

WeCAN General Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
May 13, 2014  
Prepared by Leah Rounds

Agenda

- 6:00: Healthy Potluck Dinner
- 6:20: Call to order and Announcements
- 6:30: Police Officer Report
- 6:45: Report by Susan Shepherd regarding possible changes to Paco Sanchez Park
- 7:00: Update on the new public library at Colfax and Irving
- 7:15: Vote to amend bylaws to better define membership and amend our boundaries to match Denver's definition of West Colfax.
- 7:20: Adjourn

Minutes

Call to order at 6:20pm by Co-President Chad Reichl following a potluck dinner

Councilwoman Susan Shepherd of District 1 in NW Denver

- Union Station recently opened its new underground terminal
  - It was a \$5 million dollar project ongoing for decades.
  - 22 lines come in at one location to help facilitate transfers.
  - In July, renovation of the Grand Hall in Union Station will be complete. With it, 122 new hotel rooms (Crawford Hotel), new restaurants, etc.
  - Old Market Street Station will be redeveloped into mixed-use
  - Currently working with stakeholders regarding RTD fares; working to find more affordable fares.
- There is an emerging sharing economy/collaborative consumption
  - There is a trend away from ownership and a move towards renting and sharing (car shares, B cycle program, etc)
  - A committee has been formed to study this. To ensure people have the appropriate insurance, paying correct taxes, permits, licensing, etc. This committee will look at whether this emerging industry needs regulation and what that would look like.
- Paco Sanchez Park in the dry gulch
  - The “City Loop” concept was an idea to revitalize parks. It’s a loop around the park with activities on the inside. Some activity examples include skate parks, water features, hedge mazes, climbing walls, and unique and different ways to play.
  - Potentially Denver Parks and Rec staff would be on site to rent out equipment

- City Park rejected this plan because it didn't fit with the use, history, and needs of that park
- Parks on the West side of Denver have been underutilized
- Working with Paul Lopez on this project, designing something appropriate for this neighborhood (with many low-income and multi-generational families)
- Request from Susan asking for neighborhood groups to write letters to council in support of bringing this concept to Paco Sanchez Park.
- Questions/Comments/Discussion
  - Why Paco Sanchez? This is a lower income area that hasn't seen an investment in its parks. These revitalized parks would be giving more access to play and outdoor activities. It is near transit. This particular park is in need of a face-lift
  - General consensus from membership that this would be a good thing for the West Colfax neighborhood and is well suited for this type of park
  - Currently the park is in the concept phase
  - Letters can be sent to Lauri Dennmiller at Denver Parks and Rec, please cc Susan on them
- Motion made and seconded for WeCAN to write a letter in support of bringing the "city Loop" concept to Paco Sanchez Park, all voted in favor

#### Announcements

- FREE Composting Class: Wed May 14<sup>th</sup> at the West Colfax Community Urban Garden - 6pm. At Nettie Moore Park, 12<sup>th</sup> and Utica
- West Colfax Clean-up Day: May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – 9am-12:30. Meet at Confluence, join your neighbors in cleaning up trash and graffiti throughout the neighborhood and finish with a community lunch back at Confluence. Partnering with ECM and others. 70+ volunteers expected for the day
- WeCAN's Board Meeting: Will be on May 25 at 6pm downstairs, all are invited to attend. Will be losing 2 board members soon and looking for new people to serve on the board
- WeCAN's next General Meeting: will be on Tuesday, June 10, at 6:00 pm. We are looking to have a representative from Denver neighborhood inspections talk about building and zoning code violations, and a guest from Sun Share Solar to talk about a new Solar Garden in Denver. There will be a solar power and energy efficiency open house on Sat. June 28<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm at Confluence

#### Save the Dates

- Annual WeCAN Garage Sale to benefit Confluence's computer lab, is on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in the SE corner parking lot at Colfax and Vrain– We're still looking for donations, contact Barbara Baker if you have donations

