

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2018

Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – President Carol Doerfler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed about 17 attendees. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Minutes for March 8, 2018 – Carol called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 8 meeting, as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Kim Freeman moved to approve and Dennis Phipps seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2017-18 – Rhonda reported annual spending will total about \$496, including \$260 for printing more WINA flyers through a good deal with Pronto Signs.

Budget for 2018-19 – Rhonda said the Board will attend the first city budget hearing at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 3. WKNA will again ask for \$500 for the year.

Guest Speaker: Carol introduced guest speakers Dylan Juran, to talk about a community Internet project; and Martina Mangan, principal at Cummings Elementary School, and Karma Krause, Communications Director with Salem-Keizer School District, to talk about the upcoming school bond measure vote.

Internet Project – Dylan said he and another fellow are working to get information out on possibilities for a community Internet project in the wake of the potential end to Net Neutrality. Most meeting attendees indicated they had heard of Net Neutrality. The level of understanding was less unanimous. He explained that the basic principle is that information on the Internet should be treated equally and that providers such as Comcast don't get to decide the speed of delivery, depending on what the information is. An analogy would be your water utility deciding that water for cooking should be delivered differently than water for a shower. It's important because Comcast could decide Fox or CNN is anti-competitive and could slow down their delivery. The end of net neutrality could result in some censorship, such as places like Brazil and Egypt where they are not net neutral. It's important to retain neutrality to limit restrictions.

The Federal Communications Commission changed the rules last year, but Oregon Gov. Kate Brown just signed a law saying that anyone contracting with the state has to be net neutral. The constitutionality of the law may be challenged, however.

As a community, there are things that can be done to keep the Internet open for us. Oregon is trying to do that with the new law. In effect, Keizer could have a "utility" to not restrict certain parts of Internet operations. It would be a big upfront cost to build the network but cheaper in the long run. The community also could push for a return to net neutrality by passing a new law, That would allow for greater speeds. Comcast governs that now. There would be more options through local regulations.

He said the idea is in the very early stages. More information is available at the website: www.Keizerinternet.com and also on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Keizerinternet](https://www.facebook.com/Keizerinternet). The information includes a TED talk on how it works.

School Bond Measure – Karma Krause provided a handout with the three-year process undertaken by the district that resulted in the proposed \$619.7 million bond measure for school construction, renovations and expansions to address crowding and safety. A facilities task force reviewed the district's long range facilities plan and made recommendations to the school board on work included and how to fund the work. The plan looked at needs seen for every district-owned facility.

The Board also conducted a poll of citizens regarding priorities identified and their interest in supporting improvements with a proposed tax. The poll found the community very supportive. Also, the needs lined up with what the community identified. They also found that the original \$766 million estimate was too high.

The task force revised the package, resulting in the \$619.7 million figure, which will cost \$1.24/\$1,000 valuation, if passed.

The bulk of the package, \$442 million, is earmarked to add space, to address crowding and prepare for enrollment growth, adding or expanding career-technical education spaces; adding or expanding general education classrooms, science labs, special education classrooms; renovating or expanding libraries, gyms and cafeterias; expanding 4 high schools to 2,200 student capacity and one to 2,100 capacity; and adding space for music programs.

Seismic renovations come in at \$67 million; safety and security at \$21.1 million; technology and Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades at \$12.7 million; and improvements to existing buildings at \$76.6 million.

Martina explained the effects for Cummings Elementary should the measure pass. She provided an aerial view map of Cummings that points out the lack of sidewalks around the school, which is an ongoing safety issue. The school is tight on space and will be adding staff as it becomes a Title 1 school in the fall. They need a cool-down room for traumatized students. The SMART volunteers need space to work with students on reading. The portable classroom is in poor condition and can't be used as a classroom so replacement is included in the ballot measure.

She said she hopes people understand what is best for the students. School staff can't make voting recommendations but she asked everyone to look at the children as the future and do what seems best for them.

Carol asked why the maps indicating the planned sidewalk on the east side of Cummings along Dearborn only extends as far as Evans, where there is a gap in the fence. Karma said she didn't know but would ask and email Carol the information.

Karma said each high school is to get two vocational spaces, such as auto shop or wood shop, and upgraded science labs. McNary is slated for 14 additional classrooms. Middle schools will be able to offer a full year of science education if the measure passes. Now they can only offer half year.

She also distributed fact sheets detailing improvements scheduled for Keizer-area schools, including Cummings, Whitaker, Claggett Creek and McNary. Information is available at www.bondinfo.salemkeizer.org

If the measure passes, tax increase will take effect in late 2018 or early 2019. Karma said construction will be undertaken first because of continually increasing costs.

In answer to questions, they said the task force did assess whether there are schools that are underutilized and found that any underuse isn't enough space to address the current situation and keep up with enrollment growth. Building another high school with capacity for 2,200 at a cost of \$250 million would not really address the projected growth or address the needs are current schools. A new school eventually will be needed but the task force found the bond measure to be a more fiscally prudent way to address the current issues.

Another question dealt with teacher-student ratios. The bond measure won't help that. State school funding addresses teachers and staffing. The bond measure deals with capital projects. The measure will help teachers by providing additional space so that they don't have to share classrooms, etc.

Martina and Karma urged everyone to vote on May 15.

Reports:

City Council – Kim Freeman

The council's budget sessions are set for May 1, 3 and the 10th, if necessary. The sessions are open to the

public and are televised. The Greater Gubser Neighborhood Association meeting is April 19. On the 22nd, Earth Day, the Claggett Creek Watershed Council is sponsoring an event from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Keizer Rapids Park. The Iris Fest will be held the third weekend in May. She said there will be no marathon this year, only a half marathon and 5K run on Saturday, May 19.

She said she has heard nothing yet on the proposed ban on smoking in city parks, which was recommended to Council by the Parks Advisory Board.

Parks –

- 1) Burning of hazelnut trees at Keizer Rapids – Carol said staff is looking to the end of April or early May to burn debris created by removal of the hazelnut orchard. Burning depends on weather and ag burning regulations will be followed to help prevent smoke intrusion into adjacent neighborhoods.
- 2) Willamette Manor tennis courts – WKNA Board member Dennis Phipps said problems remain with the 2016 repair job and asked Dylan to check on it. Dylan is liaison from the Parks Advisory Board to Willamette Manor park.
- 3) Cummings School – Carol attended a recent PTC meeting to talk about beautification work at the school. They are working with Kohl's as a business partner and said that they can line up employees to help with future landscaping work planned by WKNA. The association Board will set an August date at its next meeting to do more weeding, application of bark dust, planting, etc. Rhonda is working on a donation of bark dust from Hiway Fuel.
- 4) Keizer Revitalization Plan – Carolyn and Kris reported on citizen input sessions they attended. Traffic and pedestrian safety on River Road came up at both sessions. Business owners provided a lot of input. Future public listening sessions are planned.

Mark your calendar:

April 28 – Diabuddies 5K and 10K run walk from Keizer Rapids Park through the West Keizer neighborhoods

April 29 – Monster Cookie Ride through the neighborhood.

May 3 – 6 p.m. WKNA attending budget hearing; May Board meeting to follow at Keizer City Hall

May 10 – WKNA General Meeting, 7 p.m. Allan Edinger to share information on his work with inmates

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.