

2021 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION REPORT for the WEST KEIZER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2021

January Board and General meetings canceled due to Covid. WKNA submits Resolution to City to cancel annual Board elections until the Covid restrictions allow for a General membership meeting.

FEBRUARY 2021

February Board and General meetings canceled due to Covid.

Feb. 19 – WKNA Board meets via Zoom with MIG consultants, who are working with the City to update Keizer’s Parks Master Plan. Focus was put on maintaining what we have and making it better; adding amenities at Keizer Rapids Amphitheater (bathroom, etc.); a covered picnic area at KRP; picnic areas at other parks and new or upgraded play structures at other parks. Palma Ciega got special support as a natural area and needed green space, with perhaps a bench on the bluff as a birding and viewing area. Carol Doerfler, Rhonda Rich and Gary Blake attended a Feb. 25 meeting of the Parks Board with the MIG consultant. Carol had submitted a letter listing some of WKNA’s priorities. MIG shared a slide presentation and the WKNA feedback was featured.

Within the next week, Carol Doerfler, Dennis Phipps and Gary Blake met with Parks Board member Matthew Poteet at Palma Ciega to survey possibilities. Carol said green spaces need to be preserved and that Palma Ciega might be a candidate as a “pocket park” for the surrounding area.

MARCH 2021

March 4 – WKNA Board meets at Keizer Civic Center. It was agreed to restart General meetings in person in April. Board meetings can’t continue at City Hall (conflict with Southeast Keizer Neighborhood meetings, which are held the first Thursday at Civic Center lobby.) It was decided to piggyback Board meetings right before the WKNA General meeting so City staff only have to clean the facility once. The annual spring cleanup of Cummings School grounds was moved to fall. In lieu of group clean-ups. Carol Phipps has adopted Cummings landscaping as a project and has replanted the Reader Board and flower pots at the entrances and done other weeding.

Board decides to produce a neighborhood newsletter to be distributed quarterly via email.

March 15 – Volunteer of the Quarter award presented at City Council meeting to Keizer Community Food Bank and Dennis Phipps, WKNA volunteer who picks up food donations from WKNA-sponsored food barrels at Copper Creek Mercantile and Bi Mart.

APRIL 2021

April 8 – WKNA Board hears from Steve Wolf, member of Keizer’s Transportation Safety Bikeways

Pedestrian Committee about the committee's work to assess sidewalk connectivity in Keizer. He said the city plans to update its Transportation Safety Plan soon and neighborhood input will be important. He invited input on sidewalks or other transportation-related issues. Carol D. said the Board would take the matter to the general membership but noted that Dearborn and Cummings are both in need of sidewalks up to River Road,

April 8 – WKNA hold first in-person General meeting of 2021. Mayor Cathy Clark shares her “State of the City” address.

WKNA Board elections are held: Carol Doerfler, President; Carol Phipps, Vice President; Carolyn Homan, Secretary. Five people were nominated for the four Board positions: Gary Blake, Art Mauer, Rhonda Rich, Robb Witters and Kris Adams. Elected to the Board were Gary Blake, Art Mauer, Rhonda Rich and Robb Witters.

April 12 – Annual Parks Board/Council Parks tour includes Willamette Manor and Wallace House parks. WKNA Board members attend at both those parks to discuss needed improvements.

April 19 – Carol D. presents WKNA's 2020 annual report to City Council

MAY 2021

May 13 -- WKNA Board discusses schedule for newsletter and sets goal to have first issue out in August as a lead-in to fall meetings.

WKNA General meeting hears from Shane Witham, director of the Keizer Planning Department. He discussed the City's long-range planning work, specifically around the Urban Growth Boundary. Transportation and land supply for jobs and housing are among the top issues.

Traffic issues are raised at the General meeting as a topic to be tracked in the coming year. Also on the radar is alerting members to any opportunities for public input on selection of a new city manager, which is in process by the City.

JULY 2021

July 26 – Board members meet with Hersch Sangster about the Monster Cookie bike ride scheduled for Aug. 29. The route this year leaves from Keizer Rapids Park and proceeds through a portion of West Keizer. Carol D. and Carolyn volunteer to help direct bike riders at the intersections of Rafael and Shoreline and Shoreline and Dearborn. WKNA will put registration forms for the ride in its brochure boxes.

AUGUST 2021

Aug. 5 – WKNA Board holds a special meeting and discusses potential speakers for 2021-22 General meetings. Traffic safety will be highlighted. Board also discussed distribution and content of upcoming newsletter.

Aug. 15 – Inaugural WKNA newsletter is emailed to residents and distributed in WKNA brochure boxes around the neighborhood.

Aug. 29 – Monster Cookie Ride is held. WKNA volunteers help direct bike riders at key West Keizer intersections included on the route from Keizer Rapids Park out of town.

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sept. 2 – WKNA Board hears from Keizer Parks Advisory Board member Matt Lawyer and Marion County Commissioner Colm Willis about a plan for a soccer field at Keizer Rapids Park to accommodate a local soccer program that is in need of a turf field. The field has to be included in the new Keizer Parks Master Plan if it is to be built in the next few years. Commissioner Willis sought WKNA's endorsement because of the association's active participation in providing input for the Master Plan. Board agrees to endorse with provisos that the need for more parking at KRP is addressed, that WKNA is kept informed and involved throughout the process and is told of any changes made to the plan presented tonight.

