

WKNA Board Meeting

April 3, 2014

Rhonda Rich's home

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Homan, secretary

Attending: Rhonda Rich, President

Carol Doerfler, Vice President and Neighborhood Watch coordinator

Carolyn Homan, Secretary

Ron Freeman

Art Mauer

Clint Holland

Absent: Gary Blake

Rhonda called the meeting called to order at 6:50 p.m.

Approval of minutes -- Board reviewed minutes from the March meeting. Carol moved approval and Ron seconded. Minutes were approved.

Budget for 2013-14 -- Rhonda reported expenditures of \$454.67 from 2013-14's \$500 budget but added that she still needs to buy a ream of paper for use by the Chamber (\$28) and Ron is due \$16 or \$17 for the printing and shipping of 250 business cards for the WKNA Board's use. That will bring total expenditures to just under the budgeted amount.

The budget request for another \$500 for 2014-15 has been turned in to the City, she said, and budget hearings start May 6. Public testimony will be presented at the beginning of the meeting. She hasn't heard of any budget constraints so far so she doesn't anticipate any issues around approval of WKNA's budget request.

Rhonda reported that she plans to attend the Gubser neighborhood meeting Thursday, April 17, to hear a speaker from Portland representing the group honored as the best neighborhood association in Portland.

Getting the word out -- Rhonda noted that Clint had donated two reams of printer paper for her use on WKNA items.

There was nothing new to report from Carol or Carolyn regarding contacts with Keizertimes, K23, the Chamber, KYKN or the SJ. Rhonda said she would get information on the WKNA general meeting to Davis for posting on the website.

As for updating WKNA's Facebook page, Rhonda said she had emailed Rachel Blake about handling this but had gotten no response. Carol said she is willing to update the WKNA Facebook page if she can get someone to explain the process to her. She said the site now has 61 "Likes." Later, it was suggested that West Keizer resident Barb Henke might be a good source of computer-related assistance.

Yard signs -- Art said we may need more signs at some point but that the stock is OK for now. **(I wasn't sure about this -- my notes here are sketchy. Sorry!)**

Adopt-A-Street: Sixteen people showed up for the March 15 clean-up day. Ron said the signs notifying drivers that work crews are out need to be in place before the work starts. Gary was late getting the west-end sign out this time. Ron also noted that there were not enough safety vests for all workers. **Rhonda (?)** will bring this to the city's attention because it was agreed that all workers should have a safety vest. She also noted that the city needs to be reminded that it needs to post a second sign, per its contract, noting that WKNA is the Adopt-A-Street partner for the section of Chemawa Road west of River Road. There is one sign at the east end near the intersection with River Road but a second sign is needed near Keizer Rapids Park. The clean-up work took about 1 ½ hours.

Rhonda took some of the new WKNA business cards to have for future work days. She wants to have Gary's cell number available to workers in case there is a need to contact someone for a ride back to their car or some other necessity.

Medical Marijuana Task Force -- Art reported that the group held its first meeting March 19 and went over the law and what other jurisdictions are doing with regard to marijuana dispensaries. Marion County, for instance, doesn't

want to proceed because officials feel the law goes against the current federal stance on marijuana as a controlled substance. In contrast, Salem has several dispensaries.

The Keizer task force went over the general parameters of the law in terms of placement of facilities and other issues. Basically, facilities have to be in a business zone, can't be in a house and regulations state how close one can be to a school or park. The group will meet again April 22 and then the 29th and will be accepting testimony.

He said they either must make a decision by May 1 or seek a one-year extension. General policies have to be set up by April 1, 2015, however.

Parks report – Clint said installation of sprinklers in Sunset Park should be completed by the end of April or early May. Rhonda again requested picnic tables for the park. Clint said that he had solicited \$3,000 from Keizer Rotary for tables, which has to be matched by the Parks Foundation. Clint said he asked for 1 table for Sunset and 1 for the Little League park. Because the existing table at Sunset is old, he said he would remove that one and seek 2 new ones.

Rhonda said she would send out a notice to the neighborhood for volunteers to help with the irrigation project. Clint said it can be done in a day with enough help. He said he has grass seed and will grass the park from the street side in.

Clint updated the group on a matching grant program the Parks Advisory Board has included in the city's budget proposal. The advisory board reviewed the budget at a recent meeting and came up with \$30,000 in savings that can be used for matching grants for park projects that citizens bring forward. Groups can match funding with volunteer time. The budget still requires City Council approval, however.

