

WeCAN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
October 14, 2014
Prepared by Leah Rounds

Agenda

- 6:00 Call to order and Announcements
- 6:10 Police Officer Report
- 6:20 Introducing West Colfax porch light safety campaign
- 6:30 Report/update on West Colfax Sustainable Neighborhood Program
- 6:45 A Representative from the Denver Mayor's Office of Sustainability will talk about Denver's citywide sustainability initiatives.
- 7:00 Adjourn

Minutes

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

Announcements

- Art in Transit Celebration: Sun, Oct 19th 2-5pm. 3610 W. Colfax – Join the West Colfax BID in celebrating, new bus shelters and pedestrian way-finding signage. Also get a sneak peak at the new development at 3610 W. Colfax. Free food, beer, music, games and prizes.
- South Sloans "Design Overlay District" public meeting – Oct 22nd 6-7:30pm, West End Flats Meeting will discuss proposed overlay district, updates on blocks 1, 2, and 4; and the affordable housing component of the project. The proposed overlay is a city effort to create a special district within the St. Anthony's site to give the GDP more authority. It would call for a lower specified height consistent to what is in the GDP. The design overlay district does not up-zone any portion of the site.
- WeCAN's Board Meeting: Will be on Oct 29th at 6pm downstairs, all are invited to attend
- 10th and Perry Playground Public Meeting – Nov, 5th 6:30-8pm at Eagleton Elementary – 8th and Hooker – learn about changes coming to this neighborhood playground and offer input.
- WeCAN's next General Meeting: will be on Tues Nov 11th, at 6:00 pm. The will consist of a potluck dinner, a year-end review of WeCAN's work and a visioning session for next year.

Denver Police Report, Denise Gomez, Community Resource Officer for District 1

- Call or email with any questions or concerns. cell 720-708-0788 and Denise.Gomez@denvergov.org.
- “Leave the Lights On Campaign.” Leave front and back porch lights on all night long. More lighting has proven to reduce crime in those areas.
- Can see crime statistics at Denvergov.org
- A new website and App, Raids Online, allows you to search by address and see the crime in the surrounding area on a map. It’s a good tool to see what is happening in your neighborhood. The site goes up to a year back, so check dates on crimes. Cases have to be closed to be added to the site
- Q&A
 - Have there been an elevated number of break-ins lately? Yes. Garage burglaries have increased lately. Take photos of serial numbers in case your things are stolen, pawn shops have to check this database. Can register your serial numbers ahead of time with DPD. Do not leave your garage door opener in the car, especially not with any address information also in the car. If you park on the street, bring garage door opener inside
 - Have there been increases in car burglaries? Mainly the garage door burglaries. Don’t leave valuable things in your car
 - Any car clubs left for give-away? Only if you have a Honda Accord. It was a grant program.

Introduction to West Colfax’s porch light safety campaign, a Sustainability project

- Leaving the light on all night only costs 42 cents a month and is a huge step towards crime prevention
- Informational fliers and light bulbs available to take to your neighbors to ask them to participate
- There are blocks with old Neighborhood Watch signs on them. There needs to be a WeCAN representative to participate in the Neighborhood Watch campaign
- 70% of residents on a block must meet once a year to have a new sign put up on your block. It’s a way to meet neighbors, exchange phone numbers, and network with neighbors
- Meet with Barbara Baker after the meeting to get fliers and light bulbs

Announcements Continued

- RTD has installed its final piece of public art along the W line. There will be a showcase of the work on Friday, October 24 from 9-11am. Meet at the Federal station for a tour of the art along the route
- Denver Parks and Rec is holding a public meeting to get ideas from the community for the “Re-Imagine Play” project at Paco Sanchez Park. Meetings are Wednesday, November 12 6:30-8pm at Eagleton Elementary, and Saturday, November 15 10:30-12pm location TBD
- Volunteer Appreciation Party - Nov 20th. Check your inbox for an invite.
- WeCAN volunteer needs:

- Facebook administrator(s) – talk to Chad Reischl @ 720-297-4481
- Newsletter carrier(s) – call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230
- Board members for next year – talk to Barbara Baker – 303-257-9808 or thanksb@comcast.net
- Neighbors of the Stadium Meeting representative – Quarterly mtg. re: stadium issues – Talk to Chad (see above). Next mtg. on November 13 at 5pm. They will be discussing recent noise complaints from Riot Fest
- 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’s Sustainability update

- Need 2 more points to get to the 60 we need to become a Sustainable Neighborhood
- The Leave the Light On campaign will add a few more points
- Metal recycling points are still to come. Please mention this program to neighbors to boost the recycling program
- Hope to have 100 points by February

Library Fundraising has been complete; the remainder being added from WeCAN’s general fund. WeCAN raise \$5000 for the endowment fund, ensuring future services and programs, and will get a reading room named after it in the new library. Library is raising \$200k total for the endowment fund.

New Communications Committee is being formed, headed by Alan. This group will take care of the newsletter, website updates, email blasts, facebook, next door, etc. More volunteers for this committee are needed.

Jerry Tinianow is the Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Denver

- Works on sustainability programs throughout the city in conjunction with the Mayor’s office and other departments
- The Mayor’s focus is on having basic services available and affordable to all, today and in the future (clean water, housing, mobility, etc.)
- Challenges Denver faces in sustainability – geographically isolated from any other major metro area, poor soil, low precipitation, and unpredictable weather. Sustainable behavior was built into the building of Denver because it had to be; knew early the importance of limited resources
- How to be involved – Save money, spend it here, and do it together
- Save money - xeriscape and save on watering, in transportation (cars costs \$9k a year while the B-cycle is \$80 a year, car shares are 37 cents a mile, Eco pass \$30-40 a month), city recycling (less money the city has to pay the landfill to take), insulation, changing light bulbs (a recent energy conservation LED lighting pilot program led to a 60% decrease in night-time crime of that area, an added benefit)

- Keep it local – buy local good and keep money in the neighborhood
- Do it together – The community working together, like WeCAN, the community garden, etc.
- Neighborhood sustainability is about one or all of these things
- Denver has one of the smallest sustainability departments, only 3 people. They partner with other agencies and city offices (Parks and Rec, Library, My Denver Card)
- Q&A
 - As you did your walk of the neighborhood, was there anything in the neighborhood that stuck out? Xeriscaping, solar panels, Rude Rec Center, W line, high percentage of people that take public transit to Mile High, Sloan's Lake

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds
Secretary
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)