

WeCAN General Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
February 10, 2015  
Prepared by Leah Rounds

Agenda

- 6:00-6:10pm Call to Order and Announcements
- 6:10-6:20pm Police Officers Report
- 6:20-6:30pm Other Reports
- 6:30-7:00pm Denver Parks and Rec presentation on Re-Imagine Play Project – an innovative concept that goes beyond the traditional playground. It is intended to be a multi-generational activity and play area that gives park users of all ages the opportunity to remain active and enjoy a healthy lifestyle
- 7:00pm Adjourn

Minutes

Call to order at 6:00pm by Co-President Ben Stetler

Announcements

- Our next board meeting is being held next Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00pm at Confluence Ministries. Board meetings are open to general members.
- WeCAN is a non-profit organization that does not charge for membership. We raise all of our money to keep the organization running through our metal recycling program. Please contact Bill Baker ([bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net)) if you have anything you would like recycled. The cost to you is \$0.00 and Bill will pick up your item(s) at no charge. It is a great way to stay green and help our organization out.
- Please sign up to be a WeCAN newsletter delivery volunteer. Our organization depends on people like you to make it possible to deliver over 2000 newsletters per month! Please contact Bill Baker ([bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net)) if you are able to help out.
- Please donate your box tops for education to Leah Rounds ([librarianleah@gmail.com](mailto:librarianleah@gmail.com))! It's a great program that helps out our local schools. EACH BOX TOP IS WORTH 10 CENTS. For more information, check out <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>
- Coat Drive: Please bring any new or used and in good condition coat for our winter coat drive. Your coat will go to folks who badly need them. Additionally, you'll be helping WeCAN become a more sustainable neighborhood while assisting us with our Sustainability Project. There are people living in the West Colfax neighborhood in need of these things. WeCAN has always focused on doing projects to help low-income neighbors.

- Denver Digs Trees has free and low-cost trees available to the neighborhood. Let Josh know if you're interested in applying. There are door hangers that need to be hung, and they have extended the deadline for applications to March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Maggie from Councilwoman Susan Shepherd's office, District 1

- The Corky Gonzales library is opening February 28<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday evening, February 17<sup>th</sup> is the hearing for the rezoning of block 1 of the St. Anthony's site.
- Cameron Burtron from EFG ( the applicant for the rezoning) is present to answer questions, or they can be emailed in

Denise Gomez, DPD District 1's Community Resource Officer

- Patrol officers are going to start coming to meetings so their faces become familiar
- There is a huge issue with theft from motor vehicles and vehicle theft right now.
- With warmer weather, there is more incidences of people breaking into garages
- Q&A
  - Regarding car theft, is there a specific area it is happening more than others?  
Highest rates in West Highlands and West Colfax
- Late 90s Honda models are particularly prone to theft. If you own one you can get a free club from the district station
- There is a Blood Drive benefiting Children's Hospital on March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- District 1 is participating in a 5k race February 28<sup>th</sup>
- Another women's self-defense class is coming up. They are a popular class and fill up quickly. Dates for the next class will be announced at the next CAG meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm

Carol McKellen, Healthy Living Team of the Sustainable Neighborhood Network

- West Colfax Community Co-op is a proposed, consumer owned, 4,500 sq.ft. Grocery store to serve the West Colfax neighborhood and surrounding area. West Colfax is in a "food desert" and has been trying to attract a grocery store to the area.
- The Co-op would be based on the following
  - Fresh, healthy, affordable food in West Colfax
  - Prioritizing locally-sourced products when possible
  - Economically self-sustaining, with profits going back into the community
  - Celebrating culinary and cultural diversity through a welcoming, vibrant store environment
  - Fulfilling community needs through a cooperatively owned model
- There is a small group of people currently working on this and they are looking for more volunteers to help with the project. Contact [westcolfaxfoodcoop@gmail.com](mailto:westcolfaxfoodcoop@gmail.com) and Like us on Facebook to help spread the word.
- Q&A

- Are there any other food co-ops in Denver that can be looked at as an example? There was one started in North Denver and it has done well. Stakeholders have been talking with various businesses
- This is a community driven project, so it will only happen if there is enough interest and support from the community
- There is a “Healthy Living Celebration” on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-7:30 at the Metro Manor, where this Food Co-op idea will be discussed
- The March general membership meeting will have a presentation on Earthlinks, a garden/workshop program at 13<sup>th</sup> and Decatur. The garden is on ½ an acre, where 50 participants grow, tend bees, and make crafts to sell. Earthlinks is always looking for people who are interested in becoming involved.

