

**WeCAN Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**January 29, 2014**  
**Prepared by Leah Rounds**

## **AGENDA**

- Presentation by Reuben Gonzales re: GED program and computer lab needs
- Treasurer's Report – Cindy Gallard
  - Donations to cover insurance from board members?
  - Renewal of insurance?
- Committee Reports
  - Land Use Committee — parking at development on Lowell and 17th
  - Website — Alan Burch
  - Newsletter
- Old Business
  - Library fundraising — Shane and Amy Burgan
  - 7-Eleven Liquor license application
- New Business
  - Plan future general meetings
  - Sustainability Project
    - Plan kick-off
    - Ideas for points (e.g. Grow Local CO sign up)
  - Residential sales of garden produce zoning change – Dana Miller
  - Plan stations for the kick-off
  - Plan ECM clean up day
  - Garage sale
    - When/Where to have the garage sale
    - Use the parking lot on Colfax between Utica/Vrain?
  - How to use WeCAN cares funds?
  - Upgrading comp lab for programs at Confluence ministries
  - Add Fox newscast to Facebook/Website
  - Assign 1 or 2 people to sit on EFG Design Review Committee (emails due by January 31<sup>st</sup>)
  - Petition planning for St. Anthony's redevelopment support
- Other business?
- Adjourn

## **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Chad Reischl

In attendance –Barb Baker, Bill Baker, Alan Burch, Shane Burgan, Cindy Gallard, Art Marek, Chad Reischl, Leah Rounds, Ben Stetler, and Brittney Vernon

Presentation by Reuben Gonzales, the Director of Operations at Confluence for 3 years

- Goal is to upgrade the computer lab at Confluence. The lab currently in place isn't being used because it is so old (running Windows 98)
- 2014 has new GED credentials being put into place that emphasizes the readiness for careers and college, and more rigorous academic standards.
- GED testing will now be solely computer-based with time requirements for finishing the test
- Confluence's GED program has been stopped until the end of March 2014 to get ready for new testing the computer set-up
- Though the new GED standards are good academically, the technology piece places a barrier to those living in the neighborhood (25% of households are below poverty line, 45% of adults have less than a 12<sup>th</sup> grade education, and 22% of residents are non-English speaking adults)
- A new computer lab is needed to continue Confluence's GED Prep Spanish adult programming and Bilingual services, which provides academic literacy resources and computer skills training
- With iPad technology, educational apps can be indentified to teach the 5 core GED classes, helping students over-come technology barriers at the same time
- New computer lab will be used for the Whiz Kid tutoring program on Tuesdays as well.
- Budget break-down: User platforms/stations (10 iPads, 5 laptops, software) \$13,900 + Networking and Tech Support (internet service, printer, TV monitor, Apple TV system) \$4,700 = total \$18,600
- Q&A
  - How much do you need to start in March? iPads are \$500-\$550 each, older generation iPads may work (but not older PCs). Want to have technology to build on (tech life is typically 3yrs)
  - Are the GEDs taken on iPads? No, we would use the apps to get students ready for test and become more proficient with technology, and eventually work on Windows laptops
  - Why laptops and not desktops? It will be easier to move the learning environment around
- In 2013 Confluence's program had 80 students working on GED and ESL classes with 55 graduates. Hoping to have 70-80 students starting in March.
- This is a collaborative opportunity for the community. Confluence is looking for others to participate in building the computer lab too.
- An email blast from WeCAN can go out to promote this with a link to Confluence's site. It could be put in the newsletter and presented to the BID
- Improvements in education in our neighborhood help all aspects of the neighborhood

Treasurer's Report (Barb and Cindy)

- WeCAN's general income for 2013 totaled \$2,747 (included metal recycling, donations, interest, and t-shirt sales).

