

WeCAN General Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
August 12, 2014  
Prepared by Leah Rounds

Agenda

- 6:00 Call to order and Announcements
- 6:10 Police Officer Report
- 6:20 Meet the new principal of Colfax Elementary
- 6:30 Update on West Colfax Sustainable Neighborhood Program
- 6:45 Denver Solid Waste Management on future changes to trash pickup (from Tennyson to Sheridan)
- 7:00 Adjourn

Minutes

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

Denver Police Report by Michael Clark, District 1's Community Resource Officer

- Worked previously in the Santa Fe Art District
- Call or email him anytime with neighborhood issues – cell 303-927-8586, desk 720-913-0453, [Michael.clark@denvergov.org](mailto:Michael.clark@denvergov.org)
- During the summer kids are out later and there tends to be an increase in car break-ins and thefts from autos. Reminder to take valuables inside
- District 1 is currently having a lighting campaign (front porches, garages, etc.). Criminals avoid well-lit areas. Information and light bulbs were made available to encourage neighbors to keep lights on all night.
- There is a business watch program where businesses can put a DPD sticker in their window to help reduce crime
- Q&A
  - Recommend leaving lights on all the time? Or get motion detectors?  
Leave lights on all night
  - If security lights are left on, won't they light up the cars better? Criminals will see the cars anyway, cars are usually specifically targeted anyway, so lights won't deter a smash and grab situation
  - How often are DPD drive bys? Not as often as they would like. Currently trying to hire more officers. When call volumes are light officers will report to hot spots
  - What is the procedure for when you see a prostitute? Can write down the license number and contact Officer Clark. Need verbal proof to prosecute, so stings are the most effective. DPD knows who the girls are

- Have there been police out on bikes? Yes, the scat team and patrol officers will go out and ride in the parks, along the gulch, known drug areas, etc. during low volume call times. DPD just got a silent motorcycle
- Does DPD prioritize calls that come in? Yes, incidences of violence or when someone is hurt are responded to first, then home invasions, and then non-violent crimes. It helps when a neighbor is willing to file a complaint, this can help in court

#### Charlotte from Denver Solid Waste Management

- Changes are coming to modernize trash collection in the city. Moving to a cart-based system
- Benefits of a cart system include safety (takes away hiding places and the ability to hop fences), cleanliness of alleys, reduction of waste (more trash comes out of areas with dumpsters), improves collection efficiency, provides equal services, and increases recycling.
- City is currently in the second phase of these trash changes. The area from Tennyson to Sheridan and 17<sup>th</sup> to the gulch will have dumpsters removed and cart delivered September 8-18.
- Standard cart being delivered is 95 gallons, can opt in to a smaller bin if you recycle a lot, call 311 or online [www.surveymonkey.com/s/trashcartsizes](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/trashcartsizes)
- If you have a large trash week, every 3 weeks there will be an extra trash pick up
- For elderly or disable residents there will be mini-carts available and special collections will be offered. City will work with the individual to get their trash collected
- Illegal dumping will still occur, but carts will help greatly decrease this
- Q&A
  - Will recycling be expanded? Recycling will likely be a good side effect of moving to a cart based system. City sees better participation in recycling with the carts. Have to break down a box anyway, may as well put it in recycling instead of the trash. The city saves \$40/ton on recycling over trash
  - When will the carts move further east? Plan is to have the whole city transition to carts in 2-4 years
  - Will there be a change in monthly trash fee? No extra fee. Has asked the city for more education funds to teach residents about this program
  - How many households are being converted over to carts? In this phase, 5,500 homes, and will take about 2 weeks to roll out
  - Are there recycling services in the neighborhood? New neighbor has not received their recycling cart yet. Because of the new trash carts being rolled out, trucks are being used for that. Call 311 to check status
  - Is there a time frame for when composting carts will be available? That program is rolling out a lot slower. It is a fee-based system. It may be coming to this neighborhood in the future. The community garden has composting bins

- Residents at a local apartment building hadn't received any notification of this. City only serves apartments up to 7 units, over that the building must provide its own trash service

Library endowment fund is holding a silent auction at this month's general meeting, a chocolate mousse pie and a gift basket from the Alamo Drafthouse. Both items were auctioned off with funds going toward the \$5000 goal.

Elle Conger, new Principal of Colfax Elementary

- Elle is a graduate of East High School. Worked as a bilingual teacher at Monroe, and at the DSST most recently. Excited to work with the community
- A new Denver Plan was recently approved, with one goal being that every neighborhood have a high performing school
- Last Saturday, 16 students were given \$81 to spend at Kmart, hoping to expand this program next year
- Just got approval for a community garden, will need volunteers from the community for this
- Currently looking for soccer coaches
- Was at the neighborhood festival this past weekend and had a chance to meet some Colfax families
- Recently approved a new logo, new banners and signage will be on the school soon
- There will be a back-to-school BBQ and registration on Aug. 20, 3-6:30pm. Received a donation of books, all students will get a new hard-back book at registration
- There are student opening in every grade still, let families know if they're still needing to register their kids for school
- Monday, Aug. 25 is the first day back for students
- Box Tops for education program is continuing
- Working with teachers so they know where each student they teach is at academically
- Colfax will offer full-time art, music, and PE. The neighborhood center will be open everyday till 6pm
- Food backpacks will go home to those families in need.
- Working to maintain a strong positive culture in the school, and expanding the character education program
- It is the hope that the school garden will produce enough to be used in the cafeteria for meals. Garden will also be used by teachers to integrate science and health lessons

Announcements

- Family Farm Fiesta! Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm - Bring the whole family to Mountair Park Community Farm (13<sup>th</sup> and Depew) for free music, games, activities, snacks and tours of the farm.
- WeCAN's Board Meeting: Will be on Aug 20th at 6pm downstairs, all are invited to attend. Always looking for new members to join
- WeCAN's next General Meeting: will be on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm. The will consist of a potluck dinner, presentations regarding the St Anthony's Redevelopment and more silent auction items.
- WeCAN DESPERATELY Needs newsletter carriers. We have four routes that need carriers. It's 1-2 volunteer hours a month. Contact Bill if interested. WeCAN delivers 2200 newsletters a month
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email [bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net)
- The Sustainable Neighborhood Network is hosting a potluck picnic for all neighborhoods involved in the program. It will be Sunday, Aug. 24 at Sloan's Lake Park, 17<sup>th</sup> and Utica.
- Currently have 44 points towards the 60 points needed for certification in the Sustainability program. There are still a few outstanding projects to be added in
- Federal Blvd. Partnership is hosting a social on Aug. 21 5:30-7:30 at Chili Verde. There will be free app and \$5 margaritas, all members of WeCAN are invited
- Co-President Chad will be moving out of the neighborhood but will continue as Co-President until the end of the year. Hopefully new leadership will join WeCAN.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds  
 Secretary  
 West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)