

## **WKNA General Meeting**

**April 13, 2023 7 p.m.**

**At Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary**

About 25 people in attendance, including Guest Speaker Shannon from Salem Kayak Rentals and Tours and City Councilor Kyle Juran.

**Call to Order:** WKNA President Rhonda Rich called the meeting order at 7 p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

**Minutes of previous meeting** – Rhonda asked for a motion to approve minutes of the Feb. 9 meeting. Carol Doerfler moved approval; Gary Blake seconded. Motion carried.

Rhonda asked for a motion to approve minutes of the March 9 meeting. Gary so moved; Art Mauer seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget report** – Rhonda said WKNA has spent \$796.99, leaving \$3.01 in the city-approved \$800 budget. Expenditures: \$289.07 for printing brochures; \$141.95 for ink to print newsletter 3x a year; \$195.04 for the annual website fee; \$36.99 for small brochure holders; \$91.94 for two outdoor display boxes on stands; \$19.98 for erasable tent table cards; and \$22 for 4 meeting sign stands. WKNA will request \$1,200 from the City for the 2023-24 year, which starts in July. All 5 Keizer neighborhood associations are requesting the same amount. The Budget Committee meets May 9-10.

**Guest Speaker** -- Rhonda introduced Shannon from Salem Kayak Rentals and Tours/Oregon Guided Kayak Tours.

Shannon said the business offers free opportunities to the community to enjoy kayaking and also partners with many groups such as cancer and Alzheimer's nonprofits – in fundraisers and to offer activities that serve as therapy for patients. The business also partners with Willamette Riverkeepers, the City of Keizer and other entities.

She is licensed by the Oregon State Marine Board and has been guiding kayak tours on the Willamette River for seven years. They rent kayaks but also work with people who own their own kayak to organize river trips for them and teach safe kayak usage.

They also sponsor Salem Kayak Club, which is free to join. Among the year's annual activities include sunset paddle trips, a Labor Day "Floatie" Paddle, a Halloween Costume Contest and a New Year's night paddle.

Her watchword is safety on the river. Many people go kayaking without knowing what they're doing. Water temperature, water levels, river flow rates and obstructions such as snagged trees can be major hazards. "You need to understand how rivers work," she said. There's a lot to learn Life jackets are strictly required for all her trips.

Much more information is available at [www.SalemKayakRentals.com](http://www.SalemKayakRentals.com)

## **REPORTS**

**City Council Liaison** – Councilor Juran reported that Council covered their long- and short-term goals at Monday's work session. At last week's regular session, Council heard about a proposal to install a pressurized air cover over the Keizer Little League fields. The backers hope to raise \$10 million for their "Lava Dome" projects and say they have contacts in Major League baseball. They

want Keizer to be a destination for softball and baseball tournaments.

**Food barrels** – Dennis Phipps reported collecting 193 pounds in March from the WKNA-sponsored barrel at BiMart and 152 pounds and \$40 cash from the Copper Creek location. There is a barrel also at Keizer Fire District but there have been few donations so far.

**Keizer United, Kris and Carolyn** – Carolyn reported that the March meeting heard from a speaker from Marion County Health and details were provided about Keizer United's Operation Encouragement. The organization set up a free meal for teachers at all Keizer Schools during conference week.

**Cummings PTA, Kris** -- She said they school wants to have an event night and are trying to get more families involved. Cummings kids are going to participate in the Awesome 3000 run. Fifth grade promotion is coming up and various classes are doing field trips, including to Mission Mill and Outdoor School. School fundraisers have been very successful and they are thinking about establishing "scholarships" for students who can't afford a field trip fee or lunch, etc. They're also thinking about budgeting some funding for the Clothing Closet. Amber Zimbelman has agreed to be the liaison between the school and WKNA.

**Cookies for Cummings** – WKNA provided cookies for teachers at Cummings the Wednesday of Conference Week. Rhonda, Kris, Carol and Carolyn helped arrange it.

