

WeCAN General Membership Meeting
Minutes
August 11, 2015
Prepared by Leah Rounds

Minutes

Call to order at 6:05pm by Co-President Nadia Patrick

Announcements

The next WeCAN Clean-up Day in partnership with Confluence Ministries and ECM is Saturday, October 17. The last clean-up day was May 16, projects included a home improvement project, gulch clean up, alley clean up, landscaping, and community garden. Taking project ideas for neighbors, any exterior work. Confluence will host again, typically start at 9am, lunch provided, and try to get projects done by 4pm or sooner.

Saturday, August 29, Alamo Drafthouse will be hosting the movie in the park event again this year. The movie is Pee Wee's Playhouse. It's being sponsored by Girls Inc., so all money made on food and drink sales will go to their organization.

The next General WeCAN meeting on September 8th will be a presentation on St. Anthony's. A 45 minute presentation with time for questions and answers.

Denver Public School's first day of school for students is Monday, August 24. Be aware of the school zones and slow down.

Colfax Elementary is starting a Reading Partners program at the school and are looking for community volunteers to provide reading tutoring one-on-one with students. Program will provide all training and resources. It is 1-2 hours a week of tutoring during school hours.

WeCAN collects Box Tops for Education for Colfax too. They are the labels on many products, ziplocks, cereal, etc. Each label is worth 10 cents and the school can use the money however they choose. Not sure what the money is being put towards yet this year. Start collecting them at home and bring them to Leah or any board member at any general meeting.

Yuri, Recycling Manager for the City and County of Denver, presented on the conversion from dumpsters to carts in the neighborhood

- Provide trash, recycling, and compost service to city of Denver, up to 7 units
- There are 100+ trucks working every day
- Service DPS, Rec Centers, Libraries, City Building, etc.
- Dumpsters – serve 3-4 households, and used to be the most efficient way to collect trash. Trucks are getting old, compaction ratio is low and trucks get 3mpg. People

with dumpsters tend to not recycle as much, there is more illegal dumping, safety issue (seeing down alleys, fires, graffiti)

- There are Manual Carts – households buy their own cans, bags, etc. It takes 2-3 people to manually throw the bags in the truck.
- In 2010 the city looked at improving the program. There have been three systems in place, and the cart system is the most efficient way to do it. All large cities are doing cart systems now. Long-term, the whole city will use three carts (trash, recycling, and compost)
- Currently leasing trucks to switch over to cart system. Trucks are expensive to replace, but they need to be replaced anyway so move all over to the cart system
- Transitioned 22k carts in last year, 24k this year, and 30k next year
- The rest of the West Colfax neighborhood should receive their carts by mid-November
- A mailer about the program should have already been sent out about the switch, there will be more mailers, public meetings. Issued the largest cart size unless you request otherwise
- Collection should be in the same place it currently is. Likely will be the alley unless there are access issues
- Can it be transitioned to the street? The neighbors can get together and work with the city to have collection on the curb instead
- There have been concerns about the elderly, disabled, etc. City works with individual household, there are special collections available
- Overflow pick up is every 3 weeks. There will be a schedule when your cart is delivered. You can sign up for email or text reminders
- What to do about things left in the alley? Waste Management will pick it up. Report it to 311 and an inspector will be sent out.
- Have the same problem with the Confluence Ministries dumpsters. Can buy locks for your carts, take them off for collection. Keep carts on your property when not collection day
- Can get a smaller cart size now and ask for a larger one later if needed
- Will composting be available in the future? Right now it is fee-based, slowly adding households to the program, will be expanding in January 2016 by 10k households. Cost is \$9.75 a month. Get discounts on the compost if you participate in the program.
- How do you get compost in your neighborhood? Call your councilperson, he can talk with WM
- The cart program has been mostly positive. Some alleys continue to be an issue. The largest problem is people not bringing their carts in.

Denver Police Department, District 1 Community Resource Officer, Denise Gomez

- Been a recent burglary pattern recently, but arrests have been made
- Ever see any suspicious activity, please call it in
- The next CAG meeting is on August 17. This Commanders Advisory Group meets to get stats, explanation of issues, meet the Commander, dinner is provided.
- Q&A

- Speeding on Xavier between 14th and Colfax is a real problem. Neighbors are in favor of putting in speed bumps. Can talk with traffic engineering. Many people take a short-cut off Colfax. Can look into getting a traffic grant, giving out more traffic infraction tickets in the problem areas.
- Are people more cautious with a speed trailer? Have used it on 13th, and can ask for it again. Can ask for a photo radar van. Will try it at 14th and Wolff.
- There are ways to slow people down – stop signs, narrow the street, bulb outs, but these are a long process through the city
- Denver doesn't want to do speed bumps – emergency vehicles can't handle them, they're noisy, and people tend to speed up after the bump

Dan Shah of the West Colfax Business Improvement District, on the Re-Imagine Colfax event, Sunday, August 16, 10am-4pm

- Installing temporary bulb outs, crosswalks on Utica, make Colfax easier to cross, put in a median, pedestrian activated lights, and bike lanes
- Need volunteers for Saturday and Sunday morning for set-up and clean-up afterwards. Volunteers provided with a t-shirt, food
- During the event will be doing interviews, surveys, data gathering, kid activities, music, Little Man Ice Cream, Great Divide brewery
- If interested in volunteering, contact Dan or visit the BID website, www.westcolfaxbid.org

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds
Secretary
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)

