

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

Agenda

- 6:00 Pot-luck dinner
- 6:20 Call to order and Announcements
- 6:30 Police officers report
- 6:40 WeCAN's 2014 Year in Review.
- 6:50 Interactive planning for 2015 – with topics including 2015 Events, Communications, the Sustainability Program, Volunteer Development, Community/school garden support, General membership meeting topics, etc.
- 7:30 Adjourn

Minutes

Call to order at 6:30pm by President Emeritus Barbara Baker following a potluck dinner

Announcements

- **WeCAN's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party** is November 20, 6:00 pm at 1368 Utica Street. Board members will provide the food. Anyone who has volunteered with WeCAN in any capacity is encouraged to attend.
- Exercise, walk a few blocks and **help WeCAN delivery newsletters**...small routes of 75 homes are available – contact Bill Baker at 303-946-8230
- **WeCAN's Board Meeting:** The November meeting was canceled in lieu of the Volunteer Appreciation Party. The December board meeting will be held immediately following the December 9 general membership meeting. Board of Director meetings are open to the public.
- **WeCAN's next General Meeting:** will be on December 9 at 6:00 pm. As part of the Sustainability Neighborhood Certification Program, WeCAN is sponsoring a non-perishable food drive for Bienvenidoes Food Bank. Everyone who brings food items will be entered into a drawing to receive one of five new WeCAN t-shirts. We will be electing the 2015 Board of Directors. The presentation about the liquor license application for Yates and Colfax will take place at this meeting. Please bring a holiday desert to share.
- **Confluence Ministries'** Annual Open House is this Saturday, November 15, 6:00-10:00 pm. Please stop by, bring neighbors, check out displays of what Confluence Ministries does in our neighborhood.
- **Leaf Drop Off** at Sloan's Lake, November 15-16, 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

- **Recycle metal** to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email bigbuddy2@comcast.net. All metal donations are recorded towards *WeCAN's Sustainability Certification*. ***We're going for the Gold and need your help on the last push this year!***
- **"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.
- Denver Police Department left fliers about illegal "puffing," warning against leaving your car running with the keys in the ignition. "Puffers" will be ticketed. Many "puffers" are stolen in our neighborhood each year
- Carol of Earthlinks (13th and Decatur) is a store that grows and makes its own goods. It employees homeless in the garden. There will be an open house to view recent renovations, food, and opportunity to buy goods, December 13, from 10am-4pm.
- Ben Stetler has been very involved with the St. Anthony's redevelopment
 - A recent planning board meeting spoke in support of the design overlay district (would cap the maximum height a building can be, developers would still have to ask for a rezoning for more than the current 5 stories that is allowed, currently block 1 is asking for a 8-12 story building)
 - There are meetings coming up on a text and map amendment, each will have its own council hearing. Dates for these meetings will be sent out in an email blast, posted on website, etc.
 - There has been some misinformation regarding the height issue at St. Anthony's circulating. Please contact Ben to get more information or to better understand this overlay process.
 - St. Anthony's development will create employment opportunities, add to the vibrancy of the neighborhood, offer for-sale homes, and more. Change comes from this density.

Vote for two new WeCAN Co-Presidents

- Nadia Patrick has lived in CO for 5 years, 2 yrs in West Colfax. Works for the Attorney General's office in marijuana enforcement
- Ben Stetler has served previously as a Co-President and is excited to be back in the roll
- Motion was made to vote in Nadia and Ben for the 2015 Co-President positions, motion was seconded, there was no discussion, all voted in favor, motion carried unanimously
- There will be full board elections at the Dec general meeting

WeCAN's 2014 Year in Review

- WeCAN formed 5 years ago and is currently at over 600 members
- 1 of 3 neighborhoods chosen for the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, and currently working towards its Gold Certification
- Donated \$3k to Confluence Ministries for its computer lab

- Metal recycling has been its largest year so far, with \$2,600 donated so far
- Community garden is in full-swing, partnered with Home Depot for donations, conducted composting classes
- Held a solar energy workshop
- Raised \$5k for the Denver Public Library endowment fund
- Helped in securing funds for the Paco Sanchez park improvements; WeCAN was an early and integral piece in bringing this initiative to the neighborhood
- Connecting neighbors to the St. Anthony's redevelopment site
- Formed a communications committee – sends email blasts, maintains the website, facebook, and twitter accounts, 2,200 newsletters distributed monthly
- Representatives attend Federal Blvd. Partnership, Sloan's Lake Citizens Group, Neighbors of the Stadium, INC, etc.

Break-out sessions and Interactive planning for 2015

- Events
 - There is a lot of trash in the gulch right now near the community garden. A clean-up day needs to be organized when the weather permits
 - Nettie Moore playground has only one trash can, and there is a lot of trash along 14th and Perry. Could ask the city to provide more trash bins or raise funds to buy bins, but maintenance and collection becomes an issue. Approach McDonalds and 7-11 on Perry and Colfax to provide more trash bins. Will write a letter to these businesses asking the managers and owners how we can work together to fix the trash issue.
 - BID has been working on a food-coop. Carol and Nathan attend BID meetings and can keep WeCAN updated on happenings.
 - Continue with the annual clean-up day with Extreme Community Makeover in May
 - Community Garden has some needs – someone to plan events for the garden, edging materials (possibly get another Home Depot donation), and a permanent shade structure with volunteers to build it
- Communication
 - Has 2 new facebook administrators
 - Will hold a few meetings to get things set-up
 - Continue with website, email blasts, newsletter, facebook, twitter, calendar maintenance
 - Content is needed, short articles that are 300-450 words
- Sustainability
 - Start advocating for compost in the neighborhood. Get a group together to push Public Works for it. Continue with composting classes at the garden. Advertise the Denver Leaf Drop, etc.
 - Reducing energy use and the Denver Energy Challenge – provide information and resources on how to make your home more energy efficient. Possibly hold some kind of neighborhood energy challenge
 - Walk audits and transit improvements – keep the momentum going on these

- BID's food coop – plan a survey for the neighborhood to see what they'd like to see
- Provide resources on energy savings for renters
- Hold canning classes
- Greening alleys program – murals, art, play spaces, growing plants and food

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds

Secretary

West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)