**Reader Board planting** -- Carol, Rhonda, Carolyn and Kathy Lincoln worked to get pansies in the Reader Board planter at Cummings during spring break. Carol plans to replant the various planter pots at the school as soon as the weather warms up.

**Cummings parking area issue** – The school asked WKNA to contact the City about the dirt parking area north of the gym adjacent to Delight St. The spot is City property, not school district. Teachers, as well as neighbors, use the area to park and it is quite muddy. Rhonda said she would contact Bill Lawyer to see if the City could gravel the area or perhaps install a more permanent surface if there is another street project planned in the area

## **Parks**

**Palma Ciega** -- Bark dust/chips delivered by the City. Gary plans to spread, mainly under the picnic table and in that area.

**Willamette Manor** -- Carol Phipps wrote a grant to the Parks Board for matching funds to shore up a hillside area on the north side. The request was approved and we have \$650 to spend on jute ground cloth and ground cover plants (kinnickinnick, a drought-tolerant native.) She said work is planned the week of May 7-13 and WKNA will get an email out about specific work party times. The area next to the sidewalk beside the playground covers about 1000 square feet.

**Wallace House** – Dennis said dog walkers are concerned that the drinking fountain is broken. WKNA will take the matter to the next Parks Board meeting.

**KRP turf fields** – Rhonda said WKNA is providing a letter of support for this project. Councilor Juran reported that the current cost estimate is \$6.5 million (\$3.6 for construction of the fields, bleachers, etc. and \$2.9 million for site improvements). The City OK'd \$600,000 from System Development Charges along with \$2 million each from the City and Marion County from federal ARPA funds. Rep. Kevin Mannix has applied for a \$1 million capital funding grant, which would leave \$900,000 to fundraise. City Manager Adam Brown has said he wants to schedule one more meeting of the

stakeholders group late this month to go over the project timeline and other issues. Councilor Juran said the project could break ground this fall. The soonest completion date would be next summer.

**Traffic mitigation** – Rhonda updated the group on installation of flashing speed signs on Shoreline Drive. These signs, as well as a speed table to be installed on Cummings Lane at Delight St. by Cummings Elementary, were two traffic calming elements sought by WKNA as a result of traffic-related meetings held in January and February 2022. The flashing speed signs were installed earlier this year and the speed table is in design by the City. The City and its Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian (TSBP) Committee requested feedback on the efficacy of the speed signs and on April 8, WKNA canvassed homeowners along Shoreline. Flyers were left for those not home and an email was provided for people to send comments. So far, most people have said they think it has helped, at least as a reminder that the speed limit is 25 mph. Several, however, have added that police presence would help reinforce the message to slow down. WKNA will report at the April 20 TSBP Committee meeting.

**Keizer Community Library and WKNA Little Library, Kris** -- She reported that the Library Board needs more Board members. They are looking to diversify membership and are seeking Hispanic representatives if possible. She said donations of children's and young adult books are needed. These two areas are the library's most popular. She also said the Library would like to partner with WKNA in some way. The Board discussed dropping their twice annual book sales because of the amount of work involved in comparison to the limited funds raised. But they decided to proceed because the book sales are so popular.

WKNA's Little Library, at the corner of Shoreline and Rafael, needs kids book donations, plus Spanish and young adult. Donations can be delivered to Kris's home on Moneida.

**Next meetings:**

April 22 - Earth Day celebration at Keizer Rapids Park.

Rhonda noted that May 11 is our last General meeting until September. Our speakers will be Ben Crosby, Keizer Code Enforcement Officer, and Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole and Probation Deputy. We will have updates on Keizer's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (they are looking for vendors and musical acts) and the annual Keizerfest, to be held at KRP the second weekend of August.

Go to [www.westkeizerna.org](http://www.westkeizerna.org) or Facebook for current information

**Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**