

## WeCAN General Membership Meeting 2-21-17

### Agenda:

6:00-6:05: WeCAN Announcements

6:05-6:10: DPD Community Resource Officer Bob Anderson

6:10-6:40: PS You Are Here Grant Community Arts Installation presentation from Lisa Gedgaudas and Brendan Picker-Mahoney of the Denver Arts & Venues, Michael McKee, local musician, and Megan Yonke, WeCAN project chair

6:40-7:00: Townview Community low-income housing project, Richard Taft, President of Rocky Mountain Communities, and Bruce O'Donnell of Starboard Realty Group

Call to order at 6:05pm

WeCAN Announcements: WeCAN Running Club meets every Monday at 6:30pm at Seedstock Brewery to run Sloan's Lake. Need help delivering new Residential Welcome Letters and Maps, see Leah after meeting if you can deliver to your block. WeCAN will be partnering with Denver Digs trees again to distribute and plant trees in West Colfax, sign-up to volunteer available and more information next month.

Denver Police Department Officer Bob Anderson gave a crime report and update. "Puffers" create a crime of opportunity. Theft from motor vehicles is the #1 crime in Denver, 50% of cases the car door is unlocked with valuables in sight. Homeless outreach does sweeps along Lakewood Gulch. 1300 Perry Block, traffic department went out to monitor and do enforcement. The request was made at the previous meeting for this.

Megan Yonke introduced the PS You Are Here grant that WeCAN received for the 2017 Voices project to install 50 wind chimes along Lakewood Gulch.

Lisa Gedgaudas from Denver Arts and Venues, which provided the grant: She shared about what her agency does and how they work in local communities to develop arts in the area. They recently scoped out the gulch in preparation for the project. A video was presented on the work that the Denver Arts and Venues does.  
<https://vimeo.com/139380511>

Michael McKee, local artist and creator of the Voices project, spoke next. He is a musician who works on mixed media projects. The windchime project in the gulch is his idea. He is looking for anyone who would like to participate in constructing the stands. It would be basic woodworking, nothing complicated or dangerous. Basic timeline is to procure the materials this coming weekend. 50 stands will be built. They will be built over the course of two months. In April, individual wood structures will be presented to different schools, clubs, etc. Organizations will have a month to do the design, and they will be returned around May 12. They will be installed the same weekend as the cleanup day on May 20. Possible community celebration in June.

Discussion ensued on how the designing of the displays by the different groups could be best done.

For the next step, certain supplies are needed, such as a trailer, dirt auger, and more.

Rocky Mountain Communities: presented their plans on the existing Townview Communities building between Hooker and Grove on W. 17<sup>th</sup>Ave. It was built in the 60s and is showing a lot of wear and tear and is difficult to maintain. They want to rezone it to accommodate 250 residents instead of the current 122 and remodel it and provide some social services and some for-sale townhomes on the quarter block west of Hooker. Need to be able to go to 5 stories in some portions of the property. Seeking C-MX-5 zoning. There would be a minimum 40-year deed restriction to remain affordable housing.

They have requested if they can get higher income levels of families living at this property, and that is a possibility. Relocating will be done on-site. The project would take about 8 years to complete. Retails on the ground level will be things like coffee shops and family-friendly businesses. There are prohibitions against marijuana shops, liquor stores, and other kinds of businesses like that.

Nadia presented on the concerns of the Board. There have been concerns that West Colfax has taken a lot of low-income housing disproportionate to the rest of the city, and we asked if the income levels be more diversified instead of all very low income residents.

Question was asked about parking. Parking will be on-site, some on the property and some underground. The zoning would require that kind of parking.

Rmcommunities.org will put up quarterly reports as progress continues. For the next 2 years, focus will be on doing soil tests and designing, basically preparation phase as they focus on finishing up a separate large project.

State Rep. Dan Pabon presented there will be a Town Hall meeting on March 13 at 6:30pm at the Southwest Improvement Council. One issue is that why the school funding is being cut despite increases in housing values. He hopes that everyone will come.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.