Cummings Elementary School and sidewalks on Delight St. -- Rhonda said Bill Lawyer will be at the April 10 WKNA meeting and Councilor Cathy Clark also plans to attend to be part of the discussion of the possibility of getting sidewalks on Delight Street to accommodate elementary kids on the way to Cummings and older students headed north to McNary High. She noted the attendance of Sherri Tosi at the March general WKNA meeting. She is president of the Cummings PTC and is very interested in getting sidewalks, having noted the increase in traffic on Juedes Avenue now that the main entrance to the school is on the east side. Rhonda said she looks forward to getting the discussion going. Depending on the April 10 discussion, she plans to testify on the issue at the April 24 meeting of the Traffic, Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee.

Ron asked about the possibility of asking Bill Lawyer to place one of the city's flashing solar speed limit signs on Chemawa Road as people are leaving Keizer Rapids Park. He said traffic flies down that section of road, creating a safety issue. Clint asked whether speed bumps have been put in yet on Walsh Way. Rhonda said the city hasn't done this as yet. She will bring up both issues at the next general meeting.

Keizer Rapids Playstructure report – Rhonda reported that at the last Community Build planning meeting, she presented the WNA Board's list of advantages and disadvantages of Site B and of the proposed Chemawa site (Site C) for the Community Build playstructure. She also noted that the WKNA Board still supports Site B for the project. The siting issue is still in flux, as well as the actual design. It was noted that some proposals that expand the design may make it too large for Site B and, if so, Rhonda urged the Community Build planners to keep the structure in the park's "midway" area where it would be close to the caretaker's house and be easier to monitor.

Ron said the Community Build group also talked about fine tuning the project, fundraising and how to recognize donors, large and small. The city has increased its funding to \$150,000 so the Community Build group can apply for a matching amount from a state grant program. Rhonda shared a letter of support she wrote for the grant application.

Carol asked why no informational updates on the Big Toy have been posted in the city's elementary schools, since children were instrumental in the project's planning. Ron said the committee is working on it but it's been held up by changes to the schematic. A representative will be attending PTC meetings with updates. One design issue is a possible "volcano" that will serve as a slide. The feature could be sponsored by the Volcanoes baseball team.

Public Hearing – Planning Commission – 6 p.m. April 9 – UGB Amendment/Comprehensive Plan Change/Zone Change/Annexation Case No. 2014-05. Rhonda said WKNA is looking for assurances that the parcel in question – basically the bulk of the filbert orchard and the KRP parcel south of that – will be protected from development and kept for park use. Rhonda, Carol, Art and Carolyn met Tuesday, April 1, with Nate Brown about it. He said there was no way to forever bind a future council to a "no development" clause but the orchard land was purchased with urban renewal money, so that offers some protection. The trees themselves aren't a factor because they aren't considered "significant" trees that require replacement upon removal. Nate also said that the need for more park land

as the city grows is another protection. If this land were to be opened for development, replacement park land would have to be found somewhere. The issue of master planning the new area was brought up. It is hoped that extending the neighborhood "buffer zone" on the east edge of the parcel will be part of any new master plan. Rhonda said she was planning to attend the April 9 hearing and will testify again regarding WKNA concerns.

On another matter, Clint noted that he had received a notice from the city of a meeting April 8 about planned improvements to Shoreline Drive. Rhonda said she would get a notice out to the WKNA list if he would send her the information.

Upcoming meetings -- The next general meeting is 7 p.m. April 10, probably at the Heritage Center. Another group has been given the usual WKNA meeting room in the Civic Center that evening and an alternate site is in the works. Rhonda said she had again invited Christine Dieker, from the Chamber, to update the group on the Iris Festival activities, including the fun run. Nate Brown is invited to talk about the Keizer Rapids Park UGB expansion and other development topics and Bill Lawyer has been asked to give an update on Public Works projects. Rob Johnson, the parks director (**that his title? Tried looking it up but couldn't find a "staff" listing on line**), will be out of town and can't participate. Ron said he will miss the meeting but will ask another Community Build representative to give a playstructure update.

For the May 8 meeting, Carol reported that a panel of speakers has been lined up to present information on the Keizer Community Garden and the Keizer Community Food Bank. Mary Jo Emmett will represent the community garden and Rev. Curt McCormack, food bank director, will talk about that program. Also on the panel will be Ian Dixon-McDonald, Community Gardens program manager at Marion Polk Food Share, the regional food bank that helps sponsor community gardens throughout the area. The Keizer food bank is part of Food Share's area network of local food box outlets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.