

WKNA General Meeting

Feb. 9, 2023 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

About 20 people in attendance, including speaker Adam Brown, Keizer City Manager and Council liaisons Laura Reid and Kyle Juran.

Call to Order: Rhonda called the meeting order at 7 p.m. Introductions were made around the room

Minutes from Jan. – Robb Witters moved approval; Art Mauer seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Report, Rhonda Rich – She reported expenditures of \$289.07 for brochures, \$141.97 for printing newsletter 3x a year, website fee of \$195.04 for a total of \$626.06 from the \$800 budget.

Special recognition -- Rhonda introduced former WKNA President Carol Doerfler, back at a meeting for the 1st time since an illness. The attendees recognized Carol for her service and Rhonda presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Guest speakers

Rhonda introduced **Eric Bandonis, Marion Co. Sheriff's Deputy** in the Parole and Probation division, stationed at Keizer Police Department. He brought a message from Keizer Police about the rising problem of graffiti in Keizer. Anyone noticing graffiti in Keizer is asked to report it by going to <https://www.keizer.org/ReportGraffiti> and filling out the form. Please include pictures if possible.

Deputy Bandonis said his parole and probation case load remains steady at 48 clients. The average for parole/probation deputies in Marion Co. is 61, He said the department's programs to help clients find work, counseling or other assistance are working to reduce recidivism.

Rhonda introduced **Adam Brown, Keizer City Manager**, for an update on city business. He said plans are proceeding for installation of two turf sports fields at Keizer Rapids Park. These are to be installed on the north side between Walsh Way and the park's eastern boundary. Because field lighting can be a concern for nearby residents, he said they are working to keep light pollution to a minimum by using LED lights. With a 300-foot buffer between the fields and houses east of the park, they feel the light will not bleed into the neighborhood.

Within a few weeks, the city should know the project's current cost estimate and what other adjustments may have to be made to bring the budget in line with revenues. A softball field already has been eliminated to cut costs. The project, as it stands now, will accommodate football, soccer, lacrosse and rugby.

He said a stakeholder group, which included representatives of WKNA, has been helpful in shaping the project and another meeting may yet be scheduled. Parking is a major component, with WKNA advocating for adequate parking in order to lessen the impact on adjacent neighborhoods. The plan so far has 200 parking spaces, with a direct entrance and separate exit right onto Chemawa Road. No concession stand will be part of the initial construction, but Mr. Brown said it does include infrastructure for one in the future. Two pads for food trucks will be built, as well as a small bleacher section. Fencing for the entire field complex is included.

Mr. Brown said the city is working to add security cameras on all its properties, and that would include the fields. He said the focus will be on exits, in order to get photos of license plates of potential vandalism perpetrators.

He expects the project to go to bid by late April or early May, with construction complete by this fall. With the turf field addition in the north section of KRP, he said Keizer Fest will move to the south field area in the middle of the circular path by the river.

On other issues, he noted recent traffic issues that have arisen around ongoing construction at Lockhaven and Windsor Island Road. He said they're working with the contractor for better communication. He said Keizer Police have been working to deter shoplifting and he is pleased with the work they're doing in outreach to merchants.

The City begins its budgeting process this month, starting Feb. 27 with Council's strategic planning meeting. Budget meetings start mid-March and the process should wrap up by June. He foresees a tough year because of inflation. He said there will be opportunities, at least on line, for public input.

Mr. Brown will have been with the City for a year April 25. He came to Keizer from Ontario, Ore., and also has worked in Michigan and the Washington, D.C./Virginia area.

REPORTS

City Council Liaison report – Councilor Reid said the Community Diversity Engagement Committee is refocusing its efforts and is working with a consultant. The committee, along with Councilors Reid and Kohler, is leading up plans for celebrating Keizer's 40th anniversary. There is a website now and they're working to get the word out about the June 16-18 event. They plan a "family dance" kickoff on that Friday, with lots of musical group performances and family-friendly activities throughout the weekend. It will be at Keizer Civic Center and Chalmers Jones Park.

She also alerted everyone to the current art exhibit at City Hall that features works by Art Madrid. He is an employee of the city's Public Works Department. Rhonda asked about the "Name the Cow" contest being coordinated by Keizer Arts Commission. The public is asked to submit names for the "Dancing Cows" to be displayed at the traffic roundabout at Chemawa and Verda Lane. Councilor Reid said the cows will be dedicated as part of the city's anniversary celebration.

Councilor Juran that the Planning Commission should have a lot going on this year because of the Governor's focus on housing. City Council this week voted to endorse a bill before the Legislature that would fund a study of extending the Westside Express Train from Wilsonville through Woodburn to Keizer. Council also endorsed a bill that would expand the ability to use photo radar monitoring to all cities in Oregon. Only 10 have that permission now.

Food barrels – December collections totaled 206 pounds and January brought 114. WKNA sponsors barrels at Bi Mart, Copper Creek and now has a new one in the reception area at Keizer Fire District.

WKNA Board Committee assignments -- Rhonda made note of assignments listed on the night's agenda. The WKNA Board does not have committees but has various Board members assigned to attend the various City committees to track developments of interest. Members are tracking Parks, Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian and Planning/Land Use. In addition, Board members are attending Keizer United and Keizer Library Board meetings.

Parks – Carolyn reported that Salem Electric has erected a new, metal osprey nest pole at Palma Ciega Park. The old wooden pole had serious rot, so it and the nest had to be removed. Officials there are confident the osprey will rebuild this spring.

Traffic – Robb said the committee is rewriting the city’s Neighborhood Traffic Management plan in the hopes of making it easier for Neighborhood Associations and individuals to use. A citywide speed study is under way as well, which may bring changes in neighborhood speed limits.

Planning – Robb said Commission member Matt Lawyer has asked for more public attendance and input as the commission tackles upcoming issues of importance throughout the city.

Keizer United -- WKNA is attending these meetings periodically. The group brings organizations and individuals together in a networking effort.

Little Library -- Kris said the library needs kids’ books and paperbacks. But it’s going well.

Keizer Community Library – Kris said the Board is moving ahead and rebounding from the defeat of the funding measure last fall. An adult literacy program is under way and a genealogy class is planned along with a “fix it” day – people can bring in small appliances and experts will be available to repair them. A chess club for kids is in the works and they may also bring in a Master Gardener for a program. She said they need more volunteers in order to be open more hours. People can apply on line or in person.

Cummings School – Rhonda attended the recent PTA meeting. The school raised \$25,000 through its Jogathon and after-school snacks are being provided and a water bottle filling station is being installed. They also plan a field trip to the Willamette Valley Symphony. A ready for preschool effort is planned. WKNA hopes to be included in their school newsletter as a way to increase outreach. Carol said she plans to replant the big pots this spring, along with the Reader Board planter. She reminded attendees that accept donations of pansies for the Reader Board (Egan Gardens has a free pansy coupon every spring).

Speaker suggestions -- Rhonda asked anyone with a suggestion to let her know. We are always looking for informative guest speakers.

March joint meeting -- The March 9 WKNA General meeting will be held jointly with the other four Keizer Neighborhood Associations at the Civic Center. Guest speaker is Mayor Cathy Clark with her State of the City address. Doors open at 6:30.

Next meetings:

Feb. 13 – Keizer United, noon at The Rec, 2500 River Road N

Feb. 14 – Parks Advisory Board

Feb. 16 -- Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee

March 8 – Planning Commission

Go to www.westkeizerna.org or Facebook for current information

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.