

THE LIVING CLASSROOM FIRST GARDEN MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011

15 individuals attended the meeting including 4 visitors from Leadville

1). Welcome/Introductions

2). Why are you here? Some answers from meeting attendees:

- It's hard to grow food at this elevation and in this mountain environment.
- It's hard to get good, fresh food from local stores.
- Interested in educating our children and students about healthy food choices and local and sustainable food.
- I miss growing food in my backyard or having the space to grow it.
- I'm a beginner and want to learn how to grow my own food.
- I want to learn something new and learn from other growers.
- I'm interested in growing community, bonding with locals that are interested in the same thing.
- I like the community garden atmosphere - socializing, sharing, and growing together.
- I want to eat healthier.

3). Goals of Greenhouse project/ Community Gardens:

- Provide more green spaces for community grow their own food
- Learning place for students, families, and visitors to come and learn how to grow food, self-sufficiency, composting, and other life skills
- Connect our Composting in the Schools program (soil) to food grown from compost - students learn where their food comes from, get their hands dirty, ... Closed loop - start in the schools, SCRAP, TLC. School and youth groups can take ownership of the plots/greenhouse and volunteer/ interships.
- Do something with the old shed in the backyard that was littering Frisco with old shingles...

4). Steps for planning a community gardens:

- **Start up costs** - HC3 has secured the initial start up costs for the greenhouse through our generous grantors, donors, and sponsors - The Colorado Garden Show, Inc (donation of \$10,000), LiveWell and Summit Prevention Alliance (donation of \$6,000), local businesses and individuals (\$5,000), and in-kind donations (Matthew Stais Architects for design, Summit County Government for compost and top soil, Town of Frisco for land and waived permit fees...). There will be ongoing costs associated with the garden. HC3 will continue to work on grants and fundraising.

- **Create a support network**

- Identify leaders in the community (individuals on our email list and at this meeting)
- Steering committee members (individuals who want to be more involved in overseeing the process)
- Committees (groups of individuals interested in tackling projects like fundraising, garden design and maintenance...)
- Garden mentors (experienced gardeners who can teach and help others in the garden)
- Dedicated volunteers (individual who can donate once, weekly, monthly... who can help with the ongoing maintenance, construction, and care of the garden)

Garden Steering Committee:

General Responsibilities –

- Lead and attend meetings (regular monthly to maybe weekly meetings in the growing season to discuss garden issues and needs)
- Set meeting agendas
- Make decisions such as:
 - Rules and Regulations of the garden
 - Fee or Free
 - Set committees (fundraising, education, rules and regs...)
 - Have a say in workshops, trainings, and programming
 - Make sure tasks and goals are completed
 - Contribute to seeking additional funds and donations
 - Identifying garden needs (supplies, storage, tools...)
 - Ensure successful garden upkeep and maintenance by plot owners
 - Sustain the garden (people come and go but the garden is permanent)
- Discuss how the steering committee votes, bylaws...
- Create the 2011 timeline and immediate task lists
- Discuss Community Garden Plots, applications, and plot owner

If you are interested in being a steering committee member for The Living Classroom, please contact Jennifer Santry (jen@highcountryconservation.org or 970-668-5703).

EXAMPLE from DILLON VALLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Steering Committee Responsibilities

- 1 year commitment (Jan-Dec 2011)

- Attend monthly meetings or send someone as a “proxy” (Of course we understand that life happens & sometimes it is impossible to get to a meeting or send a “proxy”.) If you can’t make a meeting or send a proxy, please do notify the chair – Joanna Rybak.
- Some involvement in helping with the project other than only coming to monthly meetings. For example, this can be being a committee chair or participating in a committee, participating in work days when needed, being a garden mentor or teaching, help with fundraising events, etc.

Steering Committee Benefits

- As a steering committee member, you will have “voting rights” when we make decisions regarding the operations of the greenhouse garden.
- Meet others and learn all about how to plan for a community garden.
- Volunteering and getting involved in the community has all sorts of benefits.

Support Committee

- Commit to helping in 2011 when you can! This allows us to call you for your expertise when needed or when we need help reviewing a grant or need help on work days, etc. The steering committee may choose to clearly define the “support committee.”

Please review the list to make sure that it is accurate and let me know if you reconsidered or have any questions.

Possible Steering Committee:

Communication
 Educational
 Maintenance
 Fundraising
 Social/Party/Events
 End of Season
 Youth Activities
 Support Committee

Leading Roles – Executive Committee?
 Chair or Co-Chairs
 Secretary
 Treasurer

See Silvana’s Plot Application, Rules and Operating Procedures, and Gardener’s Responsibilities