

WeCAN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
September 10, 2013
Prepared by Leah Rounds

AGENDA

- 6:00 Healthy Potluck Dinner
- 6:20 Call to order and Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- Presentation by Lisa Knoblauch on planning efforts around the Sheridan Light Rail Station – especially food access
- Presentation by Denver 311
- Adjourn

MINUTES

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

Announcements

- **Fun on Federal – Thurs Sept 19th:** Enjoy food of local new restaurants and fun family activity along W. 25th Ave. Tickets are \$10 per person and tasting of food from local restaurants will take place from 5:30-8:00pm. Buy tickets that evening or ahead of time at 2914 Coffee (2914 W. 25th Ave.) or Federal Bar and Grill (25th and Federal).
- **Public Meeting regarding planning efforts around the Sheridan Station:** September 25, 2013, 6:00-8:00pm at Mountair Christian Church – 1390 Benton Street in Lakewood. Meeting to focus on ways to spur economic development, healthy food access, and transportation connections in the 10th and Sheridan station areas.
- **WeCAN is raising money for the new library.** We're committed to raising \$1500 for the library's endowment fund. If you'd like to donate please talk to Ben or Barbara.
- **Thanks to all who donated to our school supply drive!**
- **WeCAN's Board Meeting:** Wed Sept 18th 6PM– Downstairs – All are welcome to attend. WeCAN is looking for additional board members, if you're at all interested please let us know and/or attend one of our meetings and check us out. WeCAN is a large and active organization that is involved in the many exciting things going on in the neighborhood.
- **WeCAN's next General Meeting:** will be on Oct 8 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will include a panel discussion on affordable housing.
- **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.

- Confluence Ministries is a non-denominational organization. It is currently looking for people interested in helping with their tutoring program for Colfax students. Tutoring starts Oct. 1st and is held every Tuesday from 4:30-6pm.
- Confluence Ministries hold English classes and Spanish GED classes and are looking for people to help with these classes. Teachers are needed, as well as language mentors. They are hoping to grow into a Spanish class for the next semester. They are free classes every Saturday from 10:30-1pm, with a \$40 book that can be traded up for the next level. Please tell neighbors who might be interested in taking these classes as well.

Update on St. Anthony's redevelopment – EFG has submitted a general design plan. The West Colfax development plan has been incorporated with this. EFG, Ben, Chad, and Barb are happy to answer any questions.

Denver Police Department update by Officer Sloan, our neighborhood officer

- Prostitution along Colfax has decreased, mainly due to weekly stings
- Auto thefts have been on the rise. Officer Sloan had a free clutch for anyone with an older Jeep or Honda model
- Officer Sloan's direct contact is 720-587-7305. His hours are Sunday-Wednesday 1pm-11pm. Can call him directly with any problems or concerns
- Q&A
 - What was happening at 16th and Vrain when a helicopter was circling and street blocked off? Likely a perimeter was set up, Officer Sloan will look at it and report back at the next meeting

Member drawing for a basket of fresh produce

Presentation by Lisa Knoblauch on planning efforts around the Sheridan Light Rail Station

- City of Denver and Lakewood are working on a joint effort using the "20 Minute Neighborhood" model around the Sheridan station. The idea is to promote whole and healthy access to housing, healthy foods, etc. within a half mile (or 20 minute walk) around the station. This will include improving access and mobility to the area.
- September 25th kick-off open house will provide an opportunity to hear about all aspects of this project (transportation, food access, etc). From there, get feedback from community wants and develop task forces around those.
- The idea is to take the station plans to the next level of implementation and come out with a strategy and recommendations for developing the area
- Q&A/Feedback
 - With the idea of improving access to healthy foods, will that include affordable and organic foods? If the community comes out with this desire they'll try to incorporate it in the plan. Possibility of adding community gardens, school gardens, a farmers market, etc.

- Will this plan encourage people to invest in the community? That is Lisa's job, to match developers with community wants.
- Is having a farmer's market possible? There are many different types of Farmer's markets; it would need to be developed to make it suitable for the community. Would need to get partners involved in making it successful
- [Lisa] Is the Edgewater Farmer's Market used? It's small, mid-week, end of the day. It would be nice to have broader options. Have more farmers involved
- The land to be developed, is it private or city owned? This project would help identify the land that could potential be used in this project. Usually go for city owned property, its usually more suitable in the long run.
- Is it possible to put in a building that is essentially a 24/7 Farmer's Market? Food Hub is up and running, and it's essentially this
- There are no food co-ops in Denver, a community owned store. Denver (and especially this neighborhood) seems like an ideal place for one of these if it's structured correctly. Possibility of having a food co-op? The primary barrier seems to be the up-front costs; especially since land/property prices are high. It's possible the city would provide funds or a loan for this type of co-op.
- What is a "20 minute neighborhood"? It's a half-mile radius (20 minute walk) around the station, taking into account the walk-shed, connectivity of sidewalks, lighting, etc. so people can actually get to where they want to go. Possibility adding a bike share and car share at the station.
- Will a grocery store be put in at St. Anthony's? Lisa needs to connect with EFG to see their thoughts on this, don't know of any specific plans yet.
- Is it the property owners or city's responsibility to put in sidewalks? If you live on a block without sidewalks it would be added to this larger plan. It would be looked at at the Sept 25th meeting (transportation and mobility piece)
- At the Sept. 25th meeting, is it possible to look at other communities that have had success with this type of plan? That is not in the scope of this meeting, but will have some example to talk about.
- Insurance costs tend to be high for Farmer's Markets, may need to blend with another group to keep costs low

Presentation by Nick from Denver 311

- 311 was established in July 2006. Today it took its 3 millionth call.
- Everyone is invited to come to the 311 offices in the Web building, they're happy to give you a tour and let you listen in on calls.
- 311 is the non-emergency number for Denver city and county. It's open 7 days a week, 7am-8pm Mon-Fri, and 8am-5pm Sat and Sun. It provides all non-emergency city information and supports all city agencies
- 720-913-1311 is the 10 digit number if calling from out of town

- 45% of questions/reports are answered on the first call. 30% of calls are service related and someone will need to be dispatched (inspection, animal control, street maintenance, etc.). 15-20% of calls are out of 311's scope, often too complex or complicated, but 311 will help pass you onto the agency that will help
- 311 appreciates feedback if you don't see things happening. Some things will take longer, for example, if a whole strip of road needs to be repaired for potholes, they'll wait until all the permits are pulled and have them all repaired at once. Another example is graffiti, it can't be abated when the weather is too cold, so may have to wait for it to warm up.
- Denver 311 is the 26th operation center in the US, there are currently 150+ 311 centers in the US
- 311 works closely with 911, the office of emergency management, and all are FEMA certified. 311 provides a good support system for small issues, but they are also set up to help in any big event
- Q&A
 - Can graffiti abatement happen on private property? Denver will take care of it if there is an abatement authorization on file. There are 6 colors of paint to choose from. There is a spray wash. If you see graffiti, report it, as it tends to be a magnet for more graffiti if not taken care of.

Dan Shah of the West Colfax Business Improvement District (BID) had retail surveys passed out.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds
Secretary
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)