

WeCan General Membership Meeting 2/9/16

Call to order: 6:05 p.m.

Police district 1 update by Officer Gomez

- Burglarizing during the day. The burglars are prying open locked front doors. The burglars ring the doorbell then they will get a tool and go through the back door. Again a neighborhood watch would help Officer Gomez would like to start three on West Colfax this year. If you hear someone's alarm call, if you see someone weird call. A lot goes down on the front porch. If they ring your doorbell they are canvassing. Door to door sales are suspicious in the current marketing environment. Most people go to the phone book or the website. Last year people were going around were with ADT. Don't let anyone in that you did not make an appointment with. Identity theft is also happening. Facebook scams might know politicians and then create a facebook page with the politicians' information and then ask for identifying information like bank account information. Again really think about really getting the neighborhood watch started on your block. If the Police can get a video or picture (because you have a security camera) of someone breaking into your front door and catch the criminal they then see emerging patterns and they can finally charge the criminal on several charges.
- EconoLot blocks the street because they put their inventory on the streets and alley. The police are still working on what if anything can be done.

Happenings at Confluence

- Disaster preparedness training on March 5th what happens if you need to shut off your gas at your house. How do you deal with disasters of different kinds if they occur is a 2.5 hours training.
- Confluence received a grant to put a plug outside for energy efficient cars.

WeCan Announcements

- Volunteers needed to deliver the WeCan newsletter. It takes about an hour, but you can take more or less.
- West Colfax BID; the ones who did the re-imagine Colfax is doing a next phase to highlight the cross walks. Look at the West Colfax BID Website and Facebook to details on upcoming events.

House District 4 Democrats and Republicans to hold their General Election Caucuses on March 1, 2016

- Democrats caucus will be held at Cowel Elementary, check in 6:30 p.m. They are looking for volunteers. Informational handed out except one did not make its way to the desk of the secretary this evening, so please contact their House District Captain for going ons.
- Republicans caucus will be held at Lake Middle School, check in 6:30 p.m. They are looking for volunteers to run for office, or represent Denver District in some manner such as Precinct Committee Person or delegate. Informational handed out that had a message from the Denver Republican's Chairman Sue Moore, and a message from their Congressional District 1's Central Committee Chairman Joe Webb. Both Chairmen gave a list of venues such as breakfasts, happy hours, and meetings that area residents are welcome to attend to listen to speakers and give input that will help elect delegates to the National Convention respectively.

Brittney from Public Works Transportation and Mobility Group gave a presentation on how the area can obtain more streetlights

- There is a process for how to request a street light if you do not have one that requires a petition for people on the block, and the block residents need to sign off with at least 75% signatures on the block to obtain a review.
- If approved by Public Works they will send an application to excel for the install and the city pays for electricity.
- The location of existing lighting can request a midblock streetlight. Again Public Works approves the block request and sends it onto excel.
- Of course all of this is subject to budget limits, and whether your block has reached that limit is TBD.
- Xcel does all of the design.

Sustainable Network Josh presented what we did to earn a gold 12x4 banner

- Planted trees, picked up garbage and tended gardens, donated dollars to the food bank where they were able to yield \$6 of food for every dollar donated, and had a garage sale.
- During tree planting season, the only people he sees is the same small group of about 8 people who dig holes for the trees year after year. It is a great way get to know a lot of people outside of their neighborhood and the more sustainability points the better. With respect to planting trees Josh would like to double the participation this year; planting date April 16th for planting around the neighborhood and some of the adjoining areas. The day begins at 1410 Stuart where there is a donuts and coffee send off. Door

hangers were given out to people at this meeting who volunteered for canvassing the neighborhood.

- The umbrella office that helps sponsor this activity is called the park people, Denver Digs Trees. They sent a guest speaker and here is what she had to say. The goal is to increase and sustain the urban forest we have. If we do not take on an effort like this then we would look like a high plains area. For example we would look like the DIA area. All of our trees in Denver are planted if we do not continue to do that in the future then we will not have our urban forest. The biggest goal is to shade the sidewalks because it reduces energy bills the trees are only \$10 each, and can be planted in a yard or the street parkway. This is non-profit organization and all of the ordering can be done online. If people don't have access online then they can contact Denver Digs directly. This program is for Denver residents and the trees can be planted only in the City of Denver. They want the trees planted the parkway because it is a really a good place to shade the sidewalk. When in doubt Denver Digs will help you figure it out. Again trees really change a neighborhood. When one person takes on putting a tree in front of their house then that really looks good, and trees do not take a lot of water and do not take a lot of maintenance. Again Josh's team helps people who cannot plant the trees themselves. When you order a tree you get a letter telling you to pick it up. WeCan wants to get the word out and appreciates the help with the door hangers. Denver Digs does come out and make sure that the tree gets in the right place and even does the marking. If a person gets denied it is because they want to be sure that the right tree gets in the right place, and the tree is not crowd or planted in place that the city makes you take it out. Denver Forestry also shows you how to fix a tree so that it is grows correctly. They don't like people to stake their trees but other thought is you can stake the tree for the first or second year you have it. People who are unable to buy or plant the tree can get help doing this, but you still have to be able to take care of the tree. Visit the sustainability website to see various submissions.

Next clean up day May 21st partner with extreme community makeover

- Here they do alley and yard clean up. Teams are appreciated. Outside maintenance, mow, rototill, pruning of bushes that kind of thing. Put your name on the list to get on email list. Always email back and say not for me this time if you need to, but if you put your name on their list this keeps you in the loop. They are looking for project ideas, and neighbors to help, ask them if you need them to help with outside maintenance. Just ask them to call and ask to be put on the list
- May 21 also the 2016 great cleanup day as well. This group is targeting individuals. They help explain how you can get rid of things. Informational available and handed out on this event.

Rita Contreras, Aide to Councilman Espinoza, District 1

- Go online and get the newsletter letter electronically.
- Short term rental town hall March 19th
- Historic preservation forum, the March meeting times will be announced soon.
- Call Espinoza's office if you are not getting enough info on 311.

Adjourn 7:01