

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2015

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – President Rhonda Rich called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center, and invited anyone who hadn't to sign in and welcomed the approximately 15 people attending. She noted that this meeting is different in that pizza, beverages and cookies have been provided and there is no scheduled speaker. The goal is to solicit ideas for programs for the coming year in order to address topics of interest to WKNA residents.

Introductions were made around the room, including two guests: Portland State University student and Keizer resident Mariah Cunningham and her mother Lynda Cunningham. Mariah attended in relation to a Community Development project she's working on for school.

Approval of Jan. 8, 2015, general meeting minutes – Rhonda asked for approval of the minutes of the last general meeting. Ron Freeman moved approval and Clint Holland seconded. Minutes were approved.

Budget for 2014-15 – Rhonda reported that \$210.63 has been spent so far from the \$900 budget, mainly for printing and website fee, leaving a \$689 balance. She said she hoped to hold a brief board meeting following the general meeting to consider printing of more brochures for the association. She noted that anyone is welcome to stay for that meeting.

Thank you to former Board member Gary Blake – Rhonda noted that Gary served from 2008 through 2014, including a term as vice president in 2010. Among his accomplishments were the Iris Parade boat float; acquiring supplies and carving of the Palma Ciega neighborhood signs; neighborhood watch participation; representation of WKNA on the fire department's citizen task force; and organizing the Adopt-A-Street program for Chemawa Road. She presented Gary with a certificate to recognize his service. He expressed his appreciation and said that he looks forward to continuing to be connected to the group.

Gary Blake, Davis Dyer and Art Mauer will continue to be the WKNA representatives to the Keizer Fire Dept. at a Citizen's Advisory meeting with Chief Cowan on Thursday, February 26th. They will report back at the next WKNA general meeting in March.

WKNA Board vacancy – Rhonda noted that the association still has a Board vacancy and urged anyone interested to let her know or if you know of anyone who might be interested. Councilor Kim Freeman said she had made an announcement at the January city council meeting and would do so again at the Feb. 17 council meeting.

West Keizer Parks Reports

- **Update on the Keizer Rapids Park Community Build Play Structure:** Ron Freeman said he missed the last committee meeting but that volunteer signups are proceeding via the project website. There is a volunteer tab where people can see what help is needed and sign up to help. The public can also see the progress of the project as it heads toward the June build dates. He urged anyone who doesn't want to use the website but still wants to volunteer to contact him or Kim.

- **Update from Parks Board Member:**
 - Clint Holland said that they are working toward removal of a portion of the orchard trees so that the play structure construction can proceed. He said the step has been stalled because volunteers learned that they need a \$1,600 permit from the state before the work can be done. Also the state Department of Environmental Quality will not allow the removed trees to be burned. Volunteer Jerry Nutbrock, who will pull the trees, also plans to cut up the trees and has enlisted a church group who then will donate most of the wood to needy families for firewood.
 - Rhonda asked about Sunset Park and Clint noted that it will have to be reseeded. The area was seeded last summer after a sprinkler system was installed, but leaves piled up and choked out the grass seedlings last fall. He said that the city plans to put in some more picnic tables at the park, although some neighbors object because parking is limited to on-street only.
 - Clint noted that there has been talk of adding another Parks employee, which he supports, especially in light of the new amenities at KRP. He also said it's possible that a parks taxing district will be created to fund maintenance.
 - Also of note, a cougar sighting was reported this week at Wallace House Park. And resurfacing of the Willamette Manor tennis courts also is a possibility. Clint has asked Bill Lawyer about adding trees to the KRP dog park. Donors provided money for this that hasn't been used yet. Another need is additional granite for the dog park entry area and pathways to prevent these areas from getting too muddy.
 - Rhonda thanked Clint for all he does for the city's parks.

Planning for 2015 – Rhonda led a Review of Goals for 2015:

- **Adopt-a-Street** – Gary Blake will continue to organize cleanups. Another date needs to be set in February or March. Kim asked if it would be possible to calendar these ahead to help families schedule activities and also help WKNA get the word out – at least two dates so that people know in advance. Gary will work on this. Rhonda encouraged everyone in the meantime to pick up big items as they see them. Once trash starts to accumulate, it just encourages people to throw out more junk.
- **Support the Keizer Rapids Play Structure construction** – Ron said April or May would be a good time for a detailed update on the build progress and planning.

- **Audubon Society tour of KRP** – Carolyn said she would work to arrange this again with Audubon leaders to guide a birding walk at KRP in September. Kim suggested posting information on the kiosks at Keizer Rapids and Channel K23 as ways to get the word out about the bird walk.
- **River Road businesses** – Rhonda said she wants to restart the practice of inviting River Road businesses to come and present at meetings. She noted that Figaro’s Pizza helped with the pizza for the evening’s meeting.
- **Sidewalks on Delight St.** – Kathy Lincoln, who is on the Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee, said she wanted to coordinate with Bill Lawyer about how he plans to ask for the money for this project, or whether the school district might contribute. Rhonda would like the principal to come talk to a WKNA meeting about this project, but Cummings School’s PTC meets the same night as WKNA.
- **Little Libraries project** – Carol Doerfler, who could not be at tonight’s meeting, wants to pursue placing a couple of these neighborhood lending libraries in the West Keizer area. Rhonda would like to use them as a way to distribute WKNA brochures, amphitheater concert information, Big Toy updates and other items of interest. She said Mayor Cathy Clark, who also could not attend the meeting, is interested in having a project on literacy topics and this could be a related issue.

Other ideas

1. Financing of a proposed third bridge over the Willamette to West Salem: Kathy Lincoln asked about this, and rather than Cathy Clark, who is Keizer’s representative on area transportation issues and a supporter of the bridge, she suggested finding a speaker who might bring another point of view to the discussion.
2. Community Gardens update in April – Carol Doerfler is to work on this. A play structure update also could be on the April agenda.
3. Iris Fest update with Christine Dieker – This also would be appropriate in April
4. Urban Growth Boundary – An update on the process from Nate Brown.
5. Update on the RoundAbout planning for Verda Lane at Chemawa – May or June?
6. Presentation from the McNary High representative to city council – It was also suggested to invite the McNary staffer who works to get youth involved in the community.
7. Identity theft – Timely given the number of IRS, AARP and other scams occurring in the area. Kim suggested Diane Childs with the state government as a source on this.
8. How to landscape to attract birds and wildlife – Carolyn suggested inviting Jenny Meisel from Marion Soil and Water Conservation District to talk about desirable native plants to include in home landscaping and also invasives and other plants to avoid.

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Rhonda invited all to stay for a brief WKNA Board meeting to follow.

The next general meeting is 7 p.m. March 12 at Keizer Civic Center.