

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2014

submitted by Don Beckman

President Rhonda Rich called the meeting to order at 7:05pm at the Keizer Civic Center. She welcomed the approximately 25 people in attendance. Rhonda asked attendees to introduce themselves, including whether they were involved in any Keizer organizations. WKNA neighborhood attendees, Board members, and guests introduced themselves. Guests in attendance at the meeting were Keizer City Councilors Marlene Quinn, Cathy Clark and Kim Freeman (Cathy and Kim also live in the WKNA area), Keizer Fire Chief Jeff Cowan, Marion County Sheriff's Department Parole & Probation Officer Eric Bandonis, Linda Baker from Keizer Homegrown Theater, and Jerry Wade, Paul Pfnister, and Michael Dye from Keizer CERT (Community Emergency Response Team).

Rhonda asked people to review minutes from the January 9, 2014 WKNA General Meeting, copies of which had been emailed to members and which were also available at the door. Art Mauer moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Carol Doerfler, and the motion carried.

Rhonda informed attendees that \$500 had been budgeted by Keizer City Council for WKNA expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and thus far \$225 had been spent, most of it on the production of brochures, web expenses, and printing costs.

Rhonda introduced Eric Bandonis, the Keizer-area Parole & Probation Officer for the Marion County Sheriff's Office. Eric gave a brief presentation on behalf of Lt. Andrew Copeland of the Keizer Police Department, who could not attend the meeting. Eric passed along some important advice from the KPD, including an admonition to lock our cars to prevent car break-ins and lock our houses to prevent burglaries. Although Keizer is a safe community, we still need to take such precautions to keep down the crime level.

Eric also told us about his work in the Parole & Probation Division, describing some of the work he does with parolees in the community and some of the programs that have been set up to reduce recidivism. Average caseloads have decreased 4%, which is a good sign. He referred us to the marioncountyreentry.com web site to find out more about the Division.

Next, Linda Baker gave a presentation on Keizer Homegrown Theater. KHT has grown to staging three productions this year. She told us about upcoming productions and passed out flyers for the next play, called "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change". The play will be presented March 20, 21,22,27,27,28 &29 at 7pm at the Keizer Civic Center. She also sought to recruit members of the audience for roles in upcoming plays, lamenting that most KHT actors were currently coming from Salem. Jerry Wade, with Keizer CERT, introduced the other CERT members in attendance: Paul Pfnister, CERT President, and Michael Dye, a CERT instructor. He then introduced Jeff Cowan, Keizer Fire Chief, to talk about how the Keizer Fire Department works with CERT.

Jeff Cowan first urged everyone to come to the Fine Arts Auction on February 15th at McNary High School. He then talked about the KFD partnership with Keizer CERT, describing CERT's role as preparing for an emergency (for example, a flood, an earthquake, or some other natural disaster). The partnership

was all about emergency preparedness. In a disaster, CERT would keep people in a safe place, for example, while the KFD responds to emergencies. Jeff also talked about the recent snowstorm and some of the problems that arose. KFD had 63 calls in 93 hours, almost double the normal rate, including a major fire. Volunteers came in to supplement scheduled staff during the storm. Volunteers who had four-wheel-drive vehicles drove hospital staff to work, while other volunteers helped keep Marion-Polk Food Bank trucks in operation.

Jerry Wade then talked more about Keizer CERT, describing it as neighbors helping neighbors in an emergency. CERT holds community-preparedness events to help prepare people for an emergency. Keizer is divided into 19 CERT zones, with CERT leaders for each zone. Jerry described some of the ways that CERT helped during the storm, with one team going door-to-door contacting old people and helping them as needed, and another “commercial” team visiting assisted-living centers and doing things like helping with snow removal in the parking lots.

Paul Pfnister, the CERT President, also talked about CERT, which has been around since October, 2002. He described it as neighbors helping neighbors, also acting as a backup resource for emergency services such as police and fire services. One example was the trailer that CERT kept for communications in an emergency. CERT is a regional organization, and it can go wherever it is needed. Paul thanked Chief Cowan and the Keizer Fire Department for their support.

Next we heard from Michael Dye, a CERT trainer. CERT classes start on March 6th and last for 8 weeks, meeting on Thursday evenings. An individual must attend all classes in order to be certified, although missed classes can be made up during the next 8-week session in the fall. More information is available at keizercert.org. In each of the 19 CERT districts, neighbors learn about preparedness and about how to work with other neighbors during an emergency. CPR training is not part of the program. Michael described CERT as a bandage to help until Keizer Fire District can get to emergencies in each area. For example, CERT volunteers learn how to extinguish fires. During an earthquake, CERT volunteers could assess a patient’s situation and help route emergency services, which otherwise might not get to that patient for a while.

Next, Ron Freeman, the WKNA representative on the Keizer Rapids Park Play Structure Task Force introduced Keizer City Councilor Marlene Quinn, Task Force Chair, and Richard Walsh, Task Force Vice-Chair, who gave us an update on the status of the community-build play structure. Using a map of Keizer Rapids Park, they showed us the location for the play structure that the Task Force had proposed (just south of the amphitheater). When that location had been recommended to the Keizer City Council, however, the Mayor had favored a location just off Chemawa Road, east of the dog park. The Council directed city staff to also include the site next to the dog park, although it is not within the current Urban Growth Boundary and this would have to change before the play structure could be sited there. The Council plans to proceed with the play structure, regardless of which site is ultimately chosen. In the meantime, however, the community needs to raise approximately \$750,000 for the structure. The Task Force will be applying for grants for the project. Fundraisers are being planned to help raise much of this funding, including a Keizer Parks Foundation fundraiser (Pinot for the Parks), the sale of engraved fence pickets (\$35-50 each), and requests for the sponsorship of individual sections of the play structure by individuals or companies. What the project also needs is a number of laborers, however, including shifts of workers to assemble the structure, others to spread ground cover, and some people to help feed the workers. Individuals can volunteer to help, neighborhood associations can help staff shifts, and churches and other volunteer groups can also take part. When completed, it will be the largest play structure in Oregon. Rhonda announced that at its last meeting, the WKNA Board had committed to buy a fence

picket. Members were asked to contribute monies for this cause and \$40 was collected.

There was no New Business.

Right before the meeting ended, a drawing was held for two free tickets to Pinot for the Parks, the Keizer Parks Foundation fundraiser. Winners were Diane Johnson and Chief Jeff Cowan.

Rhonda reminded attendees of the March 6th WKNA Board meeting at her house (the public is welcome), the next WKNA general meeting on March 13th (Councilor Cathy Clark will talk about transportation topics), the Pinot for the Parks fundraiser on March 14th, and the WKNA Adopt-a-Street cleanup day on March 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.