

WeCAN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
February 11, 2014
Prepared by Leah Rounds

Agenda

- 6:00 Call to order and Announcements
- 6:10 Police Officer Report
- 6:20 Sustainable Neighborhoods Kick-off
 - Overview of program
 - Presentation of possible sustainable initiatives
 - Small group brain storming sessions.
 - Report back to group.
- 7:15 Adjourn

Minutes

Call to order at 6:05pm by Co-President Chad Reischl

Announcements

- Low-Cost Trees available for West Colfax Residents: Denver Digs Trees is once again offering street and yard trees for Denver residents. Trees are only \$10 for West Colfax residents (a \$100+ savings). Applications are available at www.theparkpeople.org and the deadline to apply is March 7th.
- Sprout City Farms is starting a community supported farm at 13th and Depew and are looking for some community members to serve on their farm advisory committee to help ensure that the farm best serves the local neighborhoods. If you're interested contact Alison Hatch (Alison@sproutcityfarms.org). Thursday, February 16th at Mulholm Elementary
- WeCAN's Board Meeting: Will be on Feb 19 at 6pm downstairs, all are invited to attend
- WeCAN's next General Meeting: will be on Mar 11, at 6:00 pm. The meeting will begin with a potluck dinner and be focused on our community garden, and urban farming.
- 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.

- West Colfax Urban Community Garden located at 12th Ave. and Utica Street is now registering residents for 2014 garden plots. For more information email wccugarden@gmail.com. WeCAN has donated \$200 towards garden maintenance and is working with partners to get supplies donated.
- WeCAN's monthly newsletter has added advertising for businesses in the neighborhood. For \$30/month, an ad is placed in the newsletter that is distributed to 2000 residences and businesses in the West Colfax neighborhood, the business is placed on the front page of the WeCAN website for one month and on the website sponsor page for 11 months. All advertising funds received through September 2014 will benefit the new library. For more information, contact Amy Burgan, WeCAN Library Fund Raising Chair, amymburgan@gmail.com

Denver Police Department report

- Our neighborhood is currently in a transition period, new DPD members are coming in and they're reorganizing. Officer Smith will be the neighborhood officer until Officer Sloan returns from training in June
- Have a new "Community Resource Guide" pamphlet available on how to best protect your home and property.
- "Puffers" have still been a problem. People leave the cars running to warm up and they are stolen.

Presentation on the "Sustainable Neighborhood Network" program, in which West Colfax was one of three neighborhoods chosen to participate

Elizabeth Babcock from the Denver Department of Environmental Health

- It is a pilot program in Denver to encourage neighborhood sustainability
- Basics of the program, it is community led with residents bringing in ideas to improve sustainability. Can earn credits for accomplishments towards certification, which gives the neighborhood recognition for all the work they've put into their neighborhood
- Goal areas are energy, land, air, water, and people
- To get certification, the neighborhood identifies projects and earns credits by completing these projects. Dept. of Environmental Health will help with the process and getting projects complete.
- Examples of projects include: neighborhood workshops (xeriscape, etc.), host events (clean-up days), create neighborhood resources (walking/biking maps)
- To earn credits, each credit-eligible activity follows a specific formula: proposal sheet → city approval → complete project → submit credit sheet → credits awarded

- Progress and records will be kept online, www.sustainableneighborhoodnetwork.org/westcolfax
- There is a small budget to help with projects, hold events, get speakers, etc.
- Will receive neighborhood recognition with neighborhood signage, stickers with years of involvement, recognition by city officials, press releases/news articles
- As projects are identified and leadership comes forward, other organizations and foundations will come forward to partner and help (BID, etc.)
- Leadership meeting will be held Wednesday February 26th at 4:30pm at 1408 Osceola

Jonathan Wachtel from the Lakewood Sustainability Office

- The “Sustainable Neighborhood Network” program was started in Lakewood and the City of Denver is partnering with Lakewood to bring it here.
- Information and links to our neighborhood, all forms to be submitted, and monthly updates on progress will be online
- Belmar and Eiber in Lakewood are now Certified Neighborhoods, and now Lakewood has three more neighborhoods involved.

Doug Wells, from the Belmar Sustainability Group

- Began May 2012 with 2 big projects
- Put in a community garden with 20 plots, partnered with The Learning Source
- National Night Out Event – get out to meet neighbors, officers, etc. Had 250 neighbors attend
- Projects coming up – health and wellness, bike/walk/run paths in Belmar

Southern Gables Sustainability Group

- Started a community garden
- Currently working on home energy – holding a contest to get homeowners to save energy. Working with Xcel and energy audit companies
- Other programs being worked on – literacy programs, alternative transportation, monthly potlucks with speakers, and promoting recycling

West Colfax involvement

- Surveys were mailed to the neighborhood and serve as a guideline to get ideas from residents
- May 17th, WeCAN is helping in a clean-up day, partnering with ECM
- BID is currently working on “greening” the businesses, and working on improving pedestrian access
- There will be a community garage sale this summer, with some of the funds going to Confluence’s GED/technology program

Small Group Brainstorming sessions and share-out - Ideas for possible Sustainability projects for the neighborhood include

- Neighborhood clean-up (alleys, graffiti), trash and recycle cans along the street, having bags available for dog waste
- Bilingual integration, sending information out in various languages
- Accessibility to the light-rail, B-cycle stations, shuttle from St. Anthony's
- Simple home improvements for alternative energy
- Farmer's stands during harvest season
- Workshops on home energy, library has energy reading devices to check-out
- Inexpensive solar heaters
- Rain barrels
- Composting – home training, work with the community garden, expanding curb-side pick-up, yard waste
- Wildlife – work with an expert to make habitat more inclusive along the gulch
- Quarterly CPR and first aid training from Denver Health. Online courses from FEMA for disaster relief certification
- Tree planting
- Solar panels – finding programs that partner with low income households
- Promoting vegetable gardening, provide training, seeds can be donated from DUG. BID would like some kind of food-coop
- Walking audits, making maps, identify barriers, help city identify transit needs
- Adopt-A-Stop when new RTD stops are put in
- Vertical farming, aquaponics – Grow House provides workshops
- Landscaping – community fix-up day
- Security patrols
- Computer access/resource center
- Recycling awareness/increase usage
- Partner with businesses in the St. Anthony's development
- Help neighbors navigate rebates for energy
- Better communication of gulch water and testing
- Community building – BBQs to share ideas
- Promoting volunteer programs

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds

Secretary

West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)