

Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, March, 9, 2011:

Miner's Creek Room, Medical Office Building, Frisco

Welcome & Introductions: Co-Chair: Joanna Rybak Co-Chair: Jennifer Santry

Present: Kristin Lee, Deb Price, Rob Murphy, and Dan Schroeder

Notes from Introductions:

- Ask Joanne Sprouse from Social Service to come and give an update on SNAP statistics and total social work case load at the next FPC meeting in April. Deb volunteered to ask Joanne and the food banks for monthly totals for the Basic Food Assistance Document.
- Dan Schroeder, Colorado State Extension Office Director provided great news about the 10 week Master Gardener class coming back to Summit County in 2012. The FPC agreed to help Dan get the word out about the return of this great program.
- FPC is on the CARE Council agenda for March 28th. Joanna and Jen will present at the meeting on behalf of FPC.

Urban Farming Policy Task Force updates

- The Urban Farming Task Force has been busy over the last couple of months with presentations and meetings to provide public comment and recommendations on the new code amendments.
- The public forum on February 16 had a great turnout with 20 people (mostly new faces) present. We received a lot of positive feedback. We want to make sure that we are bringing the Urban Farming petition to events to continue to get support. The signatures will be used to show interest in the urban farming movement when we go in front of the BOCC and Planning Commissioners.
- Kristin Dean from the County is still working on finalizing the recommendations. The recommendations will go through the planning department over the next month. We hope to hear back from Kristin on a time and date for a presentation to the BOCC and Planning Commission on these measures. Right now, she estimates sometime this summer for the presentation. Once we do receive notice of this date, the Urban Farming Task Force will get the word out for public representation at the meeting.
- You can still sign the petition online if you are interested in showing your support at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/support-summit-urban-farming/>

Update on Community Gardens

- Joanna talked about problems with the greenhouse plastic and Nancy's Community Garden (Sr. and Community Center Hoophouses). Joanna is concerned that the approved greenhouse plastic will not be adequate for growing food. The Summit Prevention Alliance is having problems getting greenhouse plastic approved that meets the NFP701 fire code for fire retardancy that is suitable for growing food. No other counties/towns in Colorado have greenhouse plastic that have the NFP701 fire rating. Fire retardant plastic isn't made for greenhouses/hoophouses. It is usually used for construction. Joanna will update us at the next meeting on whether or not the greenhouse plastic that is NFP701 that was purchased will work for growing food.
- Jen Santry also presented some issues and roadblocks for The Living Classroom greenhouse. It has been a long and difficult process to build the permanent greenhouse. The latest problem included a delay of nearly 3 weeks to figure out some complications with the

US Building Code and the greenhouse. Jen asked the FPC for recommendations concerning the issues. The FPC advised that HC3 consult with Frisco Town Council about the project and problems. Jen will also update on the process and TLC at the next FPC meeting.

- Joanna presented to the Dillon Valley Elementary Board on the DVE gardens. They are currently interviewing contractors for the project. Joanna should receive final approval from the Summit School District Board in April and will present the results at the next FPC meeting. Joanna is also meeting with the superintendent about the land agreement. DVE has requested that half of the greenhouse be integrated into the classroom. There are also questions on whether or not the food produced in the DVE greenhouse will be used in the cafeteria.

Update on Food Recovery and Food Banks

- February showed the lowest number of visits to the food bank since 2008 (20 to 25 visits lower). It is difficult to tell if yet if this is a trend. It was also discussed that the decrease in food bank visits could actually be related to an increase in families leaving the County because of hard times. We'll continue to monitor the food bank trends/numbers throughout the spring to see if there are any changes.

Food Production

- Joanna and Jen have been exploring permanent land for food production. Dillon Valley has been a site of interest for possible food production. Joanna and Jen met with Erick Becerril, a DV representative, about the land. Joanna met with Deacon Chuck Lamar. Joanna and Kari from SPA also visited the property and met with County planners. There is potential for Summit County to purchase the land for community projects under the "Public Lands Fund". If DV is the final site of interest, HC3 and SPA are willing to go to the BOCC and present a proposal in support of purchasing this land for the community. In the meantime, we'll continue to gather support for the project. We plan to meet with Thad Noll, Assistant County Manager, to get his input on the project and potential for food production/community use.
- Youth GAP's Analysis may tie into the need for this land. A need for a youth center was determined from the analysis. There is a Youth Assessment Committee currently working on a similar project. Joanna and Jen will be sure to contact this committee to determine overlap and potential for collaboration. The Youth Assessment Committee determined that one of the priorities for a youth center was a need for before and after school programs.
- The Local Food Assessment survey by the Leadership Summit class will help determine if there is a market in Summit for local produce and a need for more community gardens. The final version of the survey was officially launched this week. We do need help with distribution of the survey. Please pass along survey and/or link to your distribution lists. Deb will send the survey to Health and Human Services. The survey will be available to the public for roughly 4-6 weeks and will end at the end of April. The Leadership Summit class needs time to analyze the results before their program ends. Rob Murphy agreed to pass the survey out at the FIRC food bank. The survey will also be available in Spanish. The link to the survey is:
[http://www.keystone.org/survey/summitfoodassessment.](http://www.keystone.org/survey/summitfoodassessment)

Next Food Policy Meeting: Wednesday, April 13, 2pm to 3:30pm, Miner's Creek Rm, Medical Office Building, Frisco. For past meeting minutes and more information, please go to:
http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#FPC