

WKNA General meeting  
April 14, 2022 7 p.m., Keizer Civic Center  
Submitted by Carolyn Homan, Secretary

**Call to Order:** 7:05 p.m., President Rhonda Rich

**Welcome** – Rhonda welcomed about 17 attendees, including guest speaker Shane Witham and City Council liaison Laura Reid. Introductions were made around the room

**Minutes from March 10, 2022** – Art moved approval as submitted; Clint Holland seconded. Motion carried.

**Board reorganization** – Rhonda explained that Carol Doerfler had resigned as President due to ongoing health issues and that according to the bylaws, as the elected Vice President, Rhonda thus assumed the presidency. At the April 7 Board meeting, the group then elected Carol Phipps as Vice President and selected Kris Adams, the Board’s liaison to the Keizer Community Library, as a new Board member to fill the vacancy created by Carol D.’s resignation. That appointment brings the Board to its full 7 seats.

**Budget** – Rhonda reported expenditures of \$483.07 from the \$550 budget: \$195 for the website; \$131 in printing costs, and \$157 for signs. She presented WKNA’s annual report to City Council March 21 and the organization was officially recognized for another year. The 2022-23 budget request is due this month and she said the plan is to seek \$800. WKNA needs to print 1,000 brochures, which will cost \$300. With the web fee ad \$200 and \$150 each for signs/brochure boxes and newsletter printing costs, that totals \$800. The brochures will last several years.

**Keizer Fest at KRP** -- Rhonda introduced Bob Shackleford, representing the Chamber of Commerce, to talk about plans to hold the Keizer Fest this year at Keizer Rapids Park. The hope is that KRP will be a permanent home for the festival. It will be set up on the north end of the park next to Chemawa Road and he said plans are to fence it, with a designated entrance and exit to control parking and traffic. Rhonda asked that a sign be placed at 15th Avenue directing people to the event parking.

Bob said there are plans for food vendors, bouncy houses and kids’ rides and entertainment in the big tent. They are requesting permission to remain open until midnight on Friday and Saturday but Council will have the final work. The Festival is set for the second weekend in August.

**Guest speaker** – Rhonda introduced Shane Witham, Keizer Planning Director, to discuss changes being made to Keizer’s development and zoning codes. The city’s Planning Commission, along with consultant firm MIG/APG, has been working for several months to bring city code into line with changes driven by two state laws – HB2001 and SB458. The laws address so-called “middle housing” – duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, townhouses and cottage cluster projects – that typically are not allowed in single family zoned neighborhoods. The bulk of West Keizer is single-family zoning. The hope is that the changes will help address housing shortages and hopefully bring about more affordable housing options.

He said the changes had to be made by June 30 or the “model” code put forth by the state would have gone into effect. The Planning Commission felt it was important to comply with the laws’ requirements while tailoring changes to Keizer’s current residential development and design standards. Under Keizer’s changes, a duplex is allowed wherever single family housing is allowed

and, depending on the size of the lot, tri, quad or even cottage home projects are allowed. Because of high housing values and high construction costs, Shane doubts there will be instances of someone tearing down a large house to build a 4-plex but he thinks there will be some of this kind of development.

In answer to questions, he said there are no transitional housing provisions in Keizer, so there won't be any tiny home projects for the houseless population. Accessory housing units are allowed.

The minimum lot size in Keizer is 4,000 sq.ft. In residential single family zoning, which is the bulk of West Keizer, the set backs are 5 ft. minimum, side yard; 14ft back yard/20 ft. for a two-story home. The 35-foot height restriction didn't change.

The Planning Commission approved the code changes at a public hearing April 13, passing the issue along to City Council. Council will take up the matter at a public hearing at its May 2 meeting.

## REPORTS

**Council Liaison, Laura Reid** – She reported on 2 requests to Council for federal American Recovery Plan (ARPA) funding – for the community library to qualify for Public library status and, through a partnership with Marion County, a request for two turf multi-use sports fields at Keizer Rapids Park. For the library, the request includes an employee, which is expensive and raises the issue of future support when the ARPA funding runs out, Reid said. The question of putting the issue to a public vote also has been raised. Councilor Reid, along with Councilors Kohler and Starr, are working as a work group to answer questions and “get this to yes.” Council will take up the sports field issue at its April 18 meeting.

**Community Library, Kris Adams liaison** – Kris said the Library Board is very excited about the possibility of Public library status and the kinds of services that would become available to library patrons as a result of the connection to the Chemeketa Consolidated Regional Library Service.

**Bike Skills Day, Hersch Sangster** -- Hersch announced the Bike Skills/Safety Fair to be held from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at City Hall parking lot. The event is sponsored by the Traffic Bikeways Pedestrian Committee and members of the Keizer Police Traffic Safety Unit and Community Response Unit. WKNA is helping with the event, which will also include a helmet program and fitting. Safe Routes to School, Salem-Keizer Transit and Keizer United also will have representatives and information available.

**Food barrels, Carol Phipps**—Donations are down at the two collection barrels sponsored by WKNA at Copper Creek and Bi Mart. Collections the past 3 months have totaled 305 pounds at Bi Mart and 261 pounds at Copper Creek, as well as \$120 in cash donations.

**Cummings School, Carol Phipps** – Carol and Kathy Lincoln planted the reader board and other planters recently. The Cummings principal has announced that the PTA, McNary students and other volunteers are planning a work day in May to weed, spread bark dust and otherwise beautify the grounds. Carol has not heard a date announcement as yet but this will take the place of a WKNA-planned work day at the school.

**Parks** – The Palma Ciega cleanup is set for May 7, 9 a.m. to noon. Gary said the City is

cooperating and will have a debris collection trailer, trash cans and equipment such as weed wackers and rakes available for volunteers to use. Neighbors are invited to join the work party! Rhonda said WKNA will be asking Council to include a representative from the association on the work group or task force to be formed to discuss the proposal for sports fields at Keizer Rapids.

**Traffic Safety** – Rhonda said WKNA plans to continue pushing for consideration of making the intersection at Shoreline and Dearborn a 4-way stop and adding a speed table at the school crossing in front of Cummings School at Delight Street. These measures were endorsed by Chief Teague at the February WKNA meeting on traffic issues. In pursuing the matter with Bill Lawyer at Public Works, he felt the matter of a speed table needs to go through the city's Neighborhood Traffic Management plan. Rhonda and Carolyn will pursue the matter at the April 21 Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee meeting.

**May meeting** – Rhonda said the program will look ahead to summer events. Speakers include Jenny Ammon, the city's Outreach and Education coordinator; Clint Holland re: the KRP amphitheater concert series; and Mary Jo Emmet about the community barbecue at John Knox Church in August.

**Upcoming meetings;**

April 23 – Soggy Day in the Park cleanup at Keizer Rapids Park

May 2 – Keizer City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall; zone change consideration

May 5 – WKNA Board meeting, 7 p.m., place TBA

May 12 – WKNA General meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**