

Culverhouse Community Garden - General Members Meeting

Wed, May 8, 4:00 to 5:30, at Twin Lakes Park Meeting Room

On Wednesday, May 8th, the Culverhouse Community Garden members gathered at Twin Lakes to hear a presentation on the current organization and leadership of the Gardens.

Dave Consbruck, Garden Chair, explained various aspects of the day to day operational procedures.

Attached is an overview of who does what. Marci is in charge of operations, David of infrastructure, Leila of common areas in the garden and Inge Saake will be responsible for demonstrations gardens. Catherine will oversee the website and communications effort.

Hopefully, the park will be open to the public in June (Yea!) but no date has been determined at this time. That will allow us to go in and out freely without the necessity of locking the park entrance gate. However, we will still need to lock and unlock the garden gate if we are first or last to be there. You may be required to turn on the water so if you do not know how, now is the time to learn.

If you are planning to be away for the summer it is requested that you cover your garden with straw, mulch or cover crop so that the weeds don't take over.

Plans for outreach and fundraising are underway. Grant requests are being written and hopefully, will yield much needed funds so that we can continue to upgrade and develop the common areas of the garden.

Two of our (West Quad) demonstration plots are being planted with various melons and another will have a bamboo pyramid structure erected to support bean vines. Thank you Tom and Renee.

The water pressure continues to be of concern. Please do not open your faucet and leave the hose unattended. Coordination is the key so if you see someone watering, ask them to tell you when they finish so you can start. If we only have one or two at a time then the pressure will be up. This problem should disappear once the garden is open full time so please be patient.

Following are the two handouts that were distributed.

Culverhouse Community Garden in the Culverhouse Nature Park

Your cooperation in following these guidelines will help provide a safe and viable community garden.

Locks: Please ensure the security of the garden and its water system by keeping all lock combinations private, with access by garden members only.

Operation

County Park rules apply to all gardeners: See sign in parking lot.

County Extension Community Garden rules apply: See sign on garden fence.

- Entering: Unlock shed and turn ON water system: see laminated chart on fence and in shed for directions.
- For water problems: Refer to *Who to Call List* above the battery box in shed.
- Sign in and list common area work performed and the time spent doing it.
- Exiting: Turn OFF water system and lock the shed if you are the last to leave - no matter what time of day.

Gardener's Responsibilities

- Your Garden Plot: actively garden. Keep your plot weed free and tidy, summer cover if away.
- Paths: weed and renew mulch on paths surrounding your plot.
- Raised beds: Use Trex or untreated wood.
- Plants Not Allowed: bamboo, banana, mint, marijuana.
- Blue Plot Cornerstones: blue indicates water pipe lines – exercise care when digging.
- Water Conservation: follow best-practices watering principles - add humus to soil, use surface mulches, water roots not leaves, avoid hilled rows, water only when necessary [moisture meter in shed].
- Hoses: drain, coil and hang on brackets after use. Close faucet.
- Tools and Shed: keep tools and shed clean and organized. Renew supplies [or alert GMs]
- Common Areas: renew mulch as needed, keep garden grounds neat, help maintain landscaping, volunteer for manure hauling and collecting composting materials.
- Compost Piles: help build, adopt, label and maintain. Refer to the Composting Process sheet in Garden Notebook which is available in the shed.
- Volunteer Events: participate in scheduled events.

Safety

- Lock garden gates when attendance is sparse, preferentially don't come alone, bring a cell phone.
- Call 911 for medical emergencies. Give location: 7301 McIntosh Road, Culverhouse Nature Park. Fire and Police departments have the park address and an up-to-date map to entrance.
- Keep Tetanus shots up to date. Stay alert. Protect yourself against fire ants, mosquitoes, excessive sun exposure and dehydration.
- Personal Injury Accidents: Report personal injury accidents resulting from performing volunteer work in the common areas of the garden to Stacy Spriggs at 861-9815.

Ideas/proposals

Submit idea or proposal to the Planning Committee via garden website or a garden manager.

Friends of the Culverhouse Community Garden

A. Founders: Leila Frangie, Catherine Dente, Marcia Freeman

B. Friends of Culverhouse Community Garden – 2013 leadership team

The FCCG leaders see that the garden vision and physical operation is carried out, they approve expenditures and maintain the chapter's association with Friends of Sarasota County Parks which manages chapter accounts and holds/disperses monies.

David Consbruck: Chair

Marcia Freeman: Treasurer, Park Liaison

C. Reporting to Leadership Team:

Membership: Gisela Vaughan

Communication and Website: Catherine Dente

Fundraising: Maria Ferrer, Carol Lambert

Planning Committee: common grounds design/planting/orchard/etc: Linda Saunders, David

Cnsbruck, Jim Vaughan, with Master Gardeners: Julie Dailey, Carol Raffini, and

LandscapeManager; Leila Frangie.

D. Community Garden Managers:

Infrastructure: David Consbruck - Planning Committee, Construction; Plot Oversight

Operations: Marcia Freeman - Oversight of remaining functions listed below.

Garden Functions and Volunteer Work

[all members are encouraged to take part]

Composting: To set up a new compost pile, see: Fintan Reilly, Scott Atkins, Leonard Sloan, John Jirkofsky, Marcia Freeman, Ricardo Ferraz.

Collection of Green Materials: Bill Clark, Jerry Thomas, all gardeners (weeds, harvest, kitchen debris)

Construction: David Consbruck, Jon Auty

Fire Ant Control: Erwin Rohrs, Jim Raffini

Quadrant Leaders – 4 common plots: South-D. Consbruck; West-J. Vaughan; North-C. Dente; East-M. Freeman

Manure Hauling: Fintan Reilly, Marcia Freeman, Bill Clark, Bill McKay, Erin and Matthew Fuller

Mulch Deliveries: Erwin and Maureen Rohrs

Path/plot Measurement Integrity : Tom Hopp, David Consbruck

Plot Maintenance Survey: Inge Saake, Stacy Spriggs of County Extension Services

Volunteer Coordinator: Marcia Freeman; **Volunteer Records:** Kristina Kelly

Water system: [Brilliant Harvest Solar Systems - Bill Johnson]

- Battery maintenance: Tom Hopp, Jim Raffini, Inge Saake, Chuck Dick, Stephanie Anderson
- Filter and Cistern: Bill Dailey, David Conbsuck, Tom Hopp
- Pipe repair: David Consbruck, John Auty, Tom Hopp

Weed Whacking and Mowing: John Cesare, Bill McKay, Erwin Rohrs, Tom Hopp, Leila Frangie (certified by Sarasota County Risk Management); Hilda Hardy (truck).