Sept. 9 – WKNA General meeting hears from Interim Keizer City Manager Wes Hare and new Cummings Elementary Principal Andrew Kronser.

Carol D. introduces traffic safety as a key issue for WKNA during the coming year with plans to launch an awareness campaign in early 2022. Concerns about speeding through neighborhoods, red-light running and excessively noisy cars have been voiced by neighbors. WKNA Board members have attended the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian committee to share these concerns and will continue to do so.

Carol also reported on the WKNA Board's meeting with Matt Lawyer from the Parks Advisory Board and Marion Co. Commissioner Colm Willis regarding a plan to install a soccer field at Keizer Rapids Park. She added that WKNA is opposing the suggestion from parks master plan consultants that the city divest itself of Palma Ciega Park. WKNA sees Palma Ciega as a valuable "natural" area with potential river-viewing access for neighbors.

OCTOBER 2021

Oct. 14 – WKNA Board schedules next newsletter edition for early December. Concerns are raised that parks master plan consultants are still proposing City divest itself of Palma Ciega Park. Plans are made to prepare a written statement of support for the park.

Board brainstorms ways to get the word out about the Parks Master Plan to Tate Ave. neighbors who will be impacted by plans for KRP. Also needed is a plan to notify neighbors on high-traffic streets about the upcoming push to raise awareness of traffic issues.

Oct. 14 – General meeting hears from Marion Co. Assessor Tom Rohlfing about property taxes, market valuations, special taxing districts and other issues. Marion Co. Parole and Probation Officer Eric Bandonis also presents his quarterly update.

Oct. 21 – Carol D. and Carolyn attend Traffic Safety Bikeways Committee meeting to raise concerns about speeding in neighborhoods, as well as red-light runners and noisy vehicles.

NOVEMBER 2021

Nov. 4 – Board meets and makes plans to attend Park Advisory Board meeting Nov. 9 to advocate for retention of Palma Ciega Park as part of the city's Parks Master Plan update. Board divided up meeting notices for delivery to neighbors along 15th St. and Tate Ave. to alert them to changes at Keizer Rapids included in the Master Plan that could impact their neighborhood.

Nov. 9 – Board members attend the Parks Advisory Board to advocate for retention of Palma Ciega Park. Rhonda Rich makes a presentation on behalf of the WKNA Board.

Nov. 11 – WKNA General meeting guest speaker is Matt Lawyer, Parks Advisory Board member, to report on that Board's final review of the Parks Master Plan update. At Keizer Rapids Park, the plan now includes two multi-use sports fields on the north end, a new parking area and an Adventure Course for public and McNary High cadet use. The Parks Board also endorsed retention of Palma Ciega Park. The plan as amended goes to City Council for final approval. Another issue is addition of an inclusive play structure at Wallace House Park to accommodate children with special needs. Matt said that idea will be put before the Council at its Nov. 29 work session.

Tate Ave. residents voice concerns about more cars inundating the neighborhood to attend soccer or other competitions on the new fields at KRP. Mr. Lawyer and Mayor Clark (also in attendance) note the new parking area that should help relieve parking issues.

DECEMBER 2020

Dec. 2 – Board meets to strategize the upcoming "traffic blitz" in 2022. Members will distribute informational notices to neighbors on high-traffic streets in West Keizer, including Rafael, Shoreline, Sunset, Delight, Manbrin, Dearborn, 5th, 15th and Cummings. Carol D. to post information on Nextdoor and Facebook. Traffic Safety Bikeways Committee Chair Mike De Blasi will be invited to the traffic blitz meeting Jan. 13.

Carol D. will invite Kris Adams to represent WKNA on the Keizer Library Board at the request of Bill Leach, that board's new president. Kris will then liaison to WKNA on library issues.

JANUARY 2021

Jan. 8-9 – WKNA Board members distribute informational notices to neighbors on high-traffic streets to alert them to the traffic blitz meeting on Jan. 13.

Jan. 13 – WKNA Board meets. Plans made for next quarterly newsletter to come out in early March. Gary Blake reports that a neighbor of his on Cummings is willing to volunteer time and equipment to arrange a work party or neighbors at Palma Ciega Park. Gary will coordinate with Parks Manager Robert Johnson on the effort to clean up leaves and debris that are blocking people from walking in the park.

The Board coordinates the process for election of officers to be held at the General meeting.

Jan. 13 – About 20 people attend the General meeting to offer comments about traffic safety in Keizer. Among comments are calls for red-light cameras; more signage, including adding stop signs on streets like Shoreline to help slow speeders; lowered speed limits; the possibility of speed bumps or speed tables. An education campaign to target pedestrians and bikers as well as drivers was suggested. Comments were recorded and will be shared with Keizer Police Chief Teague, who will be the February General meeting speaker to address the issues raised.

It's reported that the WKNA-sponsored food collection barrels have raised 4,621 pounds of food; \$1,111 in cash donations and 80 pounds of dog food, as well as several toys during 2021. All donations benefit the Keizer Community Food Bank.

Election of officers is held: Carol Doerfler, President; Rhonda Rich, Vice President; Carolyn Homan, Secretary. Other Board members are: Carol Phipps, Gary Blake, Art Mauer, Robb Witters.

Submitted March 21, 2022

Rhonda Rich, WKNA Vice President

Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary