

# WeCAN General Membership Meeting

## Minutes

January 10, 2012

Prepared by Leah Rounds

### **AGENDA**

- 6:00 pm Healthy potluck
- 6:20 pm call to order & announcements
- WeCAN Do Great Things award & new member drawing
- Denver Police Officer report
- Presentation by Marianne LeClair, DURA Housing Manager on Single Family Rehabilitation Loan and the Emergency Home Repair programs
- Adjourn

### **MINUTES**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm by Chad Reischl
- Denver Police Officer Bobby Miller, filling in for our regular officer due to a large graffiti arrest that was currently in progress. Officer Miller did not have the regular stats because of this and opened the floor to questions
  - Graffiti arrest at 27<sup>th</sup> and Federal, there we 50+ victims
  - What happens to these graffiti perpetrators? Most are juveniles (under 18), they are ticketed to appear in court, interviewed (usually with a parent in attendance), assigned a case law, and if there are no priors (or only 2-3 previous cases) it is usually just a “slap on the wrist” and there are many repeat offenders
  - DPD is working on enacting legislation to make tougher sentences for graffiti
  - The neighborhood SCAT team is always on call and can report to any call that comes in. They use statistics to be in the right places when on patrol.
  - Crime prevention handouts for homes were made available
  - Using common sense – Don’t give criminals a reason to break into your car (for example, leaving cell phones, computers, etc. out in the open). Do not leave your garage door opener in your car
  - Question on police cars being parked along the street going down 14<sup>th</sup> last night (Jan 9). That usually means there is a perimeter set up, but Officer Miller didn’t know of any large calls that had come in.
  - Are one-way street a possibility to cut down on traffic concerns? Officers will have to track traffic for a while such as deploying a speed trailer (especially in the evening rush hour when there tends to be a lot of speeding). There were also concerns about the car dealerships speeding while testing out their new cars
- Announcements
  - WeCAN collects non-perishable food items at its meetings for the food bank at the Set Free Church; please bring donations to our next meeting
  - Denver Digs Trees – 2 options this year, Street and Yard (on the west side of the house free trees are available for this neighborhood) trees are available. Order by February 15<sup>th</sup> (sooner is better) at [www.theparkpeople.org](http://www.theparkpeople.org)

- Handout with information and facts on the precinct caucus was made available
- Land use committee meeting: Wed Jan 11, 6:00pm, 1400 Osceola St.
- WeCAN happy hour – Friday January 27, 6:30pm: Jasmine Asian Grill, 1935 Federal Blvd, Denver, CO 80204 – Call Chad is interested 720-297-4481
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN. Call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email [bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net)
- The next WeCAN Board meeting is January 18, 6:00pm, downstairs at 1400 Quitman. All are welcome to join us.
- Next month's WeCAN General Membership meeting is February 14, 2012.
- WeCAN Do Great Things award – no nominations this month, please contact a WeCAN board member if you have anyone to nominate
- Drawing for new member – gift certificate donated by Lake Steam Baths
- Presentation from Marianne LeClair from DURA (Denver Urban Renewal Authority) on 2 programs
  - Emergency Home Repair program – Taking care of big problems that would otherwise force people to move out of their homes. Helps cover costs of things like roof repair, plumbing, heating, sewer lines, electrical issues, etc. Help is based on income, the maximum income is 50% of the HUD medium income (a flier was available to show and explain the HUD income requirements). Property is inspected, contractor bids are taken, the program finds a licensed contractor, and the contractor is paid after the job is complete. DURA helps home owners through the process
  - Single Family Rehabilitation Loan program – For fix-up projects around the house. Program will loan up to \$24,999 for those who qualify up to 80% of the HUD medium income. If you are below the 50% requirement, it is a deferred loan that will be paid back when the homeowner sells or moves out. 50-80% there is a payback program, monthly payments on a loan with low interest rates. Above 80%, DURA can help with a bank loan.
  - DURA has been around for 40 years, but outreach has been difficult. It is the hope that word can spread about DURA programs, and more people are made aware of these rehabilitation programs that are out there. For example, if you get a letter from Waste Water (sewer) that says you must fix a broken line by a certain date, DURA has options to help
  - Opened the floor to questions – Time frame? Once the paperwork is submitted (underwriting/loan) it is about a 2-month process. Senior and basement apartments? As long as they fit the HUD income parameters with any income rental included.
  - To get in touch with an underwriter for these programs call 303-534-3872 or more information on the programs can be found at [www.denvergov.org/dura](http://www.denvergov.org/dura)
- Dan Pabon presented some information, he is the state representative for district 1
  - The Colorado general assembly opens tomorrow (January 11, 2012) at 9:00am and will meet every day from January to mid-May and the public is encouraged to come and watch
  - District lines have been approved – Dan's have extended to include Westwood (South Alameda) and to the East to Sun Valley and Potter Highlands

- The first bill Dan will introduce this session is a public investment statute. The US treasury downgraded some bonds. Municipalities, schools, etc. had invested in these bonds, so now they have riskier investments due to the downgrade, which could lead to a loss of funds. It is a bi-partisan bill that is likely to pass
- There will be a Town Hall meeting on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:00pm at The Denver Puppet Theater. These meetings will be moved around the neighborhood over the next few months.
- Concerns over the Sports Authority Field signage. Dan has seen the plans and the signage is expanded and more impactful. SAF is willing to work with neighbors on timing the lighting, but please contact Dan if this doesn't seem to be the case. SAF has met all legal obligations and complied with all city criteria. Dan's opinion is that the neighborhood should work with SA to make a compromise and partnership because SAF isn't going anywhere. A public comment period is scheduled for Feb. 15 on this issue. All legal documents and plans are on the Denver government planning site.
- Questions about the juvenile/graffiti problem, will there be legislation to help? The average tagger is 26, so access to spray paint isn't an issue; these are adults who should know better. If the police needs a stronger deterrent there needs to be more discussion on this to see what the next step should be. There was frustration raised over the repeat offender problem and questions about some kind of restitution program being set up.
- Barbara Baker encouraged everyone to take a DURA flier and give it to a neighbor on your street that might need this kind of help.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds  
Secretary  
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)