- Expenses totaled \$2,805 (newsletter, insurance, bank fees, state registration, and event/fundraising expenses)
- WeCAN Cares fund is currently \$258.43 (spent \$1,594.42 from garage sales and private donation on the 2013 window install project)
- Library funds currently at \$1,852.84 (with the goal of increasing this to \$5k by September)
- Available balances in WeCAN's bank accounts – checking \$9,408.70, savings \$15,115.52 (1 year CD), savings \$5,017.48 (can take money out every 6 months without penalty)
- History of funds – 15years ago there was a neighborhood group, and when WeCAN became a RNO there was no longer any need for this group, so they gave WeCAN its funds, around \$28k
- 2014 Budget Planning
  - Newsletters \$1,800
  - Insurance \$950 (Board of Directors Insurance due in April)
  - Bank fees \$60
  - State registration \$10
  - Event/Fundraising expenses (about \$200 spent last year, adding the sustainability project this year, so may want to add to this)
  - T-shirts and or other marketing (funds from past t-shirt sales are currently in general funds), may want to redo the t-shirts this year
  - Donation to Confluence Ministries – none given last year, should put a structure in place to give them a donation. This year there is the immediate need for the computer lab
  - Donation to community garden – none yet, Matt from DUG put together some information on their needs
- Do we want to ask board members for a donation to cover insurance costs? Don't necessarily need to, it may discourage participation in the board. Have an informal agreement for a suggested donation from board members

#### Committee Reports

- Land Use
  - A man is asking for a parking variance at 17<sup>th</sup> and Lowell, it is very minimal and no need for WeCAN comment
  - Cell tower at Colfax and Lowell has been shut down for now; a lot of comments came in from the neighborhood on this
- Website – being reworked and is being actively worked on; hope to launch next month
- Newsletters
  - Have 2 sponsors this month and 1 more emailed in to start
  - Cindy will take checks for sponsorships; possibly look into online payments in the future

#### Old Business

- Library Update

- It costs \$30/month for an ad in the newsletter, on the front page of the website for one month, and on the sponsorship webpage the remainder of the year. These ads are one piece of the library fundraising
- Alan has offered a \$400 donation; could possibly use this as a matching opportunity at the pool party
- Pumpkin patch this fall – grow pumpkins to donate
- 7-11 liquor license – 3.2 beer, WeCAN has decided to take no position on this

#### New Business

- Planning for future general meetings
  - February – Sustainability kick-off
  - March – Dana Miller from Slow Foods Colorado to speak about amendments being proposed that deal with zoning and garden produce, Matt from the Community Garden, and Sprout City Farms on the CSA going in on  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre at Mountair Park
  - April – EFG
  - May – DPL update, promote the June pool party fundraiser
- May 17<sup>th</sup> is an ECM clean-up day, this will tie in with the sustainability project
- Garage Sale
  - Sale raised about \$1k last year and went into the WeCAN Cares fund.
  - This year the proceeds could go to the Confluence computer lab and possibly do another smaller project for a neighbor like in past years
  - June sale
  - Location is still needed. Barb will talk to BID again about using their parking lot

#### Budget Discussion/Decisions

- Confluence would like funds now (or by March) to set up computer lab. A \$2k donation from WeCAN proposed, the motion was seconded; all voted in favor of giving Confluence the money now from the general fund. Extra funds from the garage sale in June could be given to Confluence for the lab at that time. There is the possibility of getting older technology donated, or buy rebuilt, factory recon, or 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation iPads. Brittney volunteered to help Eric (Confluence's tech guy) with the budget
- Community Garden funds – there is an immediate need for the general upkeep for the upcoming season. Possibility of using ad money to go towards this after the library fundraiser. A \$200 donation from WeCAN proposed, the motion was seconded; all voted in favor. Could also ask for donations at the Feb and March general meetings
- Event/Fundraising – There will be additional sustainability projects this year, along with the past clean up days, etc. A \$500 budget proposed, the motion was seconded; all voted in favor
- The 2014 budget will be filled in and be approved at a later date

New Business continued

- Melissa Runnel has submitted her name to be on the EGF design review committee. Ben has volunteered to sit on this committee as well
- EFG petition planning is coming through and should be emailed within the next week. It will have a pro-development message with positive campaigning to show support for this project from our neighborhood

Adjourn at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds

Secretary

West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)