

WeCAN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
May 8, 2012
Prepared by Leah Rounds

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner
- 6:20: Call to order & Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- WeCAN marketing information: T-Shirts and Brochures
- Presentation on the Federal/Decatur Station Area Plan.
- Adjourn

Food Hub Public Input Session following the meeting

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:25pm by Chad Reischl following a potluck dinner

Announcements

- “Susan’s Scoop” (from councilwoman Susan Shepherd, District 1) was passed out. Question raised for what redistricting map was finally voted on. Map D was the one that moved forward, it is available online but difficult to read. The split for the area will be at Perry.
- 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.
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email bigbuddy2@comcast.net.
- Denver Livability Partnership is holding a Public Transit Workshop on Tues. May 15th from 5:30-7 at Westridge/Mulroy Community Room 3550 W. 13th Ave. This is an opportunity for citizens to provide input on transportation on the West side of Denver.
- Land use committee meeting: May 9, 6:00pm, 1400 Osceola St. Please attend if you have concerns or ideas for land use in our community.
- BID West Colfax Art project Potluck Friday May 18th. Join students from RMCAD to discuss a temporary art installation and Friday evening art shows at Colfax and Vrain St. this July. Go to <http://www.openfeast.org> to sign up. Your input is greatly appreciated. The Art Show will be running through the month of July.
- WeCAN Annual Garage Sale, Sat., June 2, for donation pick up call Barbara Baker, 303-257-9808, thanksb@comcast.net, proceeds go to a Rebuilding Together project to do safety remodeling for a senior citizen in our neighborhood. – some storage space for a few larger donations is needed
- West Colfax Alley/Graffiti Clean-up with ECM: 8:30-4:00 May 19th: lunch provided – come for the morning, the afternoon or both.
- Nettie Moore Park Clean-up and Picnic with West Colfax Mommies – Sat. May 26th from 10am-1pm.

- WeCAN board of Directors meeting on May 16, 6:00 downstairs. All are welcome. This meeting will likely be held at 1368 Perry because Confluence Ministries will be replacing its window.
- Next meeting June 12th: Focus on Transit: RTD and Public Works

Denver Police Officer Jay Wittenberg

- Jay is our neighborhood officer, his contact cell is 720-641-0294
- Jay passed out the crime statistics comparing March 2011 to March 2012. Overall there has been a decrease of 14% in the crime rate over last year.
- Currently there are several houses with narcotic situations going on, DPD will be pulling a warrant on one in the next few days.
- Theft of motor vehicles increase to 10% (8% last year), reminder to keep everything locked and out of sight in your car.
- With summer coming up, reminder to keep doors, windows, etc. locked when you leave your house.
- Questions on vendors selling door-to-door – All vendors should be wearing a visible ID with the person's name and vendor number. Call DPD or Jay if they do not have an ID and do not answer the door.
- Concerns were raised over a man biking along 14th pulling several trashcans that are linked together who has been blocking traffic. Call Jay during his hours (Sun-Wed 2pm-midnight) if you see him go by.
- Concerns were raised over a kidnapping incident in the crime statistics hand-out. Jay didn't work on this case so he has no information to share, but many times these kidnapping incidences are the parent, especially since Jay hasn't heard about it.
- Concerns were raised over car lots parking cars on sidewalks on Saturdays. Jay took the company names down and will pass the information on to the Officers that work on Saturday to check out. They will receive parking tickets or possibly be towed. If a vehicles is not plated it cannot park on the street.

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

WeCAN Marketing (Ben Stetler)

- Goal by year's end is to register a total of 500 members, currently membership stands at just over 250. New registration card are now available, invited everyone to take some and reach out to your neighbors to sign them up. Have them sign the card and return it to you while you are there. Members receive email updates from WeCAN. Denver gives RNO's (such as WeCAN) recognitions when issues are brought up (such as defeating the signage at Sports Authority field). With more registered members, WeCAN's voice will be that much more power and have more clout when dealing with neighborhood issues.
- WeCAN T-Shirts are now available for \$10 each; with all profits going back into WeCAN's general budget. Encouraged everyone to wear them on clean-up day.

Barbara Frommel from the city planning department presented information on the Federal/Decatur station plan

- Received a \$3million grant from the Federal government to future plan for the West Denver area. Currently working on a plan for the Sun Valley neighborhood by the Rude Rec Center. With the light rail station coming there is expected growth in the area, and the idea is to come up with a plan for land use, walk ability, connecting the stadium, river front access, etc. in that area.
- It will be a 2 year planning process with other Denver partners, one is the Denver Housing Authority
- Plan is looking at a ½ mile area around the light rail station. This is roughly 8th-17th and Knox to I-25, but there are larger connections as well (such as the Federal business district and Auraria campus).
- They will be doing market analysis of the area with public engagement, and doing a study of the Federal/Colfax interchange. The interchange is designed to move traffic through quickly, and does not easily allow for biking and walking. It takes up 30 acres of land, and it is a hard place for businesses to develop. Doing a study to see if there is a way to move traffic through while improving walking and biking.
- Right now they are doing a general plan, based on large-scale development concepts and as they get closer to a fixed plan they will focus more on the smaller areas inside the area and create a development plan.
- There have been 2 public meetings. June 12th is the next meeting with a time and location still TBD. They are getting closer to presenting their development ideas.
- There will be outreach at RNO meetings. The website (www.denvergov.org/decaturfederal) is kept up to date with videos, draft plan goals, first draft maps (that will improve connectivity of Irving/Colfax and 17th/Federal intersections, the open space in that area, and those points as gateways into communities)
- Workshop on May 15th at Rude Rec Center at 1-3pm. Will be looking at the riverfront, greenway, and adjacent buildings/development and what other cities have done and what works for their riverfronts.
- Questions raised about the station at Knox that will be without parking. This area hasn't been on the radar yet, but it doesn't mean it won't be in the future. This will probably be an area they look at later, and WeCAN could get involved in this area. Concerns were raised over parking in the residential areas. There will be 2,000 parking spaces at the Federal/Decatur station (and more at the Sheridan station), and if parking becomes a problem they will probably look at a permit program for residents.
- They will be presenting concepts at the next two meetings. It is a planning study to make better decisions on the development for the area around the station. It is going to take a lot of study (including a CDOT study) to come up with a plan, so this is still a very far way away from actually being built. Will be making recommendations on what plans to follow.
- There are facebook and twitter account to follow progress on this plan.

Following the meeting there will be an input session on the Food Hub, a program to improve food access in the neighborhood.

June 16th, House District 4 will be doing a clean-up along the gulch.

The Colfax Marathon is Sunday May 20th. Confluence Ministries will be manning a water station at the VFW lot. Runners are to come around 7am.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds
Secretary
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)