- Pool party fundraiser for the new library on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm at a neighbor's pool. Tickets are \$25/individual, \$35/couple, and \$45/family – that includes a donation to the library, food, drinks, alcohol, and swimming. There will also be a silent auction at the party; still looking for donated items to the silent auction
- Free Family Film + Entertainment sponsored by EFG and Alamo Drafthouse – June 21<sup>st</sup> at Sloans Lake Park
- West Colfax Neighborhood Festival – Sat Aug 9 – 11am-4pm. Will be at Paco Sanchez Park. Put on by Jude from Confluence Ministries; but partnering with many community organizations

Brenda from the Denver Public Library with an update on the new public library at Colfax and Irving

- New library on track to open Fall 2014
- July will be a hard-hat celebration, where the public is invited to see the bare bones of the new building
- There will be a sneak peak a few weeks before opening. This will be a ticketed event and WeCAN will be given some tickets to give away
- Two stories – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will have an outdoor reading area, area to display artwork, and a technology center. 1<sup>st</sup> floor will show a wonder wall (showing off the sustainability practices the library uses), children's area, and community rooms
- WeCAN has pledged \$5,000 for a study room, and this will ensure that the library stays on the cutting edge of technology, resources, etc. Private funds, grants, individuals, and the DPL Friends Foundation will all help contribute. All money raised in West Colfax will stay in the neighborhood for this library
- Pavers can be purchased to help fund the library endowment fund as well (brochures made available). \$100 for an individual, \$500 for a family, and \$1500 for a corporate paver

Pilar, branch manager of this new Denver Public Library branch

- Programming will be available at the new library, from guest speakers, authors, specialists, to more practical programming like computer skills and personal finance. Story times for children in multiple languages. A recording studio geared towards teens with instruments available
- This will be a beautiful new building with a upstairs outdoor reading room, and all are excited to get into the new building

## Angela from Extreme Community Makeover (ECM)

- Partnering with WeCAN and others on the May 17<sup>th</sup> clean-up day
- ECM volunteers will be in the neighborhood every Tuesday and Thursday in June and July to help neighbors with exterior home projects. Please tell neighbors that might need this type of help. Brochures available

## Amendments to the Bylaws

- There is a motion from the board to amend Article 1 Section 2 of the bylaws to amend boundaries of WeCAN to include the entire neighborhood as defined by the City of Denver: Currently WeCAN's northern boundary stops at 17th ave. although the City's definition of West Colfax extends to 19th ave. A few residents from that district have wondered why they were not included in WeCAN since they are technically in the "West Colfax Neighborhood." We need a vote of the general membership " to expand the boundary to 19th Ave. between Meade and Federal to encompass Lake Middle school and the remainder of the city-designated West Colfax Neighborhood to the East.
  - Discussion regarding these changes
    - Newsletter distribution to this area has already happened and this information will go up on the website
    - Is that area not part of Sloan's Lake Citizen Group (SLCG)? It is, and technically WeCAN is also a part of SLCG. SLCG covers a very large area and WeCAN covers part of this area. Residents can belong to both
  - Motion to make these changes was seconded and all voted in favor
- There is a motion from the board to amend Article 5 section 1.1, 1.4 and (adding 1.6) to include the following language:
  - 1.1 Membership is Free to all residents who live, own property, or work in the West Colfax neighborhood
  - 1.4 When signed up you are active for 3 years, and can reset membership by signing into a meeting, opening an email blast, or contacting/being contacted by a board member
  - 1.6 A member can resign from the organization at any time
  - Discussion regarding these changes – Was there a previous \$10 fee to join WeCAN? No, WeCAN has never charged for membership
  - Motion to make these changes was seconded and all voted in favor

## Additional Announcements

- If you have garage sale donations please talk to Barb or Bill
- Bill will be collecting scrap metal on clean-up day
- There is a need for a newsletter carrier. WeCAN delivers 2,200 newsletters every month

- There is a need for sustainability volunteers

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds

Secretary

West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)