run out of water to irrigate our crops.*

4) What is our financial picture right now? *It's very good! \$28,300 is our estimated expense to open the garden. We have assets of \$24,429 either in cash, in a Neighborhood Grant, or in pledges. So, we only have to raise about \$4,000 by January 30. If we raise another \$6,800 during 2012, we can build mulch and compost bins like those at Laurel Garden, and we can buy Florida Friendly Plants to landscape the apron of land outside of our circular garden.*

5) How can we expect to reach this goal? We need every garden member, or at least every plot, to raise \$100. *Sell a Founder's Brick, buy or sell some T-shirts, buy or sell some raffle tickets for the gorgeous afghan that Leila knitted. Buy some of the smaller items on our Wish List. We posted the Wish List at www.freegiftregistry.com/gardenwishlist. If you pledge your items there and leave your name, we will be able to avoid duplication of donations.*

6) How are we doing with the Neighborhood Grant? We were awarded a matching \$10,000 grant for the fence. *Marcia reported that 829 hours were pledged. 190 hours have been performed already. With all the physical labor mentioned in in FAQ #2 above, we will certainly meet our grant obligations. We have until June 2012 to complete our grant hours.*

7) What was the result of the Edging Survey last June? *The will of our members interpreted by our Leadership Team is that we will have three edging choices:*

1) no edging, just mounding of the soil;

2) dense annuals or perennials around the edge of your plot;

3) or composite wood boards. Based on the desire of a majority (61%) of our gardeners, only one type of hard material will be allowed as edging: composite wood. We'll try to get a large donation of this material, maybe excess material from a local builder or contractor. Keep your ears open, please, for possible donor(s).

8) How will we choose our actual plots? *After the plots are laid out (March?), the Leadership Team will invite gardeners according to the postmark on their original applications, in groups of 10, to choose their plots. We anticipate that this will be done on three consecutive days, perhaps a Fri, Sat, and Sun. If you miss your appointment, you may join a later group, but you may not join an earlier group.*

9) How big are the plots? *They are all 8 ft wide. The small plots are 5 to 9 ft long. Medium plots are 14 to 16 ft long, and the large plots are 18 to 22 ft long.*

10) Who are the captains of the tasks that I can help with?

Founders Bricks Sara Slate 487-7086

T-Shirts Maria Ferrer, Chair 926-4580

Marie Dick, Co-chair 735-0044

Raffles Marcia Freeman 924-6828

Auction of Fig Tree Leila Frangie 921-8352

Neighborhood Grant Pledges Marcia Freeman 924-6828

Wish List online Catherine Dente greenbeyer@comcast.net

The meeting ended approximately at 11 AM. Thank you everyone who set up the room and took down the chairs, who sold T-shirts, who checked people in to the meeting, who put up the charts and maps, etc.