

WKNA General Meeting

Feb. 13, 2020

At Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road NE, Keizer, OR

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

Call to Order: Carol Doerfler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed 14 attendees. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes – Tom Homan moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 9 meeting and Carol Phipps seconded. Motion carried.

2019-20 Budget – Carol D. reported that a sandwich board has been purchased, to be used to identify WKNA-sponsored events and activities. Two food-drive barrels also have been purchased and one is at One-Day Signs being “wrapped” with the WKNA logo. This barrel will be placed at Copper Creek indefinitely, starting this Saturday. WKNA also paid the annual website fee and the \$550 budget is basically spent with no further expenses anticipated.

Guest speaker: Carol D. introduced the guest speaker Dave Bauer, Salem Electric Board member and candidate for re-election to that Board this year. (Scheduled speaker Robert Johnson, Keizer Parks Department manager could not attend.) The member-owned, non-profit cooperative, headquartered in West Salem, is one of 17 cooperatives in the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He said it's one of the smallest in terms of area served (17.5 square miles) but has 18,000+ members. The co-op is proud of its record of just 10 minutes of down time/year, which few other electric utilities can match.

He outlined the elements of Cooperative board service contained in the official guide spelled out in the Oregon state statutes. The SE board hires (and fires, if necessary) the co-op's general manager and sets his or her wages. They are not involved in the day-to-day management. Board duties are “care, loyalty and obedience,” which pertain to things like making rate decisions for members, fiduciary oversight of the operation and knowing and understanding all the laws that govern the co-op's operation.

He is taking certification classes that lead to becoming a credentialed cooperative director. These deal with various topics such as leadership and rate-making. He also cited SE's “grass roots” campaign, which enlists co-op members to get on an email list to be notified when there are state and national legislative issues that bear on cooperatives' operational capabilities.

He said SE also believes in supporting community events and nonprofits. Among supported partners are the Keizer Lights Parade, Simonka Place, CASA, summer concerts in West Salem, and a \$15,000 scholarship program.

REPORTS

Keizer Council – Councilor Laura Reid said council is discussing changing the chicken ordinance to allow 6 hens, up from three. The Urban Growth Boundary was the subject of the last council work session and she expects this “complex conversation” to continue for some time. The council's Feb. 17 meeting will be devoted to the Keizer Little League Park status and management. The goal is cooperation between Little League and the Keizer Youth Athletics group. She thanked WKNA for its leadership on sponsoring food barrels in support of Keizer Community Food Bank. Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Association is also planning to sponsor a food barrel and is in talks with the new owners of Town and Country Bowl.

Parks – Dennis reported new park responsibility assignments for the Parks Advisory Board members. For West Keizer parks they are: Wallace House – Tanya Hamilton; Willamette Manor, Palma Ciea – Dylan Juran; Sunset – Jeff Sargent.

Parole/Probation – Eric Bandonis, Marion County parole/probation officer, gave his quarterly report. He said his case load recently spiked to 60 but is back down to 52. He has been chosen to participate in a pilot

program (Contingency Management for Emerging Adults) that basically rewards good behavior among the parole/probation population of men 18 to 30 years old. He said the program has run nationally but just started in Linn and Marion counties. He is one of 7 Marion Co. parole/probation officers chosen to participate in the local pilot.

He noted that the funeral for Keizer Police officer Dan Carroll, who recently died of cancer, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 18. Many officers will participate in a procession from Volcanoes Stadium to the Salem Evangelical church.

Re: neighborhood concerns about speeding traffic, he suggested documenting the time and location of repeat offenses and notify Sgt. LeDay or Officer Powell at Keizer Police. Police have to actually see an offense in order to do anything about it, but if citizens can document places and times, police have something to potentially monitor.

Citizens Police Academy – Gary Blake said he had been invited by the City to participate in this program to educate citizens on what police do and how they do it. He said they take the term “peace officer” seriously and try to approach enforcement as compassionately as possible. The weekly sessions run for more than 6 weeks. Councilor Reid said she had also participated in this program and lauded the department for this outreach to the community to increase understanding by citizens of the department's operations. She said participants went on ride-alongs with officers and also toured the county jail.

DISCUSSION

Traffic, speeding in neighborhoods – Carol D. said she attended tonight's Traffic Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee meeting, immediately before the WKNA meeting, and believes it will be up to WKNA to pursue these issues with City Council. The only current advice is to call police with a license and car description if possible when speeding/running red lights, etc., are noted. and hopes to get neighbors and leaders such as Patti Tischer, of Greater Gubser Neighborhood Association, to be involved as well. The approach will be to ask for more police presence to monitor speeding, traffic violations and also noise issues as well.

Cummings School Spring Clean-up – Carol D. reported this is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, with weeding, new bark dust, etc., to be focused on the side of the school facing Cummings Lane. WKNA may tackle the east side along Delight in the fall.

Safe Routes to School – Carol D. said both Cummings and Kennedy Elementary schools have qualified for this national program, which encourages kids to walk and bike to school and teaches them how to do it safely.

Cummings/Faith Lutheran Back-Pack Buddies program – Carol D. shared copies of the list of preferred foods for this effort. Specific items are purchased and distributed via backpacks provided to children on Fridays so that families have food for the weekend. The program currently helps 25 families at Cummings, with more on the waiting list.

City Charter Review committee – Gary Klein attended the last meeting. He said the revised charter will go to the public for a vote. Next meeting is March 3.

Upcoming meetings – City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 (President's Day Holiday)
Coffee with Cathy, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 22, El Patron
Charter Review, 6 p.m. March 3, Council Chambers
WKNA Board meeting – 7 p.m., March. 5, Carol D.'s home
Parks Board, 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, Council chambers
Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee, 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12, Council Chamber
WKNA General meeting – 7 p.m., Thursday, March 12, Keizer Community Center