

WeCAN General Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
June 12, 2012  
Prepared by Leah Rounds

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm Call to order and Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- WeCAN marketing information: T-Shirts and Brochures
- Membership Count
- New Board Member Vote
- Presentation: 1. Crissy Fanganello, Director of Policy and Planning, Denver Public Works 2. RTD—Update on West Corridor Light Rail
- Adjourn

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm 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.
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email [bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net)
- WeCAN Annual Garage Sale (June 2<sup>nd</sup>) Report. Over \$500 was raised
- West Colfax Alley/Graffiti Clean (May 19<sup>th</sup>) Report. Allies and the VFW parking lot were cleaned up. There were 60-70 volunteers, many from ECM
- WeCAN board of Directors meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 downstairs. All are welcome.
- Congresswoman Diana DeGette Community Forum Report. There was a recent meeting where policy from a federal level was discussed, nothing directly pertinent to our community.
- The events planned for the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design project on the Vrain parking lot are tentatively scheduled for the evenings of 6/29, 7/13, 7/20 and 7/27 (all Fridays). There will live music and food at each, and the artwork installation should be in place by mid-June.
- Confluence Ministries' annual West Colfax Block Party is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the St. Anthony's campus along Perry St. There was an estimated 1,800 people in attendance last year. It is put on in conjunction with many non-profits and government agencies
- WeCAN's next General Meeting will be held at Confluence Ministries at 6:00 pm on July 10<sup>th</sup>. A representative from the new library being built at Irving and Colfax will be presenting. A representative from the stadium will be presenting on the stadium's new parking plan.
- EPA Brownfield remediation grant for West Colfax for \$900,000. There was a press event on the site of the new library recently, and a representative from the EPA was there to present the grant.

### Denver Police Officer Jay Wittenberg

- Jay passed out the crime statistics comparing April 2011 to April 2012. Overall, there has been an increase of 8.3% in crime over the same period last year. This is the first increase in this neighborhood for the year.
- Reported burglaries increased from 4 to 11 over the same period last year. Best way to prevent this is with burglary prevention. If leaving your house for even five minutes be sure to lock house, shut curtains, etc. Also, keeping lights on in front and back at night, or installing motion detector lights. Criminals are likely to take the least path of resistance
- If something seems out of place call DPD or Jay on his cell 720-641-0294. If it is a crime in process call 911. Recently a neighbor called in on juveniles tagging and they were caught and arrested.
- Thefts from motor vehicles were down from 12 to 6 and auto theft increased from 1 to 7 over the same period last year.
- The District 1 Facebook Page is still up and running
- There was a recent incident of an elderly woman being targeted in District 2. They posed as an electrician and took her into the backyard to show her some electricity lines; meanwhile they were robbing her house. Reminder that if you are not expecting anyone, don't answer the door. Be vigilant, don't open the door, don't go out on the porch, ask them to present their ID, and if they don't call 911.
- Fireworks are illegal in Denver. Call DPD if you see anyone setting them off, there is a \$1000 fine.
- Paint to cover up graffiti is available at the District 1 station (1311 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Ave.), or call 311 and the city will do it. The Cop Shop that is soon to open on Colfax and Yates will have paint as well.

Commander Hazen was recently promoted. There won't be much of a noticeable change in operations, but Hazen has progressive ideas and wants to work on increasing community involvement.

- Hazen's work is judged weekly on the crime data. The information made to the public is generally a few months behind because the cases need to be processed through the system.
- There are two SCAT teams in District 1. One is specifically for narcotics and it has been very successful. It recently took down a bar that had been a problem the past 30 years.
- To gain access to the Facebook page, search "Denver Police District One." On the page you will see crime data information, photos, etc.
- District 1 has an overall decrease of 6.1% in crime year-to-date. Hazen credited this to neighbors being vigilant.

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

Confluence Ministries, a non-denominational organization, is going on its annual mission trip to Juarez, Mexico. They are taking donations of children's clothes to take with them. A

bin will be put out Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> for collection at Confluence Ministries. A reminder was given to start looking out for street sweeping days as well.

Jefferson Park United Neighbors is sponsoring their inaugural “Music at Jefferson Park” concert on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm until 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. This is a Better Block organization and is promoting the “living streets” program.

