

We had a hugely successful meeting on Nov 3, 2009 at 4 PM in the meeting room of Health Plex on Rand/Clark.

Garden Design Committee Report

Chairperson: Marci Freeman

Members: Gisella Vaughan, Jim Vaughan (graphic artist), Brigitte Ortiz, Ed Carl, Isabelle Dunkeson, Maria Ferrer, and Mary Ann Borowitz

Marci presented her committee's concept for how the community garden might be laid out. The committee was charged with making the design fit naturally into the landscape and make the garden so attractive that it would become a "destination" for its beauty and function. The committee succeeded wonderfully and presented these graphics to the audience. Marci Freeman, committee chairperson, explained various aspects of the design, suggested the possibilities for garden expansion and contraction, and described the materials that her group would recommend for construction of the various elements. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, let your eyes wander over the following two graphics, and imagine yourself in this picture by late next year!

The work of the garden design committee was affirmed by the attendees with rousing applause! I will now present this preferred design to the County Parks and Recreation Department. Though the county will not build any part of this garden, it will have to allocate money for the park entrance and a few other things. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department will have to give us final approval for the location we have identified.

N.B.: Some things have to happen before we can start our garden. The Commissioners are scheduled to rule on a lease for the whole park in a few weeks; a Neighborhood Meeting in late winter has to successfully spur the project forward; an entrance from McIntosh into the park has to be engineered and constructed; parking spaces, including pads for handicapped parking, have to be laid out; and a permeable surface (rough driveway) must be laid out for cars to somehow reach the garden vicinity. I am happy to say that plans are moving in a positive direction at the county level.