

## **WeCAN Board Meeting**

February 17, 2016 - 6:00pm

1400 Quitman St. Denver, CO 80204

Present: Leah Rounds, Nadia Patrick, Josh Patrick, Diana Dietvorst, Jim Dietvorst, Alan Burch, Suellen Mack, Dave Justice

### **6:00pm - Call to Order**

#### **6:01pm - Announcement About Secretary**

Megan Yonke's current schedule does not allow her to take notes at all board meeting because of conflicts. We need someone to take notes both at Board Meetings and General Meetings. Leah will ask Jennifer if she would be willing to continue taking notes at the General Meetings. Dave volunteered to take notes at Board Meetings if Megan cannot attend.

#### **6:03pm - Mission Statement Discussion and Adoption**

There was discussion about the mission statement. Diana brought up the difference between a mission statement versus a tagline and wanted to lean more toward our mission. Open discussion of alternatives continued.

- Josh moved to adopt "Bringing Neighbors Together to Build Community"
- Nadia seconded the motion
- 8 votes in favor, none against

#### **6:12 Bylaw Update**

Discussion about the boundaries of the WeCAN RNO. Revised the northern boundary in the bylaws from 17<sup>th</sup> Ave to 19<sup>th</sup> Ave to bring this in line with current registration with the city. Josh suggested that we should attach an appendix to the bylaws with a map of the boundaries.

Open discussion of purpose statements of WeCAN (Article II) and how specific these should be. Nadia mentioned that these statements should include our "moral compass" and state what we will do.

We will combine purposes and objectives Section 1 and 2 into one Section 1 titled "Purpose and Objectives"

Numerous current purpose and objectives statements from the existing bylaws were struck or modified to result in the following:

#### Section 1. Purpose and Objectives

1. Serve as a liaison between neighbors in West Colfax and the greater community
2. Encourage sustainable redevelopment
3. Promote a safe neighborhood
4. Provide a forum for issues and concerns
5. Educate and provide resources relevant to the neighborhood
6. Maintain our status as a sustainable neighborhood in Denver
7. Encourage inclusion and diversity

Alan mentioned that the current version of the ByLaws that are being reviewed are not the most current. He is going to try and find that version of the Bylaws and bring those to the next Board Meeting so that they can be reconciled.

6:45pm - Jim motioned to table table discussion on the remaining portions of the bylaws. There will be a secondary bylaws meeting to discuss the remaining bylaws.

#### **6:46pm - Guidelines**

Nadia proposed that every topic that we will bring to or vote upon at the General Meeting will be reviewed by the Board at the Board Meeting first. Alan added that the Board should decide whether the general membership should hold a vote. He mentioned that INC hands a card to each voting member after validating that they are eligible to vote at that particular meeting. We may adopt a similar approach.

Discussion about standing time for City Council aides and whether we should allow a placeholder for them at each General Meeting. There was a consensus among board members that people liked to be informed about what is happening within the legislature that affects our neighborhood. However, we'd like to know the topics that will be presented ahead of the General Meeting. We can request that aides send their topics to the Board ahead of the General Meeting. The Board can send this electronically to the members ahead of the meeting so that they know what will be presented.

#### **6:58pm - 2016 Calendar Finalization**

Leah mentioned that Election day is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in November. This is the same day of our planned General Meeting. We will keep this meeting scheduled for the same date but may need to reschedule at a future time if need is indicated.

#### **7:00pm - March Planning**

Open discussion about the time of General Meetings and if low attendance is due to the early meeting time. Some Board members mentioned that this was a bit early. Alan mentioned that several of his neighbors mentioned that they could not attend due to the 6:00pm meeting time. Due to short lead time, we will keep the March General Meeting scheduled for 6:00pm. For the April General Meeting, we will try moving the time to 6:30pm to determine if this improves attendance. The time change for the April meeting will be announced at the March General Meeting.

Extreme Community Makeover (ECM) will be presenting at the March meeting. Diana has been in communication with ECM and they would like to have a liaison assigned in the West Colfax neighborhood. ECM suggests having a block leader who would solicit the neighborhood for potential projects. We would need to have individuals participating in this capacity in order to increase the volume of projects that can be done during the West Colfax Cleanup Day. We will present this need to the general membership to see if someone wants to volunteer.

Open discussion on agenda for the March general meeting.

- We will have an update from ECM.
- We may have an update from Alamo Drafthouse.
- Adriana Magana would like to attend the General Meeting in order to invite members to Paul Lopez's town hall meeting.

March Newsletter - Leah will send the current draft to the Board for review.

**7:19pm - Vision Statement Discussion**

Decided to table the Vision Statement discussion for another time due to time constraints.

**7:20pm - Sustainable Neighborhood Network Update**

Dan Shah was awarded the "P.S. You Are Here" (PSYAH) grant from Denver Arts & Venues for sidewalks in the neighborhood. This will be used to continue with similar concepts to the work that was done with Re-Imagine West Colfax.

Josh had an update on the Denver Sustainable Neighborhood Network grant. This is a matching grant for which we can apply. The due date is March 1<sup>st</sup> but the grant information and applications were sent out just last week. There isn't much time to plan a new project so we are seeing if we could apply this toward an existing project. Leah asked if we apply this toward a community party in the summer. Josh is going to contact them to see how we could possibly use the grant. Alan mentioned that perhaps we could sponsor some books or videos at the library on sustainability or that we could sponsor a class.

Leah mentioned that the community garden needed a shade structure that they could not afford. We could possibly use the grant to fund that and request that ECM build the structure during one of the cleanup days.

**7:26pm – Thank You for former officers and board members**

Several alternatives were discussed (cards, flowers, plantings, mention in the newsletter). We will try to develop ideas for thank yous before the next board meeting.

**7:30pm - Meeting is adjourned**