Jordan from Susan Shepherd’s office

- Reminder of Susan’s Office hours. She holds them four hours a month at various locations around the neighborhood and would like to meet with more people
- Email Jordan ([Jordan.Trainor@denvergov.org](mailto:Jordan.Trainor@denvergov.org)) with any concerns or problems in the neighborhood. A few concerns were raised at the meeting: the used car lots parking cars on side streets, driving fast down side streets, loud motorcycles setting off car alarms. The fastest response to these problems is to contact DPD or 311. Contacting parking enforcements will likely result in a quicker response.

WeCAN marketing information: T-Shirts and brochures and membership count. Membership now stands at 312. The more members the more powerful voice WeCAN will have.

New Board Member Vote – Jean voted in unanimously as a Member-at-large of the WeCAN Board

RTD update on West Corridor Light Rail

- Expect to open Friday, April 26, 2013
- Civil contractor expected to be complete with the stations by August 2012
- Systems contractor expected to be complete with wires, power station, communications, signals, etc. by December 2012
- Putting up the last 2 stations and parking structures at Wadsworth and Sheridan. Sheridan station will break ground June 29, 2012. It will have an 800 space parking structure. Construction is expected to go through March, 2013
- Beginning in March 2013 RTD will be testing and training for 2 months, and will run test schedules during the final month before opening
- The few weeks before the April 2013 opening RTD will be doing tours, and on opening day there will be an opening ceremony with free rides
- Light rail trains will run about every 5 min in rush hour, 15 min during the day, and 30 min from 10pm-2am
- Fare zones – If you ride in the first 2 zones fare will remain the same as a local bus fare, riding further into zones will increase fare price
- There will be school safety programs in September 2012
- More information [rtd-fastracks.com](http://rtd-fastracks.com)

Carol McClenna introduced Emily, the City’s Bike Manager, from Denver Public Works to discuss the planning and policy process in the city

- There is a set of 10 people working in the transportation unit that set the vision for the department and to help facilitate conversations about transportation
- The policy basis for the city in the 2000 Denver Comprehensive Plan, a plan that legally has to be in place. There was a 2002 Update to include transportation and land use, called Blue Print Denver. Green Print Denver added the “living streets” initiative in 2008 and the Strategic Parking Plan in 2010. These models help to promote livability, sustainability, and health (such as how transportation modes affect air quality)
- City’s building components include transportation infrastructure, underground infrastructure (plumbing, etc), recreational infrastructure, and land-use infrastructure. Many more city departments are a part of these and have to work with CDOT, RTD, etc.
- To bring new transportation projects to the city (such as better bike access, better access to local businesses, etc) takes a lot of money. The Public Works budget is at \$70 million, but the majority of it is spent on maintenance and operations (to ensure efficiency and getting the most “bang for the buck”). The small capital budget that is available is shared with the many departments
- When focusing solely on transportation (with Denver projected to grow), one challenge is increased traffic congestion due to the influx of more people. There is a shift towards providing more modes of transportation. A third of the population doesn’t drive, so there is a need to provide more choices on mobility.
- The Strategic Transit Plan is changing its approach to a “person trips” model, to include bikes, busses, etc. There is a need to use the current road space in a more efficient and effective, multi-modal way (examples of this include Fast Tracks, enhancing bus service, Denver Moves initiative), but also to promote behavior changes to use different modes that are visible and inviting. The goal is to have 80% of transportation following the Green and Blue Prints initiatives
- Implementation of operational projects takes short-term and long-term steps. These include things like integrating more bike and pedestrian access, working with street maintenance, and changing signal timing downtown
- Capital projects cost a lot more money (like the Federal Blvd. bridge construction and ongoing work on South Broadway). There is a range of costs for capital projects (a bike/ped bridge cost \$3-12 million, curbs and gutters are \$15-30 per foot, and street scaping is \$250k-1 million per block-face). The 2013 budget is \$70 million, with most of it going to payments, maintenance, and committed projects. That leaves \$4-6 million for new projects. Always looking for outside funding through Federal grants, State money, bonds, and public/private partnerships
- Contact Public Works for information on ongoing projects; contact local councilperson of WeCAN to see which department would be most helpful in answering questions about a project. Call 311 for potholes or any maintenance services.
- Current happening and concerns for the Transportation department – Staff is out taking parking counts to compare to the parking at the future light rail stations. Currently working on getting better baseline data. Denver Parks and Rec recently redid their plan to set bike speed limits at 15mph, but there is still a need to get

volunteers out to help keep trail users respectful. Concern about putting better crosswalk signals near Colfax Elementary. The Denver Livability project is currently looking at the West side transit enhancement study, specifically at the Perry and Knox stations and partnering with RTD services

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds  
Secretary  
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)