

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

Feb. 11, 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 30 people, including guest speakers and representatives of Keizer CERT and Fire Department (who will present in March). Introductions were made around the room and Gary asked everyone to sign in.

Approval of Minutes for January 14, 2016 – Art Mauer moved for approval and Sarah Head seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2015-16 – Vice President Rhonda Rich reported expenditures of \$100 for the new WKNA logo, out of the \$500 2015-16 budget. The logo will be used on WKNA letterhead, among other things. Gary urged everyone to check out WKNA's website, where the logo appears as well.

Report from Eric Bandonis, parole and probation officer for Marion County – Eric has an office at Keizer Police Department. His report reflects a decrease in number of clients, switching a trend in recent reports for increased numbers, although no reason for increases could be pinpointed. As of January, the county had 1% fewer clients. Eric's caseload, specific to Keizer, is now 45, also down. The county average is 50. His caseload has been as high as 90. Reasons for decreases include more cognitive programs, compared with the 1980's and 90's; shorter sanctions, which benefits clients by lessening risks to their employment or housing/

He then outlined the top objectives of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, which are on the website and in a brochure he shared. The department's core functions are public safety; to work collaboratively with the community and other public safety partners; to seek and retain competent staff; and to be fiscally responsible. He emphasized how important working with the community is because citizens can be extra eyes and ears for the department, helping officers see things they would otherwise miss.

Presentation by the Marion County Office of Emergency Management: "Living on Shaky Ground" – Gary introduced guest speakers Caitlin Esping, an Americorps Vista volunteer, and Kathleen Silva, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Marion County, to present information important for residents in the event of a disaster such as fire, floods or an earthquake.

Caitlin said earthquake risk is a major focus because of the Cascadian Subduction Zone, an area 700 miles long off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. An earthquake 9.0 or higher is "likely" within the next 50 years. The last large quake, caused by shifting of the Juan de Fuca and North American crustal plates along this fault, occurred in 1700 and the "average" recurrence is every 240 years. We are at 316 years.

Caitlin outlined steps for neighbors and their families in the event a major disaster occurs. The first step is to **talk it over and make a plan**. Tip: Texts work more often the phone connections because phone systems can be quickly overwhelmed in emergencies. **Practice**. Know where to go and how to get there. Realize that roads and bridges probably will be disrupted. **Build an emergency kit**. Think about things such as getting medical help – where would that be available? Plan ahead for prescriptions refills. She said that Marion County Health is working with pharmacies on a plan to allow refills with just an empty bottle or prescription in the event of an emergency. The advice is to keep a written record of all prescriptions. This includes family members and pets.

Kathleen emphasized personal preparedness, starting with a "go bag" at home, in your car and at work, because there's no guarantee a disaster will strike while everyone's at home. Her go bag includes a safety kit, with basic first aid items and medicines, wipes, etc. Have extra clothing and comfortable shoes in the bag, along with a blanket, flashlight, diapers if you have children, hand sanitizer, hygiene products. Important documents (insurance, birth certificate, medical records, etc.) can be copied to a flash drive to have in your kit, or send copies to someone outside the area for safekeeping.

Think about communications. She has her phone and a battery-operated radio so she can listen to emergency broadcasts. Have some utensils, snacks, a knife, scissors, duct tape, paper/pen and cash.

Businesses are not going to be up and running right away and ATM's may not be working. The recommendation is to have about \$300 on hand.

Basically, in the event of a big earthquake, emergency preparedness officials want citizens to start thinking "about camping," she said. People often can't re-enter their home, or don't want to, following a quake, so camping gear can provide shelter in the interim. A barbecue may be a vital tool for meal prep. Think about getting a generator. By collaborating with neighbors, it might even be a community generator.

"Get to know your neighbors" was a major piece of advice. In a big emergency, neighborhoods become "islands," she said, and it may be necessary for neighbors to share resources and provide mutual assistance. The fact is that no substantial outside assistance or large-scale medical evacuation will happen for 2 weeks or more after a disaster.

The recommendation is to have food and water for two weeks – beans, rice, oatmeal – staples that will keep. Be prepared to live with the basic necessities. In terms of sentimental belongings, ask what's important to you and then make sure those things are in a safe place.

