

WeCAN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
June 11, 2013
Prepared by Chad Reischl

AGENDA

- 6:00 Potluck Dinner
- 6:20 Call to order and Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- Presentation from Ken Schroepel, AICP; Instructor, Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program College of Architecture and Planning | University of Colorado Denver: address smart growth development in our neighborhood
- A note on the St Anthony's General Development Plan – Ben Stetler
- Adjourn

MINUTES

After a delicious pot luck dinner, the meeting was called to order at 6:22pm by Ben Stetler

Announcements

- **Canning Classes:** WeCan and Confluence are coming together to teach you how to preserve fruits and veggies from your garden, Classes start downstairs starting July 27. Registration forms are available at Confluence Ministries or from Barbara Baker, [303-257-9808](tel:303-257-9808), thanksb@comcast.net. Some scholarship funds are available.
- **St Anthony's Meeting** regarding the plan to establish an Urban Redevelopment Area on the site
Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30-8:00pm At Confluence Ministries (1400 Quitman St. Denver CO 80204)
- **WeCAN's Board Meeting:** Wed July 17th – Downstairs – All are welcome to attend.
- **West Colfax Neighborhood Festival:** August 3rd at Paco Sanchez Park (13th and Knox)
- **WeCAN's next General Meeting:** will be on August, 13th 2013 at 6:00 pm and will feature speakers discussing green energy, including affordable solar options for residents. We'll also hear from a developer regarding a proposed senior apt. complex overlooking Lakewood gulch at Sheridan St.
- **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 the local schools to support their programs.

Denver Police Officer Report – Gerald Sloan

Gerald will be replacing Jay Wittenburg as our local police point of contact. He made mention of the shooting at 1400 block of Newton the day before and noted that the shooter was visiting from out of town and not a resident of the community. The

victim was not killed, but was in serious condition at the time. The shooter turned himself in early Tuesday morning and was in police custody. Gerald's direct number is 720-641-0294

Dan Pabon was in attendance and checked in. He just got in from a dedication of a new Habitat for Humanity house in our neighborhood and said he was excited for all the good things happening in west Colfax (including our WeCAN cares project with which he helped)

Susan Shepherd was also at the Meeting. She spoke about the fact that she was getting quite a few letters from constituents (mostly north of the lake) that were not supportive of the South Sloans Lake GDP (St. Anthony's site) She reiterated that she knew West Colfax residents were mostly in favor of the development but really needed to hear more from the pro-development people in order to prove support. Susan also talked about the intense discussions over at the city regarding recreational Marijuana and the likelihood of ballot measures in November regarding taxation of the newly legal drug.

Ben Stetler noted the recent WeCAN Board election to approve the South Sloan's Lake GDP by a margin of 10-1 with 2 non-voting members. The Board has since sent a letter supporting the project. Ben urged members to write letters of support as a resident of the Sloan's Lake neighborhood has been mounting a hefty campaign against the project, fueled by a good number of half-truths and some misinformation.

Questions were fielded at this time with the help of Cameron Bertram from EFG who was also in attendance.

We held our New Member Drawing –there were 4 new members in attendance and one walked away with a Gift certificate to Lake Steam Baths

Closing the meeting was an excellent presentation by Ken Schroepel a professor of urban planning at UC-Denver on "Smart Growth." He began by discussing the history of city design from their dense, mixed-use (houses mixed in with businesses and industries) pedestrian –based origins to the "Auto-centric" nature of urban design post World War II and then to today when we are coming back around to the way cities used to work and function before the invention of the auto. Ken referred to this "auto-centric" planning which was (and still is) very low density and spread out across the land, not pedestrian friendly and emphasizes the separation of all uses, "Dumb Growth." He says this because it alienates 1/3 of the population who doesn't drive (think children, seniors, low-income people, handicapped) creates unsafe and unhealthy environments for residents and doesn't create the kind of places people like to visit. Lately planners have seen their mistakes and are working on "smart growth" which Ken called "traditional city planning 2.0." Smart Growth emphasizes, density, a mix of uses and "walkability" (which consists of the ease of walking due to infrastructure and the pleasure of walking due to an interesting

urban environment). Ken explained the benefits of each of these components and suggested that when all three come together in a city or neighborhood, you experience the kind of “vitality” that we as humans enjoy.

Ken fielded questions from the audience and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Reischl
WeCAN Co-President (filling in for Leah Rounds: Secretary)
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)