

## **West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes April 14, 2016**

### **Keizer Civic Center**

#### **Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary**

**Call to order** – President Gary Blake called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center and welcomed approximately 21 people, including guest speakers Mark Caillier and Michael Runyon, representing the Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council, and Keizer’s newest City Councilor Bruce Anderson. Introductions were made around the room and Gary asked everyone to sign in.

**Approval of Minutes for March 10, 2016** – Gary asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Art Mauer so moved and Carol Doerfler seconded. Motion passed.

**Budget for 2015-16** – Rhonda Rich reported expenditures of \$275.04 from the \$500 2015-16 budget (for the WKNA logo, printing and website fee), with anticipated expenses of \$225 for more WKNA brochures and door hangers. The Board will be redoing the brochure before reprints are done, she said. About 400 of the original 500 have been distributed.

**Budget for 2016-17** – Another \$500 has been requested and Gary will represent WKNA May 3 before that Council budget session.

**Neighborhood business** – Because Gary had to leave early, the session moved ahead in the agenda.

- 1) Gary presented a Certificate of Appreciation to former WKNA Board member Ron Freeman for his service from 2014 to 2016. Ron was WKNA’s representative to the Big Toy planning group and he and his wife, Kim, coordinated volunteer recruitment for that project.
- 2) Palma Ciega Park update – Gary reported that the WKNA Board had approved a proposal to be presented to the Keizer Parks Board, suggesting volunteer labor from the community to help fix up the park and make it more welcoming. In exchange, WKNA seeks a commitment from the city to spray annually to control ivy, poison oak and blackberries.
- 3) Keizer Rapids Park community-build playstructure – Ron reported that a grant has been submitted for state funding to pay for rest rooms, paths and a new pour and play surface at the Big Toy. The coordinating group should receive word on the grant by the end of July. If it’s funded, the coordinating group will begin meeting again to plan the work, he said. Mark Caillier, who helped lead the initial construction effort, said commitments have been received to work on water, electricity, the bathrooms and removing the current bark chip play surface. Rhonda noted that WKNA submitted a letter of support for the grant.
- 4) Adopt-A-Street Coordinators – Gary introduced Ron and Kim Freeman as new WKNA coordinators for the quarterly street cleanups on Chemawa Road from River Road west to Keizer

Rapids Park. Ron said they have helped with all the cleanups so far and will be there for the next one June 11, starting at 10 a.m.

## **Speaker Presentations**

### **Eric Bandonis, Marion County parole and probation officer housed at Keizer Police**

Department – Eric said his caseload remains in the low 40s, allowing him more time to focus on his clients, connecting them with services that help keep them from repeat offenses. He said the average parole caseload for Keizer also remains relatively low. Eric works with general probation clients. Others handle sex offenders, domestic violence and mental health cases.

Lt. Andrew Copeland, Keizer Police Department, commended the job Eric does to help keep the recidivism rate low and also spoke to the benefits of having Eric housed at KPD. It provides a close working relationship and allows Eric to participate in KPD's training, also aiding the working relationship.

**Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council**, with Mark Caillier, representative at large, and Michael Runyon, representing Oregon Youth Authority on the Council – Mark distributed two handouts, one on the Council itself and one on resources in Marion County, which includes information on the Council. He said he's been on the safety council since his days as a Keizer City Councilor. He retired from Salem Police Dept. in 2003 and then consulted around the country for several years. He said that in his experience, the level of coordination among public safety agencies in Oregon is exemplary. Michael also noted the high level of cooperation among agencies. He explained that Oregon Youth Authority supervises all youth on parole and probation in Oregon.

The Public Safety Coordinating Council is mandated under an Oregon law passed in 1995, which created councils in Oregon counties to act as advisory councils to county boards of commissioners. The Marion County council was formed in 1997. They are to:

- 1) develop and recommend to commissioners: a) plans for use of state resources to serve local adult offender populations; b) plans for the use of state and local resources to serve local offenders 15 to 18 years old (plans must coordinate community-wide services involving prevention, treatment, education, employment resources and intervention strategies); c) a plan designed to prevent criminal involvement by youth. The plan must include coordination of community-wide services involving treatment, education, employment and intervention strategies aimed at crime prevention and
- 2) Coordinate local criminal justice policy for both adults and juveniles among the appropriate criminal justice entities.

