

WeCAN General Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
October 9, 2012  
Prepared by Leah Rounds

AGENDA

- 6:00 Call to order and Announcements
- Police Officer Report
- Information regarding November ballot amendments
  - “De-Brucing” presented by Susan Shepherd
  - DPS Bond Proposal by Michael Kylee and Arturo Jimenez
- Adjourn

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Chad Reischl

Announcements

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave Gateway Beautification Project: Jefferson Park United Neighbors (JPUN) will be eradicating weeds, cleaning and reseeding part of the I-25 and 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Interchange on Sunday October 28th in hopes of growing more sustainable native plants there in the future. They are looking for interested volunteers, if interested contact Michael Guietz at [zoid4@comcast.net](mailto:zoid4@comcast.net) .
- Leadership meeting for the Lakewood Dry Gulch Community Garden on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at West End Flats: Contact [Emily@dug.org](mailto:Emily@dug.org) to RSVP.
- WeCAN Board of Directors meeting on Oct 17, 6:00 downstairs. All are welcome.
- WeCAN’s next General Meeting will be held at Confluence Ministries at 6:00 pm on Nov 13th. – This will be a potluck meeting
- We are 47 members short our goal of having 500 members by the first of the year. To help reach that goal we’ll have three prizes from local businesses at our November meeting for the people who bring in the most registration cards. A recent WeCAN success includes the EPA grant to clean up our area of Colfax, and important step in redevelopment.
- Recycle metal to support WeCAN: call Bill Baker, 303-946-8230 or email [bigbuddy2@comcast.net](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net)
- A member has graciously donated 1000 tulip and daffodil bulbs. They are in bags of 12, and intended to take 2 bags, one to plant in your yard, and another to give to a neighbor. A effort at beautifying the neighborhood

New Member Drawing – \$50 gift certificate to door-to-door organics

Denver Police Officer Jay Wittenberg for District 1

- Jay confirmed that WeCAN has the largest attendance at its monthly meetings than of any other RNO in the area
- Crime statistics comparing August 2011 to August 2012. Overall, there has been a decrease of 9.5% in crime over the same period last year.

- Aggravated assaults, theft from motor vehicle, and burglary are all down.
- Reminders about keeping car doors and windows locked, keep valuables out of car, don't let the cars run with the key in the ignition now that the weather is turning colder. Same reminders about houses; keep things locked up, but the colder weather tends to keep break-ins down.
- Question and Answer
  - 17<sup>th</sup> and Tennyson recently has had a lot of speeding concerns along 17<sup>th</sup>, especially during morning rush hour traffic. Neighbor saw speeding tickets were being issued in this area. The new stop signs are suppose to help slow down traffic, and DPS is trying to address the problem. Need to get the traffic department aware of the situation and have them set up on that corner.
  - A thank you came from a neighbor of 14<sup>th</sup> and Wolff at an apartment complex. The people there have been evicted and it has been much quieter.

#### Council Woman Susan Shepherd of District 1 in NW Denver

- Newsletter was distributed highlighting the upcoming election. The last day to register for mail-in ballots is October 15. There will be a voter service center set up at the Highlands Recreation Center at 2880 N. Osceola St. for early voting and ballot drop-off. It's starting Monday October 22nd
- The leaf drop is happening at Sloan's Lake on November 4<sup>th</sup>
- Information on "De-Brucing," the 2A initiative
  - The Tabor law doesn't allow an increase in taxes without voter approval, putting spending limits on the government
  - Property owners get a property tax credit returned to them, but 2A is asking that instead of a refund, the city keeps these funds
  - Many services have been cut to keep a balanced budget, and these cuts have been spread out across many different departments, city employees being some of the hardest hit (with 5 furloughed days this year)
  - If 2A passes, then that money would benefit many city programs, including 100 new police and firefighter recruits, government vehicles need to be replaced, resurfacing 300 lane miles primarily in neighborhoods, increase of library hours and days (services that help people look for work, resume workshops, after school kid programs, etc.), and increase hours at swimming pools, rec centers, and after school programs available to kids
  - Low income seniors and disabled with get a property tax credit increase
  - Park maintenance has been at 75%, over the next 5 years, this money will help hire back 5 people a year to help with maintenance
  - Susan is supporting 2A and is asking everyone to vote yes
  - Question and Answer
    - Why NOT support it? Denver has maintained an AAA bond rating, so we've been able to get many bond projects done. 70% of the budget is spent on services, such as personnel, and as expenses

rise and revenue falls, it becomes a structural budget problem. Voting No on this would continue to degrade our city services (police, parks, etc.).

- Affect on the individual? People who own a \$225K home receive about a \$111 credit a year (\$9 a month), and keeping this money in the city budget would eventually return 68 million into the budget. This would be a permanent measure. It is not a raise in taxes, asking permission to keep the credit already collected.
- Have the funds been specifically earmarked? No, but the mayor, mayor staff, and others have committed the money to what Susan outlined before (100 new police and firefighter recruits, etc.)

DPS Bond Proposal 3B by Arturo Jimenez, the school board representative for District

- Arturo is asking people to vote No on 3B, which is a \$466 million bond over 15 years to go towards capital construction and maintenance for DPS.
- About 100 million will go to critical needs in construction over the next 4-5 years. 300+ million is going to projects that aren't critical, including a new high school planning to be built for Stapleton, but not geographically near that neighborhood. There has been a lot of work in integrating the Stapleton community into the Park Hill schools. Manual high school is only a half-mile away and has room for students, and this would help maintain diversity in the schools as well. About 187 million will be going to charter schools
- There is a need to be consciousness of expenses for people on a fixed income. Asking to vote yes on 2A and 3A already.
- Arturo is pushing for a better bond next year, scaling it back to a 2.5 million bond that would be easier for people to afford
- If this passes, DPS will be 2 billion in debt
- This is also a equity issue, areas that don't need new schools built are getting them, funds are going to charter schools instead, asking the poor and people on fixed income to pay even more, and it could lead back to resegregation
- Question and Answer
  - The 2008 bond passed of \$454 million over 30 years. What happened to the 100 million of this bond that hadn't been spent? District is putting it towards little projects instead of paying down the debt
  - Voting No will force DPS to be more transparent with funds
  - Teachers Union voting how? Yes on 3A, not sure on 3B
- Arturo's contact information is 303-507-5942 and email [jimenez.arturo72@gmasil.com](mailto:jimenez.arturo72@gmasil.com). NoOn3BDenver.com is the website for more information
- West Denver Prep school will mostly likely be going back into North high school, NOT Lake Middle school

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Rounds  
Secretary  
West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)