

WeCAN General Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
January 8, 2013  
Prepared by Leah Rounds

AGENDA

- 6:00 Healthy Potluck Dinner
- 6:20 Call to order and Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- Presentation on Free Trees provided by Denver Digs Trees and Mile High Million
- Presentation by DUG on the new community garden at the Lakewood Gulch
- Presentations regarding St. Anthony's redevelopment
- Adjourn

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm by Ben Stetler

New Member Drawing – Gift certificate to Lake Steam Baths

Announcements

- WeCAN Board of directors meeting Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 6:00pm at Confluence Ministries
- WeCAN's next General Meeting will be held at Confluence Ministries at 6:00 pm on February 12, 2013
- 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 and is why WeCAN does not have to charge membership fees
- 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.
- The draft Decatur-Federal Station Area/Sun Valley Neighborhood Plan has been posted for the public to review and make comments: [www.denvergov.org/decaurafederal](http://www.denvergov.org/decaurafederal). These plans affect the SE corner of the neighborhood the most.
- A new newsletter carrier is needed, please contact bill Baker if interested 303-946-8230 or email [bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net).
- At next month's general meeting, the St. Anthony's redevelopment team will be presenting some new developments regarding the site.

Council Woman Susan Shepherd of District 1 in NW Denver

- Susan has office hours available in the district, it was something the voters asked for, but they have not been well attended. Susan will now hold her office hours at the Cop Shop in the West Ends Flats building, starting January

17, 2013 at 2pm. Commander Hazen of DPD will be there the same day to have roll call at 4pm

- Bronco's playoff game is this Saturday
- Amendment 64 (to legalize recreational marijuana) is being discussed and rules decided upon. Some counties are electing to opt out, but 66% of Denver county voters voted in favor of 64, so it is unlikely Denver will opt out

Denver Police Officer Jay Wittenberg for District 1

- There is a new crime analysis for the neighborhood; it is designed to streamline the information to give a better picture of stats to the public.
- The Sept-Nov 2012 stats were handed out
- 21 reported home burglaries, there is usually a general increase during the holiday season, so again, keep doors and windows locked, curtains or blinds drawn, back doors locked, install kick plates, put up a security sign (thieves generally take the path of least resistance)
- 19 auto thefts, reminder to keep cars locked. DPD provides a "club" to help prevent theft
- 29 thefts from cars, things like purses, phones, electronics, etc., reminder to not keep anything of value in your car
- A man was recently caught and arrested for having burglary tools and rifles in his trunk.
- Question on crime in our neighborhood compared to surrounding Denver neighborhoods. West Colfax is about the same, but it is hard to compare because West Colfax has so many more residents, while others have more open spaces, parks, businesses, etc.. Dist. 116 (Highlands and surrounding) had more theft from autos and auto theft recently, so we're slightly lower but in line
- Classes begin in March or April for 100 new DPD recruits
- DPD looks at the citizens for help, we live here and DPD only works here, so we know when something looks suspicious. Call 911 or Jay on his cell 720-641-0294 if it is an ongoing unresolved issues
- Jay recently changed hours to a daytime SCAT team, working mostly on narcotics. Now Tuesday-Friday from 8am-6pm
- Non-emergency DPD # 720-913-2000 for low priority calls
- Cal 911 for fireworks
- Question regarding a gasoline related crime recently North of Sloan's Lake. Jay had not heard of it, but he will get the info and you can call him directly to get the answer

Karen Hinkle is a volunteer with the Parks Department and helps with the Denver Digs Trees program

- Goal is to plant trees in Denver and keep the program going
- Free trees to anyone are available this Spring