Mark said Marion County safety council representatives currently are doing a variety of presentations to community groups to gather information on public concerns, ideas they might have for solutions to problems and other issues. As part of this, a telephone Town Hall will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 April 28. People were invited to use the commission email if they wanted to be included on the call list to participate: [commissioners@co.marion.or.us](mailto:commissioners@co.marion.or.us)

Mark and Michael said the council is looking at four areas of opportunity for coordination, cooperation and improvement of public safety: Justice Reinvestment, to reduce recidivism. (It's about 14% in Marion County now, down from 75% or so in the 1990s); juvenile justice; the Homeless Initiative (which is co-chaired by Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark); and emergency preparedness.

They then took questions from the audience: The council meets monthly. Every county has a council. There are grants and education programs that go through the council. Victim advocacy is a big component. On school safety, Mark said a lot of ideas surfacing nationally are coming out of Marion County. Re: gangs, Lt. Copeland said they are less of an issue than drugs in Keizer.

**Discussion with Lt. Copeland, KPD, about Neighborhood Watch** – He said this is a phenomenal program but it's hard to get people involved because of busy schedules and a tendency toward introversion these days. He said he would be working with Carol Doerfler to expand the Neighborhood Watch program to a portion of Rafael in West Keizer. She worked with him earlier to establish the program on Moneida. Both spoke to the benefits of neighbors helping keep watch and report problems to police. He said people can really help prevent burglaries and keep eyes out for other issues that may develop in a neighborhood, including squatters in vacant houses.

The “captain” of a Neighborhood Watch can help determine how big an area will be included. Lt. Copeland said they try not to make it too big – 20 houses or so. Mark Caillier said they have 82 in the Gubser watch area, but they are all around Newton Park, so there is a geographic anchor. That's the same idea with McNary Estates.

The best advice is to call police if you see something suspicious.

Rhonda asked Mark for an update from other groups he's involved with. He said Claggett Creek Watershed is sponsoring a “Discover Your Watershed” program 6-8 p.m., April 27 at Keizer Community Center. There will be kid's activities, 14 booths with exhibitors, photo contest awards and a showing of the documentary film “Upriver” on the Willamette River.

This summer, the council will be working again at Keizer Rapids Park to remove scotch broom and blackberries. They will be replanting with native shrubs probably in October, details TBA. He said they're looking for project ideas and do have access to some funding.

Re: Gubser Neighborhood Association (he is president), he said they are using Nextdoor.com as a communication tool. Miracle of Christmas this year reached totals of \$300,000 and 300,000 pounds of food donated to Marion Polk Food Share over the life of this neighborhood holiday lights celebration, which donations from the public who come to view the displays.

**Council Liaison Report, Kim Freeman:** She also is council liaison to the Traffic/Bikeways/Pedestrians Committee and she asked anyone with a pedestrian safety concern to let them know.

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month in Keizer. She said there are some openings on volunteer committees, including the Keizer Points of Interest Committee, the Festivals Advisory Board and the Keizer Public Arts Commission. They also are recruiting for the youth councilor slot on City Council.

May is budget season for City Council. Council held its long-range planning session this week and although the revenue picture is good, Kim said the city is being conservative and isn't looking to increase hiring this year.

Kim serves on the Homeless Task Force, along with Mayor Clark and three other Keizerites. May 4 is the next session. It will be televised.

She invited people to email the council if they have questions or concerns.

A proclamation is included on the Monday, April 25, council agenda declaring Keizer the "Eclipse City." In August, 2017, a total eclipse of the sun will occur along the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel, which runs right through Keizer. Kim said the city hopes to organize a celebration at Volcanoes Stadium.

She noted Monster Cookie Ride on Sunday, April 24, which will bring 2,000 some bicyclists on a ride through Keizer, specifically West Keizer Neighborhood.

She reintroduced new City Councilor Bruce Anderson and welcomed him to the job. The April 25 meeting will be his first.

**Upcoming meetings** – The next WKNA Board meeting will be Thursday, May 5, at President Gary Blake's home.

The next WKNA general meeting is at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 12, at the Keizer Civic Center, the last one before summer recess. Topics include an Iris Fest update from Dave Walery and an update on the Water Trail.

The next Adopt-A-Street cleanup of Chemawa Road will be at 10 a.m. June 11.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.