

WeCAN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
October 11, 2011
Prepared by Leah Rounds

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm Call to order, announcements
- Presentation to Confluence Ministries
- WeCAN Do Great Things award, new member drawing
- Denver Police Officer
- Vote on By Laws Amendment
- Slide show of WeCAN's History 2010 & 2011 with narrative of accomplishments
- Small groups to brainstorm a plan for the future of WeCAN
 - Land use and development
 - Neighborhood Watch and Crime Prevention
 - Fund Raising and Events
 - Environmental and Community Garden
- Share ideas with the large group
- RTD West Side Transportation Survey

MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Barbara Baker
- Announcements
 - Nonperishable food will be collected for a local food bank, Set Free Church on 10th and Perry, at WeCAN meetings
 - Tudors are needed for the neighborhood after school Whiz Kids program at Confluence every Tuesday, 6:00-7:00 pm. For more info call 303-377-3050.
 - Extreme Community Makeover fundraiser, Oct 11 is on the WeCAN website.
 - Recycle metal call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email bigbuddy2@comcast.net
 - WeCAN Board of Directors meeting, next Wednesday, October 19, 6:00 pm
 - Next month's WeCAN General Membership meeting is November 8.
 - Bike enthusiasts happy hour is the 4th Friday, 5pm at the Viking Bar.
 - On The Fox Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale will be December 11 at Confluence. Artists & craft vendors contact Barbara Baker, 303-257-9808.
 - Support WeCAN by volunteering to be a board member (3-4 hrs./month).
 - RTD West Side Transportation Study <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WSTES>
- Presentation to Confluence Ministries to show WeCAN's appreciation of their support
- Prize envelope for 1 of the new members in attendance
- Officer Hicks was not in attendance; no police report.
- Vote in support of an amendment to the by laws. The Co-President will continue in a leadership position for one year to serve as a mentor to the incoming President.
- Slide show of the projects WeCAN has done in 2010/2011 and narrative of the organization's accomplishments. They include – graffiti prevention and clean-up with youth, collaborations with the business district, set up of a land use committee, support of the new Denver Public Library, worked with the land conservancy to get the library in our neighborhood, planted trees, community garden to open in 2012, on-going bus stop clean-up, youth farmers market, cyclists happy hour, new tools for communication (webpage, facebook), fundraising projects like annual

garage sale and metal recycling (raised almost \$2,000 so far), “We Can Do Great Things” awards to recognize good deeds from people and businesses in the neighborhood, provided forums for city councils and library meetings, Community events such as working with Confluence (1,800 people attended this year’s festival), school supply drive, can food drive, crime prevention (seen a 20% drop in crime with the set up of neighborhood watch), Colorado Collision to set up a cop shop, holiday arts and crafts on Colfax

- Ben Stefler had an update on the redevelopment of St. Anthony’s – working with Eric Shaffron of the Armani Group. There are currently 3 developers interested in the space; all are well-established developers in Denver. 1 is currently in active negotiations, but there is no information on how long these negotiations will take. All 3 would buy the entire site for redevelopment. 2 would develop the site immediately, while 1 would wait. There will be more information at next month’s meeting.
- Susan Shephard, District 1 City Councilperson, passed out her newsletter and encouraged everyone to subscribe online at www.denvergov.org/susanshepherd. Her current work includes the budget process, which will be voted on in a few months. Addressed concerns of a new trash collection service; it is a pay-as-you-go system that is being recommended to the Mayor, but it is still a long ways off from being voted on. Office hours for West Colfax is at Swift’s Kitchen every 3rd Thursday of the month from 2-3pm
- Small groups met for 15 minutes. The 4 groups then shared out their ideas for potential projects WeCAN could take on in the coming year.
 - Land Use – Need for a more developed land use committee, or possibly expanding it or creating more committees. St. Anthony’s redevelopment is currently the largest project. Road development along Colfax, and how to put input into future road projects.
 - Neighborhood Watch and Crime Prevention – Hoping to expand the group and get more members involved. Making magnets with police dispatch numbers, and with this encouraging people to call the police or 311 when they see things. Setting up dog walking groups. Volunteers are needed at the cop shop. Enacting a noise ordinance along 14th street.
 - Environmental and Community Garden – A lot of enthusiasm for the community gardens, encouraging those interested to sign up to be a part of the garden’s committee. Flower/Tree give away, more reach-out to get more neighbors involved. Slowing traffic, expanding bike paths, widening sidewalks. Getting rid of plastic bags, possible viewing of a good video to go along with this.
 - Fund Raising and Events – Future fundraising ideas include: music festivals, chili cook-off, bake sale, asking local businesses to provide coupons in the newsletter, donation based classes (yoga), movie/film nights.
- Next month’s meeting will be a healthy pot-luck
- Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds
Substitute Secretary
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)