

WeCAN General Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
September 11, 2012  
Prepared by Leah Rounds

AGENDA

- 6:00: Potluck
- 6:20: Call to order and Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- Volunteer Opportunity: Stacey Booth from CATCH Healthy Habits
- Presentation by the Board: "WeCAN: Where we've been"
- Visioning session with membership: "Where do we want to go?"
- Adjourn

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm by Ben Stetler following a healthy potluck dinner

Announcements

- There are currently 442 active members of WeCAN, with having a goal of 500 by year's end. Encourage everyone to take membership cards and sign up their neighbors.
- Tour de FasTracks: Saturday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 9-12:30, WeCAN will have a booth at the Perry Light Rail Station, come down and join us
- Pop-up Picnic: Sunday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:30-1 – Join WeCAN for a potluck picnic in Nettie Moore Park, bring chairs, plates, utensils, and a dish to share.
- West Colfax Cop Shop Grand Opening Tuesday Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 at West End Flats.
- WeCAN board of Directors meeting on Sep 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 downstairs. All are welcome.
- WeCAN's next General Meeting will be held at Confluence Ministries at 6:00 pm on Oct 9<sup>th</sup> – Come hear about two upcoming ballot initiatives, the debrucing amendment for the city of Denver and the school bond proposal
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email [bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net). If you can help pick up the metal please contact Bill
- Leah Rounds asks you to help her support local schools through the "Box Tops for Education" program, bring your box tops to WeCAN meetings and she'll take them to the schools
- St. Anthony's will be holding an open meeting on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30pm in the Auditorium Room at the former St. Anthony's Central Hospital. This will be a more detailed meeting than the previous one and will include information on the new and mixed development on the site, and a place to provide feedback and ask questions.

Council Woman Susan Shepherd of District 1 in NW Denver

- Measure 2A will be on the ballot in November, it is to debruce property taxes. This would allow the government to keep the money they're already collecting and put it back into programs
- Denver Mayor is releasing the first draft of the 2013 budget and there will be budget hearings over the next several months
- Newsletter was distributed with community activities
- Denver Health is working to create a Community Health Improvement Plan, and is asking residence about their primary health issues and concerns that their neighborhoods are facing right now. The meeting in NW Denver is Sept. 26 at Skinner Middle School at 5:30pm. Information will be in Spanish and English and childcare will be provided.

New Member Drawing – basket of garden produce

John Turner Grey, a West Colfax neighbor, has donated 1,000 daffodil and/or tulip bulbs to WeCAN. They need to be packaged up 24 to a bag, and then neighbors will take the bag and plant half in their yard and reach out to a new neighbor to offer to plant half in their yard. Need to find a time and volunteers to help separate and bag the bulbs. An email announcement will go out before the next general meeting to see who would be interested in participating. Hope to have them available for next month's meeting to pass out. Contact John if you want bulbs ahead of time. [JohnTurnerGrey@yahoo.com](mailto:JohnTurnerGrey@yahoo.com) or 720-270-9552.

Denver Police was not in attendance, no police report this month.

Stacey Booth from CATCH Healthy Habits – a non-profit program designed to teach seniors and young kids healthy habits such as exercise and choosing healthy snacks. This is the program's first year and is a pilot program. It is an evidence-based curriculum to promote physical activity and healthier eating habits. There is a class at the Senior Resource Center in Wheatridge starting Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and runs for 8 weeks, one day a week, an hour each class. There is volunteer training available. Contact Stacey at [srbooth@srcaging.org](mailto:srbooth@srcaging.org) or 303-235-6947 if interested in helping.

Presentation by the Board: "WeCAN: Where we've been"

Barbara Baker gave an overview of how WeCAN started

- Barb has lived and worked in the neighborhood since 1998, when Sloan's Lake Citizen Group represented the area
- About 3 years ago, Barb talked with the councilperson at the time, and also connected with the West Colfax Partnership and the West Colfax BID, all of whom were very supportive of WeCAN developing and the word started to be put out
- The first meeting was November 2009 with 12 people. The next meeting had 24 people, and it was decided that the group should form a RNO - Elected a board of directors, approved bylaws, became 501c3, registered with the city,

started fundraising, planting trees, alley clean-ups, collaborating with other orgs, etc.

- West Colfax Partnership gave WeCAN their funds when that group dissolved
- 1,900 homes are reached each month through the newsletter and electronically
- Garage Sale this year, working with Rebuilding Together (thought they didn't get their funding), to find a senior in the community who had been without hot water for 2 years. WeCAN replaced their water heater with the funds raised at the garage sale.
- Have collaborated with many organizations and agencies to make a lot of things happen – Confluence Ministries, Extreme Community Makeover, among others
- WeCAN was one of ten nominated and was a finalist for the “live, work, and play” award. Volunteers are always needed to continue this work.

Representative Dan Pabon, State Rep District 4 shared a vision for the future

- At the city level, want to maintain funds to go to much needed services. Dan is in support of this
- 2 other ballot issues are coming up this fall – the Mill Levy for Denver Public Schools (to help decrease classroom size and help with supplies), and a Bond for DPS (to support the school infrastructure)
- Students in NW Denver have the highest per capita per student coming into our neighborhood.
- Dan will be up for re-election this Fall

Ben Stetler continued on the theme for the vision of the future

- Volunteering 5 minutes here, or an hour there is all that is needed
- This organization has undergone many changes quickly
- Registered RNOs are required to be contacted by the city when new issues come up. An example was the recent redistricting issue; WeCAN was there to present issues of behalf of the neighborhood. Also a recent zoning issue that would eliminate a 500' rule of hotels and restaurants setting up by schools. This issue had a high feedback response and WeCAN continues to represent these different views. WeCAN has actual polling to show and can provide more concrete input on the issues that arise
- WeCAN continues to grow and evolve, with a change in leadership and an exchange of ideas
- With the St. Anthony's developers, and the new Public Library, WeCAN has weighed in significantly and expressed an interest in keeping feedback going and maintaining an open line of communication. WeCAN has a good working relationship with Brownfield and DPL
- WeCAN continues to reach out to members and get more feedback. There have been garage sales, alley clean-ups, and WeCAN has been involved in many facets in this neighborhood
- Committees that are currently active and still need more member support
  - Neighborhood Watch – Is in need of more volunteers for this committee and for people to help with the new Cop Shop

- Environmental – Have done graffiti clean up, alley clean up, tree planting, etc. This committee is in need of a Chair
- Land Use – traffic, zoning, redevelopment issues

Feedback – Where would you like to see more growth?

- Expanding clean-ups to a “WeCAN Day” – volunteer to help other neighbors in need. Member Tracy will research how other cities have organized their volunteer days.
- Community Garden needs an active committee to help this project along. There is a need for a coordinator to run the garden. Training is provided. Then local leadership needs to take over. There will be 38 plots and have a nominal fee for water use.

John Turner Grey shared information on a Denver Post article being written about the extensive landscaping on his block, 14<sup>th</sup> and Xavier. The Post took photos and is doing a piece on these different gardens. They will run the article on the next month with landscaping ideas. Denver Post may be talking with WeCAN about the bulb projects, which will help increase visibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds  
Secretary  
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)