

**WeCAN General Membership Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**April 10, 2012**  
**Prepared by Leah Rounds**

**AGENDA**

- 6:00 pm Call to order & Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- Adjourn to watch the documentary: "Colfax Avenue: Main Street Colorado"

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Ben Stetler

**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.
- The Great Denver Cleanup - Saturday April 28, 9am-2pm. Denver has drop off sites for unwanted household items and yard waste (see flyer)
- South Platte River Corridor recreation planning meeting: Thurs May 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 at the Children's Museum
- RTD west side bus service public meeting (re: proposed changes to service when the West Corridor light rail comes on-line) multiple times/locations see our website (see flyer)
- Land use committee meeting: April 11, 6:00pm, 1400 Osceola St.
- WeCAN Annual Garage Sale, Sat., June 2, for donation pick up call Barbara Baker, 303-257-9808, [thanksb@comcast.net](mailto:thanksb@comcast.net), proceeds go to a Rebuilding Together project to do safety remodeling for a senior citizen in our neighborhood.
- Alley/Graffiti Clean-up: 8:30-4:00 May 19<sup>th</sup>: lunch provided – come for the morning, the afternoon or both.
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email [bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net). WeCAN has raised a lot of money through this program.
- WeCAN board of Directors meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 downstairs. All are welcome.
- Next meeting May 8<sup>th</sup>: Summer Recreation Opportunities for Kids
- Membership Drive – WeCAN has a goal of getting 500 members by years end. Currently printing card with information on WeCAN and how to join to hand out to neighbors. A larger membership means a stronger voice for WeCAN. These cards will be available at the next meeting.
- Rita Contreras (currently aide to Congressman Ed Perlmutter), who has been an incredibly helpful in communications with WeCAN and the neighborhood, is raising money for her son's treatment of bone cancer. A fundraiser will be held at the VFW on April 29, 12-4pm. It will be a lunch with a \$10 donation.

New Member Drawing – gift certificate for entrance to Lake Steam Baths

Susan Shepherd (District 1) and Paul Lopez (District 3) shared information on the redistricting issue

- Paul Lopez is on the redistricting committee. April 9, 2012 was the last meeting of this committee and they were considering 2 maps. Lopez proposed a map that cut the West Colfax neighborhood at Knox (map D). Another councilperson, Herndon, proposed a map that cut the West Colfax neighborhood at Perry (map F).
- The council voted 7-5 for map F
- This map would go into affect in 2015
- Susan is pushing to keep the whole of West Colfax together, and WeCAN and members of the community will have to launch a significant lobbying campaign to get this
- Lopez expressed that map F would change District 3 dramatically, making it the least compact district and it doesn't take into the account the priorities of West Denver
- Both Susan and Paul need support to sway the council to consider map D instead. Needs more advocates to speak up for West Colfax and there needs to be phone calls and emails from the community by April 23
- Susan shared her monthly newsletter (sign-up for email version at [www.denvergov.org/susanshepherd](http://www.denvergov.org/susanshepherd))

Denver Police Lieutenant Paul Hazen

- Will be taking over as District 1 Commander on April 13, 2012. Hazen has been in District 1 for six years, and this is the neighborhood he grew up in so he knows it well. He will be taking over for Commander Stevens, who has been the commander for five years and is moving onto the gang unit
- There has been five straight years of Crime reduction in District 1. This is attributed to education, awareness, and innovation
- Cop Shop to open in May on Colfax and Yates will be another way to further community involvement. An official Roll Call will be displayed in front of the Shop on opening day
- 1337 Knox homicide – An individual involved in gang activity was targeted (it was not a random shooting). The investigation is ongoing; DPD has some leads and is actively working on the case, but DPD it still looking for information. Call Crime Stoppers 720-931-STOP (6050) if you have any information. DPD is working with the Denver Housing Authority on this. A SCAT team, bike patrol, and gang unit will have extra patrol in the area and the situation should be stabilized soon
- Shooting at 29<sup>th</sup> and Sheridan – will be more information very soon, it is a case in progress and that was all that could be shared at this time
- Contact neighborhood officers if you have any concerns with what's going on in the neighborhood. Hazen's cell is 720-641-8629

Denver Police Officer Jay Wittenberg

- Jay is our neighborhood officer, his contact cell is 720-641-0294

- Jay passed out the crime statistics comparing February 2001 to February 2012. Overall there has been a decrease of offenses of 33.3%. Most notably a 71.4% decrease in theft.
- Reminder to keep everything locked, and if you see anything suspicious call 911 or Jay
- There was a drug situation on Newton – DPD is currently following a few license plates, but there is not much going on at the location currently, it is a work in progress.

Jude of Confluence Ministries announced that Colfax Elementary is putting on the play “Little Red Riding Hood” on April 23 and 25, 2012 at 5:30pm. \$3 for adults and \$1 for kids for tickets as a fundraiser for the school.

Whiz Kids tutoring program will be selling popcorn for tonight’s film to help raise money for their end of the year party.

Noodle and Company will donate 25% of its sales to Colfax Elementary on April 17 from 4-9pm

April 28, “Totally Tennyson” will be having fundraiser for ten schools in the neighborhood

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm for the viewing of the film “Colfax Avenue: Main Street Colorado,” a history of the 26 mile stretch of Colfax. The film opened on July 7, 2000 at the Filmore Auditorium with 800 people in attendance. Jay Hayvee, the producer, was in attendance to introduce the film

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds  
Secretary  
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)