

WeCAN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
March 12, 2013
Prepared by Leah Rounds

AGENDA

- 6:00 Healthy Potluck Dinner
- 6:20 Call to order and Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- West Denver Branch Library construction and design update and announcements about a campaign to help support programming and material acquisition at the library.
- Michael Sapp from the Denver Mayor's office
- Adjourn

MINUTES

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

Council Woman Susan Shepherd of District 1 in NW Denver

- "Living with Construction in your neighborhood" flier, talks about the rules and regulations put on developers regarding hours of construction, site maintenance, trash removal, parking, property damage, permits, noise, lighting, etc. If there is an immediate health and safety risk, call 911. For all other concerns call 311, keep the tracking number so Susan can look into it if the problem is not solved.
- In January, Susan went to a conference about civil engagement at the neighborhood level. There will be a Civil Engagement meeting on May 4, from 9:30am-12:00pm at North High School, with live music, food, and discussion. Topics will include Amendment 64, gentrification (as property values rise, so do property taxes, and how that affects affordable housing), walk-ability, bike-ability, public education, among others.
- Amendment 64
 - The state has a task force set up, and initial licenses will be at the state level. There is the challenge of how to implement these recommendations. One current recommendation is that current medical marijuana dispensaries get the first year to switch over to a new license and then after a year others can apply for licenses, but that could pose a problem, as others are likely to want to open a business in that first year.
 - Denver city council will have to work on how to implement these state recommendations. There is no staffing or resources to go into processing all these new applications, so there may be a need to adopt another tax in Denver to budget for this.
 - There are still many things to be figured out at the council level before they can come out on their guidelines.

- There is the private club issue (much like a bar). Some are opposed to having these types of clubs, but since you cannot consume openly in public, and may not be able to consume at home, these types of clubs may need to exist in some form.
- Cities can opt out of 64, and several already have. Some are waiting a year to see what regulations come out to decide to stay in or opt out. Many of these cities also opted out of medical marijuana
- Question on tax collection – This has not been a problem with medical dispensaries. Banks are not allowed to give loans or do business with dispensaries, so there is a lot of cash on hand at these businesses and people know it. This will not change until federal laws changes and allows banks to work with these businesses.

Denver Police Officer was not present; no presentation this month

Announcements

- **West Colfax Mobility Project** – First meeting March 19th here – give your input on walking, biking and riding transit in West Colfax.
- **WeCAN's Board of directors** meets on Wed, March 20. 6:00 Downstairs
- **Traveling Route 40 Art Exhibit** – Here at confluence from April 4-9th. There will be an opening reception on April 5th from 5-7pm sponsored by the West Colfax BID. The exhibit will be up for our April meeting, so stop by early and take a look.
- **Next General Meeting** will be held on Tues, April 9: Speaker from RTD will give you all you need to know about riding the light rail.
- **Opening day festivities** for the light rail will be on Sat, April 27, approximately 10-2, with food trucks being there about 1-7pm. There will be events at most light rail stops and free rides all day. WeCAN will have a table at Perry St and we're looking for volunteers to welcome people to our neighborhood. Confluence Ministries will have a band set up, and a temporary "B" cycle station will be set up.
- **WeCAN's annual garage sale** will be held on June, 1. Start collecting unused items to support WeCAN's projects in the neighborhood.
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email bigbuddy2@comcast.net
- "Box Tops for Education" program, bring your box tops to WeCAN meetings and Leah Rounds will take them to help support our local schools.
- There is a new neighborhood website, called www.nextdoor.com, where neighbors can connect. Currently WeCAN has newsletters posted and the Chief of DPD Police send out updates.
- Denver Digs Trees has about 80 trees left, so if you or a neighbor are in need of a tree please contact Chad.

West Denver Branch Library construction and design update

- Update on the construction site – this site has been used for many different things in the past, and as a result, a lot of debris has gone back into the soil and there are soft soil conditions. Don't want the building to settle differentially, so there is a need for a structural foundation slab. This will cause about a 6 month delay, opening is now set for late spring 2014.
- Question on when construction will begin again - A new plan has been drawn up and construction will begin at the end of March or early April
- Question on budget – There was a project contingency set up for this, so this delay will not cost anything extra
- The new branch will hopefully be open 7 days a week.
- Opportunities for library support - Friends Foundation sells pavers in 3 sizes. WeCAN is hoping to raise money in the next year to buy a \$1500 corporate level paver. The library is an enterprise zone, so there is a 25% state tax credit for contributions.
- DPL will have a booth at the light rail opening, and would like to set up at any future neighborhood event.
- Naming opportunities are coming up; there will be an active call to the neighborhood for naming ideas for the new branch. They will take nominations and likely vote on a name in May or June
- Any money raised for the branch will be set up in an endowment for programming and materials. City budgets fluctuate, and having these dedicated funds will ensure a certain level of service
- Question on affecting services at Woodbury – This branch will remain open and will not limit their programs and hours. This West area was really in need of a branch

Brief discussion on inviting Mayor Hancock to future WeCAN general meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds
Secretary
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)