#### Denver Parks and Rec presentation on Re-Imagine Play Project at Paco Sanchez Park

- The process started in 2008 with a Denver playground master plan, which focused on access to play, improved health and wellness, and strengthening neighborhoods. At a traditional playground kids already know what to do (slide, climb, etc.), and this project allows for a more abstract, open-ended, interesting, imaginative play
- In 2012 a design competition was held for City Park, and the public voted on the City Loop, but it was not a good fit for that park and neighborhood.
- 2013 and 2014 there was a search for a new park – identified parks that were in need, near bike trails and transit, close proximity to rec centers, and had neighborhood support. Paco Sanchez fit the criteria – connected by light-rail and bike trails, near the new library, Rude Rec center less than ¼ mile away, near Girls Inc.
- 2015 will be the design process (have a 5-6 million dollar budget), 2016 will be construction, 2017 opening
- Guiding Principles of the project
  - Respond to the site – the hills and slopes offer creative/innovative ways to fit these into the overall design
  - Actively program – events (yoga, soccer, gardening instruction, etc.), giving people a reason to come back
  - Play for all – engage youth and their parents and grandparents, encourage everyone to be up and moving around
  - Promote health and wellness – cooking classes, demonstration garden, potential for community garden
  - Engages the community – areas accommodate for groups large and small, ability to hold events, movies, etc. The buy-in and active involvement from the local RNO is needed to make it sustainable. RNO eventually take over the programming
- Design/Site Plan
  - Plaza – the hub, has a small building with play equipment storage/check-out, potential for farmer’s markets, chalk art festivals, simple and flexible space for different programming, canopy’s stretching out from building, bench swings, community cooking area, designed for ice skating in the winter. Partnering with the RNO will help make these programs a reality. Knox light-rail station will offer stairs and a path from the station into the plaza area

- Music Bowl – natural amphitheater space, small stage area, movies in the park, small and simple skateboard ramps
- Play Space – simple structures to climb, slides built into trees, seating areas incorporated into the play structures, challenge course, a tall climbing net that will also act as a unique and iconic landmark at the top of the hill
- Field Games – a large flat area, have a series of small (non-regulation size) fields, possibly do turf, engage the Broncos to help pay for something
- Family gathering area – trees, shade, good views, hammocks to check-out, signage to play on
- The entire park will be tied together with 2 loop hikes – one that is a flat rubberized surface, and one that weaves through the park structures, trees, etc. Have outdoor adult fitness circuit spaced around one of the loops.
- The “final” design will be presented next month at another public meeting, March 17<sup>th</sup>
- Denver Parks & Rec can help support classes and activities, but also want a partner with the RNO for additional programming
- Q&A
  - Why is it not opening until 2017? Need a year to design and raise money, and another year to build
  - The skate park is intended for teen boys, is there anything targeting teen girls? There will be social spaces throughout the park. Girls Inc. has been involved in the process, they may hold summer camps and programming at the park.
  - Denver has no sand volleyball courts, this may be a good place to install some. The park does stretch to the other side of the gulch on 12<sup>th</sup>, ideas for this area include a garden, dog park, or sand volleyball
- Will be built in three phases, the 1<sup>st</sup> phase costing 3.5-4 million and includes the plaza and play area. Fields would come later, but there is no specific way the phases will be installed yet
- Community asked for winter-time play – ice skating and sledding hills have been incorporated
- Q&A continued
  - What is the plan for the two basketball courts that are in the area now? One will be removed and one will be rehabilitated. There will be a ½ court space in the plaza area. The basketball court at Sloan’s is unkempt and unlit. City is currently in the planning process for parks in 2016, Sloan’s is a park that is being looked at
  - Any plans to ground the over-head power lines? Probably not, it is a big expense. This is an ongoing discussion in the city
  - What is being done with the existing Frisbee golf course? It will stay, the 1<sup>st</sup> tee will be moved, and may incorporate a practice area in the field area
  - Will the kiosk be staffed? On weekends in the spring, summer, and fall it will be staffed. Would like to have it staffed if there is a demand for it. Parks have never done anything like it before. There is a commitment from the Parks and Rec to have it staffed seasonally half time.
  - Will there be an alcohol free zone? Just the nature of the improvements will change the type of people that go to this park. Because of all the activities

coming in there is a concern about safety and security in the play tunnels, etc.  
Have talked with DPD and discussions with them will be ongoing

- Presenters will be available after the meeting to answer further questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds

Secretary

West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)