

## **West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes**

**Feb. 14, 2019**

**Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary**

**Call to order** – Vice President Carol Phipps called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and welcomed about 11 attendees. Introductions were made around the room.

**Approval of Minutes for Jan. 10, 2019** – Tom Homan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Jan. 10 meeting, as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Dennis Phipps seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget for 2018-19, Rhonda** – \$363 remain in the 2018-19 budget. The remainder will be used for paper to cover printing needs. Carol P. said she has received the paperwork from the city for submitting the 2019-20 budget request and that will be filled out soon for submission and Budget Committee consideration.

**Council Liaison** – Kim Freeman reported that the next council meeting will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, because of President's Day on Monday.

She thanked members of WKNA who attended the Tuesday, Feb. 12, Keizer Revitalization Plan open house to provide input to consultants on proposals. She said she also saw new people in attendance and that the civic engagement was encouraging. The next meeting of the Keizer Buildable Lands Supply/Housing Needs Analysis Project Advisory Committee will be held at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 21, to be followed at 7 p.m. by a public meeting. This group is working in advance of discussions around expansion of Keizer's Urban Growth Boundary.

Other topics: 1) The Keizer Points of Interest Committee has an opening, Applications are due March 13. She said Keizer volunteer committees are always looking for youth members as well. 2) Senate Bill 5, recently introduced by Sen. Courtney, is being looked over by City Attorney Shannon Johnson. 3) She thanked WKNA for keeping the need for sidewalks around Cummings School on the forefront.

**Guest Speakers: Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole and Probation officer.** He said the department's numbers continue to drop and are down 8.9 percent from last year. Officers are working with 3,081 parolees or probationers this year compared with 3,354 last year. They continue to emphasize the tools clients need in order to reduce recidivism.

In news from Keizer Police Department, he said KPD has hired more traffic officers who have been working in the area of Cummings and Manbrin recently and traffic enforcement should be more visible to the community. He encouraged people to call the department's non-emergency number if they detect a pattern of speeders in their area. Also, Code Enforcement should be contacted if you think transients have settled in abandoned houses.

He said Lt. Copeland reported that a clean-up at Wallace House Park is underway to clear out the lower area where transients have congregated.

**Nate Brown, Director of Keizer's Community Development** – He reported on city projects underway, including the Keizer Revitalization Project, which is just wrapping up. In response to criticism that the cities chosen as "models" for options Keizer might pursue were unrealistic and produced information that doesn't really apply to Keizer, he said that the intent was to identify how various jurisdictions dealt with growth and show a range of outcomes. He has requested a City Council work session to go through the consultant's report.

He said the Tuesday open house to review the preliminary reports featured transportation elements; potential changes that would prompt redevelopment along River Road including zoning changes, setbacks and other regulatory recommendations. The process should be wrapped up by early summer.

In the meantime, the Buildable Lands Inventory will start soon (the last one was 5 years ago) and it must be completed by the end of June. This ties into the new project, funded with federal dollars re: transportation impacts caused by growth. If the Urban Growth Boundary expands to the north, Keizer needs to know the effects on various intersections and road capacities, including River Road and Wheatland. Information from the lands inventory and transportation study will help evaluate the choice of infill and moderate growth vs. growth through UGB expansion. He emphasized the critical need for public participation. These decisions WILL impact the lives of Keizer citizens, he said. The city also must acknowledge the costs of growth. Keizer must decide what it wants to be as a city, he said, and called on WKNA to help get the word out. He invited everyone to the public meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 21, after the Buildable Lands Committee meeting at 5:30 that day.

**Kathy Lincoln, Subdistrict 3 representative on the Cherriots Board of Directors** – She shared information on changes underway and ahead for the bus system, which includes the main Cherriots buses, Cherriots LIFT for transportation to medical appointments for those with a qualifying disability, and Cherriots Shop and Ride, which provides seniors and those with disabilities transportation to designated stores 2 times a week for groceries and other household items.

The state transportation bill that passed last year will provide funds, beginning in June, via an employee payroll tax that will allow Cherriots to hire more drivers and, as of September, reinstate Saturday service and extend service on some routes until 11 p.m., rather than the current 9 p.m. cutoff. Cherriots also is starting in June a lower fare for youth. Children 5 to 18 (kids under 5 are free) can ride for 50 cents. A day pass is \$1 and 30 day passes are \$10 under this new program for youth. One of the requirements to receive the new state income for buses is to meet a particular need in the community. Lower fares for youth will do that.

The transportation bill also called for a change in transit district Board member selection. As director terms expire, future directors will be appointed by the Governor. She said her term is up the end of June and she will be applying to be appointed to the slot.

In addition to the employee payroll tax, the bill also allows Cherriots to implement an employer payroll tax after 5 years (2022). Cherriots would have to show that there was a specific need in the district before it could levy the new tax. This could provide funds that can be used as a match for federal dollars and increase the district's options for improvements. Kathy also shared fact sheets about Cherriot ridership, demographics and service statistics.

**Hector Blanco, Keizer Fire District representative** – He did not have a formal presentation but answered some questions about the district, which answered 5,500 calls last year, many of which are for medical assistance. He said about 90% of personnel are trained as paramedics as well as firefighters. He said firefighters helped with wildland fires this past year in California and throughout Oregon.

## **Reports –**

**Tennis Courts at Willamette Manor, Dennis Phipps:** He said a new court is to be installed this summer. Efforts are underway to get the neighborhood involved in planning, if possible, to talk about moving the basketball hoop and tether ball as part of the project.

**Delight Street update, Kathy Lincoln:** The Safe Routes to School grant was not accepted but she talked with Bill Lawyer, Keizer's Public Works Director, and he is working on a budget request for a walkway on the west side of Delight from Chemawa Road to Cummings School. She said the Traffic Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee, of which she is a member, plans to support the request when it goes to the Budget Committee. WKNA will support the request as well.

**Errant gunshots from across the river update, Carolyn:** She shared copies of Senate Bill 5 and a revised version, SB 781, both sponsored by Sen. Peter Courtney. The WKNA Board had discussed SB 5 at

its meeting Feb. 7 and had some concerns about language in SB 5, including the lack of a definition of "shooting range." It was unclear if the bill really applied to the West Keizer situation. The new version does not refer to shooting ranges. Both versions amend ORS 166.171 and 166.172. Copies of both bills were shared, along with copies of the City of Keizer's resolution urging Polk County Commissioners to end firearm discharge at the West Salem gravel pit property. Also shared was contact information for Sen. Courtney's legislative director Anna Braun, 503-986-1602.

WKNA will follow developments and alert residents if there are opportunities to testify.

**Other handouts** – Carol noted other handouts available, including information on the community garden at John Knox Presbyterian Church, which has plots available for this year, and a notice of the Monster Cookie Ride April 28, which wends through West Keizer.

### **Upcoming meetings**

Next WKNA Board meeting: March 7, 7 p.m., location TBD

Next WKNA General meeting: March 14, 7 p.m., Keizer Civic Center. Mayor Cathy Clark will speak on the State of the City. She will give her formal State of the City address March 12 to Keizer Chamber of Commerce.

Keizer Buildable Lands public meeting, 7 p.m. February 21, Keizer Civic Center.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**