- Other free tree programs also exist in Denver, one is for trees on the West side of homes for energy saving through the Mile High Million
- US Forest Service study found that planting trees enhance your property values by 10%
- Crime is decreased in areas with large tree canopies
- This spring might be the last time trees are available for free through this program because of budget issues
- There are 6 species to choose from, it is first come first serve. Applications are available here at the meeting or online [www.TheParkPeople.org](http://www.TheParkPeople.org) or call 303-722-6262. The easiest way to apply and get information on the program in online
- Trees are delivered April 20<sup>th</sup>, and there will be people to help pick-up and plant trees if needed
- There are volunteer opportunities in the Denver Parks program, including the Denver Park People and Community Forestry Program. Classes on how to care for your trees are available through these programs as well

Natalie Campbell of WeCAN on the Denver Digs Trees program

- Organizing a canvassing project to go door-to-door to talk to neighbors who are eligible for free trees
- Take place on Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup>, meet before hand to get training, then go to neighbor's homes with or without Natalie to tell them about the program
- Hoping to make this an annual event for the neighborhood
- In the last three years the West Colfax neighborhood has planted 15-18 trees annually, hoping to get 25 planted this year

Representative Dan Pabon, State Rep District 4

- Encouraging all to participate in the Free Tree program
- Tomorrow, Wed. Jan 9<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of the 69<sup>th</sup> general assembly, and everyone is invited to the swearing in ceremony at the State Capitol at 10am
- Dan will be serving as the Assistant Majority leader this term, responsibilities include setting the agenda and ensuring full and fair debates
- Will be serving on the Finance Appropriation Committee, and on the Amendment 64 task force. The Department of Revenue has a website set up for public comment on Amendment 64
- Question on Federal input on Amendment 64. The indication from Washington is that they're not enforcing the Federal law on this, but they haven't really given a lot of information. John Walsh was invited to sit on the task force, but declined. In general the feeling is that Washington wants to see what pans out on the State level

Matt from DUG (Denver Urban Gardens) and administrator of our community garden

- Will be completing phase 1 this spring, a storage shed needs to go up, then the garden can move into phase 2 (benches, raised garden beds, etc)
- Still looking for a name for our garden. Email ideas to [LDGgarden@gmail.com](mailto:LDGgarden@gmail.com). There are currently 4 proposed names (Pleasant Hill Urban Gardens, We Can Grow Garden, West Colfax Community Garden, and The Patch in West Fax). Will be voting on a name in the next couple weeks, and then they will be assigning plots and look into getting sponsorship for phase 2.
- DUG also has a free seed and transplant program, must apply before February
- A website and facebook site will be up when a name is established

#### Presentations regarding St. Anthony's redevelopment by EFG Brownfield

- Expect to be closing on the property very soon
- Fence and gate will go up this January for demolition, and if you live closer to the site you will receive a letter with more information regarding demolition. There will be 2 security systems in place. This is a well-lit area at night already, but will do their best to keep lights out of the neighbors' windows, etc.
- Demolitions should be complete by late fall or early winter 2013, it will take almost this whole year.
- EFG is for sustainable redevelopment, so it will be crushing the concrete to be used again on site (this will create dust and noise). Work hours will be about 8am-5:30pm, possibly longer during summer evenings. Legally they can work longer hours than this
- Trucks will be coming on and off the site regularly. Truck routes will mostly be 17<sup>th</sup> out to Federal or Sheridan. There is zero internal circulation on the site, so some trucks may have to come off Colfax, but they will try to minimize this traffic as much as possible
- Next month's general meeting a site model will be provided.
- What is being demolished is the main hospital building. A parking garage, the chapel, and retirement building on Perry will not be demolished.
- This is a 7 city block redevelopment and will be largely residential with mixed housing
- Concurrent to demolition happening, a site plan will go through the city process so that building can happen right away. EFG will be partnering with builders and there will be an ongoing conversation with the public on redeveloping the site
- By spring 2014 they will hopefully be working on the infrastructure
- There will be a website rolled out for this project soon to give information about what is happening at the site.

Ben Stetler noted that we did not quite meet our year-end goal of having 500 members, and are currently at 469 members. He encouraged us to keep up the good work.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds  
Secretary  
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)