

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

AGENDA

- 6:00 Call to order and Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- Board Election
- Presentation by Denver Animal Control on feral cats
- Presentation by Michael Miera – Denver Division of Business and Housing Services on the Colfax Mainstreet Coalition’s Brownfield Assessment Program
- Adjourn

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Chad Reischl

Presentation by Sgt. Romero and Officer Pacheco of Denver Animal Control on feral cats

- Cats are being fed and going on to private property and destroying shrubbery, etc. Animal Control has recently talked with several neighbors regarding this issue
- Sloan’s Lake and the gulch have a lot of wildlife, and with recent construction this has brought many animals into the neighborhood. Leaving food out will also attract animals and cats. Animals and feral cats will get into dumpsters for food as well.
- You have the right to catch cats in a trap on your property, but then they must be taken to an animal shelter or Animal Control (NOT DPD) and be contacted for their proper removal. It is illegal to trap a cat and release it elsewhere. No trapping companies exist, you must trap cats yourself
- Feline Fix on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Bryant will take in cats and neuter them before release (if a cat has been neutered it will have a notch in its ear). In some cases a feral cat has to be destroyed because it is sick, etc.
- Allowed a maximum of 5 cats on your property, otherwise you will receive a citation. Pet cats must wear rabies and city tags. Cats are free to roam, and getting your cat chipped is recommended. Vets and animal shelter will do a chip for about \$25
- The action of trap and release **MUST BE WITNESSED** for Animal Control to issue a citation. Unfortunately, it is hard to get recourse for a trapped and dumped animal.
- You cannot go on to someone else’s property to release a cat, this is considered trespassing. You can get a citation for allowing your cat to go on others property and destroying shrubs, etc. Again, it **MUST BE WITNESSED** for Animal Control to issue a citation.

- Call 311 or Animal Control on dogs roaming the neighborhood. Animal Control can talk to the owners in hopes of resolving the issue before further action needs to take place.
- Contact information for Officer Pacheco 720-913-1311

#### Denver Police Officer Jay Wittenberg for District 1

- Department is currently working on a new way to present the crime data for the neighborhood so they are easier to understand by the public
- Been an increase in car thefts, reminders on keeping car doors and windows locked, keep valuables out of car, don't let the cars run with the key in the ignition now that the weather is turning colder.
- Home burglaries general spike during the holiday season, so again, keep doors and windows locked
- There was a prostitution sting last week, 23 "Johns" were arrested in about a 5-hour period. Johns are jailed and their cars can be impounded for up to a year.
- SCAT team is currently doing surveillance of a few businesses along Colfax that are suspected of illegal activity
- Any traffic issues (like speeding along 14<sup>th</sup>) are best taken up with Susan Shepherd
- You can sign-up for email updates and 'like' on facebook for DPD District 1 updates

#### Susan Apodaca from the "CHARLAR" Program

- The program provides health programs and classes on cardiovascular health, including diabetes, cholesterol, etc. They have 11 different classes
- The first class starts on Jan. 22, 2013 at Girls Inc. from 10am-12pm. There will also be an evening class at the Presentation Church on Thursday evenings.
- Classes are intended for Latinos over age 45, but Susan welcomes anyone over 45 to participate

#### Matt from DUG (Denver Urban Gardens)

- Matt has been leading the community garden team, and their task now is to come up with a name for the garden. He is opening it up to the neighborhood to nominate names for the garden. Email ideas to [LDGgarden@gmail.com](mailto:LDGgarden@gmail.com)
- The garden is currently in phase 1, they are working on fundraising to start phase 2. Contact Matt if you want to help with the garden efforts or reserve one of the 38 plots

#### Presentation by Michael Miera and Dave Wilmoth from the Denver Division of Business and Housing Services on the Colfax Mainstreet Coalition's Brownfield Assessment Program

- Awarded a \$900k grant to do environmental assessment along the Colfax corridor (from Indiana to Yosemite and 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> in Lakewood and Denver,

and the Federal Center). This will help with revitalization along Colfax, and with so much development going on in our neighborhood, these assessments can help spur further development

- Will mostly be doing standard environmental due diligence (phase 1); now and then sampling, etc on ground (phase 2) can happen. Roughly 18 sites will be assessed, and these are often old gas stations, dry cleaners, etc. where contamination is likely still there. Redevelopment often doesn't occur because of the unknown and concern over contaminates
- This grant will just do the assessment piece (does not fund clean-ups, etc), but they can help potential developers find resources and assist in the clean-up process
- Colorado has a voluntary clean-up program, but most people comply because it gives developers certainty that the site is clean and they will not be liable for any future problems
- This is a Federally funded grant program, so all results, studies, info, etc. will be made public
- Website [www.colfaxmainstreetcoalition.org](http://www.colfaxmainstreetcoalition.org) has information on the application process. A steering committee is meeting next week to look at potential sites. Currently working on reaching out to the community to find potential property owners and prospective developers, there is the desire to reward projects that can help spur redevelopment.
- Benefits of doing these types of assessments include: overcoming early hurdles by developers, putting properties on the path to clean-up, a decrease in vacancy rates, and reduce risk of environmental harm.

#### New Member Drawing – Gift certificate to Lake Steam Baths

#### Announcements

- NO public WeCAN Board of directors meeting this month.
- WeCAN's next General Meeting will be held at Confluence Ministries at 6:00 pm on January 8, 2013
- Save the date: On Sunday afternoon Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> come join, Natalie James and Chad Reischl in promoting the Denver Digs Trees Street Tree Program by delivering flyers and talking to neighbors about the importance of planting trees along our streets. Look for more info in the upcoming newsletter.
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email [bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net). Metal recycling is the main source of WeCAN's money
- Leah Rounds asks you to help her support local schools through the "Box Tops for Education" program, bring your boxtops to WeCAN mtgs and she'll take them to the schools.

#### Board Elections – Motion carried to elect all Board of Director candidates

- Officers:
  - Chad Reischl and Ben Stetler: Co-Presidents
  - Alan Burch: Vice President

- Barbara Baker: President Emeritus
- Cindy Gallard: Treasurer
- Leah Rounds: Secretary
- At-Large Members:
  - Bill Baker, Mike Garner, Jonathan Austin, Flora-Jean McKay, Melissa Walker, Natalie James, Shane Wright, & Suellen Mack

Ben Stetler – announced that WeCAN is almost to its goal of 500 members by years end, currently at 467

The City of Denver will be testing its new civil defense alarms on Wed Dec 12 at 11am.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds  
Secretary  
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)