How will you repair damage to your home? First of all, she said, you need insurance and you need to verify coverage. If your home's destroyed and you don't have insurance, you won't qualify for some federal disaster assistance. The Small Business Administration does have some loans available after a disaster declaration, but other programs won't be available to you.

In terms of earthquake-caused tsunamis, Marion County is not in the zone, but flooding could happen from rivers, lakes and streams.

Kathleen and Caitlin emphasized that they don't want people to live in fear, but preparation is key to lessening the personal disruption caused by a disaster. The process is daunting and it won't be done overnight. Start small and try to add something monthly to your kit and other items. Go to www.ready.gov for more information or to the Marion County Emergency Management site or Facebook page:

<http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/EmergencyManagement>

<https://www.facebook.com/MCEmergency>

In answer to a comment from the audience, they noted that there are several smart phone apps to help you keep track of records, track the whereabouts of family members, etc. But they emphasized that paper records are better because you can't rely on tech in disasters where power is disrupted. Another suggestion was to keep your land phone line – cell towers are affected first by disasters.

The disaster preparedness theme continues next month with speakers from Keizer CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and Keizer Fire Department.

Neighborhood business:

Little Library update – Carol Doerfler, who spearheaded this effort, said the Little Library is open for business. A plastic cover was installed during the heavy rains, but it's off for now. The library is at the corner of Shoreline and Rafael. The idea is to promote child literacy, but there are books for adults and children. The concept is to "take a book/leave a book." Carol said there are plenty of books at the moment.

Palma Ciega Park update – Gary said neighbors and the Keizer Parks board are working on what can be done to develop this part, which is along the Willamette River at the west end of Cummings Lane. He said volunteers are needed to work with the city to make the park more usable and raise its profile as a recreation spot.

KRP Community Build Playstructure – Rhonda reported, since Ron Freeman could not attend the meeting. She said letters of support for the state grant being sought for Keizer Rapids Park and Big Toy improvements are needed from the community. The grant would fund a pour and play surface, to replace the wood chips there now, and accessibility elements such as paths and bathrooms. She shared a handout

with background information and how to submit your letter or email (send to Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder, City of Keizer, 930 Chemawa Road NE, Keizer, 97303 or email LockhartD@keizer.org). The deadline for comments is March 1.

West Keizer Parks update – Clint said no new projects were underway at Keizer Rapids but an Easter Egg Hunt at the Big Toy is in the works.

Other business – 1) Mayor Cathy Clark emphasized the importance of the disaster preparedness topics, adding that SEDCOR is doing a series on business preparedness. She said having a plan and kit at work are vital because people can't count on being at home.

In council business, she reported that Councilor Brandon Smith is moving to Salem to pursue an opportunity there. Tuesday, Feb. 16, will be his last meeting. She also reported that Councilor Dennis Koho is seriously ill.

Other points: The city's budget planning process will begin in April, with committee meetings in May. There are openings for volunteers on the Parks and Points of Interest committees. She urged anyone interested to apply.

Roads projects for 2016 will be announced in March. The utilities work is complete at Verda and Chemawa to accommodate installation of the roundabout this summer. That intersection will be closed during that project – a disruption that will allow swifter completion of that project, she said. Her next Coffee with Cathy event is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at McNary Restaurant.

2) Keizer CERT – Representatives announced the start of a new class to train members, beginning at 6:30 March 10. The cost is \$60 and includes an emergency backpack.

3) Sarah Head asked if there was any update on the source of recent graffiti in the WKNA area. Carol said their fence along Shoreline was among the places tagged. She noted that police want to know when graffiti occurs but emphasized that once reported, the property owner has 5 days to cover the graffiti. This is seen as a deterrent to the taggers.

Upcoming meetings – The next WKNA general meeting is at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10. The topic is a continuation of emergency preparedness information, presented by Keizer CERT and Keizer Fire Department.

Other meetings –

City Council meeting – Tuesday, February 16th at 7p.m., "Presentation of WKNA Annual Report"

Next WKNA Board meeting – Thursday, March 10th at 6 p.m.
at the Keizer Civic Center

Adopt-a Street Cleanup – Saturday, March 12th @ 10 a.m. Meet at the corner of Shoreline & Chemawa Rd. N.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.