

WKNA General meeting
Oct. 13 2022 7 p.m., Keizer Civic Center
Submitted by Carolyn Homan, Secretary

Call to Order: 7:05 p.m., President Rhonda Rich

Welcome – Rhonda welcomed 14 attendees, including guest speaker Andy Kronser, principal of Cummings Elementary School. The other scheduled speakers, City Manager Adam Brown and Marion Co. Parole and Probation officer Eric Bandonis, were unable to attend due to illness.

Minutes from Sept. 8, 2022 – Art Mauer moved approval as submitted; Gary Blake seconded. Motion carried.

Budget – Rhonda reported expenditures of \$431.04 spent so far from the \$800 budget for the July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, period. Expenses include \$289.07 for 1,000 brochures, thanks to an employee discount from FedEx Office; and \$141.97 for ink cartridges to print newsletters, etc. We have \$368,96 left to spend on renewing the website, for signs, etc.

Guest speaker Andy Kronser, Principal of Cummings Elementary – This is his ninth year as a principal, most recently at North Marion prior to coming to Cummings last year. He also has been at Sprague High School. He said he spent time this summer going through the school archives at Cummings, which was built in 1953 and is Keizer's oldest elementary school. The archives helped give him a sense of some of the Cummings traditions through the years.

The district in-service emphasized a "sense of belonging" as the educational system comes out of the pandemic years. To that end, he said they plan on some work days to bring the school community and the surrounding neighborhoods together. The September Playground Beautification Day included teachers, PTA members and neighbors. He said the School District also was very supportive, supplying bark dust and labor. School maintenance suffered during the pandemic, he said, and they want to bring the school back to better times.

A beginning of the year open house was another tradition they resumed this year. Another project is fixing up the "buddy bench," which is being done in partnership with the PTA. This year's jogathon continued a long-standing fundraising tradition. The fund goal was smashed with proceeds of \$11,000. The money will fund field trips, such as the kindergarten trip to a pumpkin patch. Next spring, he said they hope to have students help out at the community garden at John Knox Presbyterian Church located east of the school on Cummings Lane.

Other planned events are a family movie night and opening the doors to volunteers through efforts like SMART (Start Making A Reader Today.)

Vandalism is an ongoing concern and to help control that and provide safety for the children, the playground area gates are locked during the day and the play area is closed again at 8 p.m. The school has seen roof-climbing by teenagers, some tagging and other issues. Speeding, especially on Cummings, is another safety issue. He said he would welcome the planned speed table at Cummings and Delight to help slow traffic by the school.

He said he's excited for things to return to "normal." The school opens at 7:30 a.m. for free breakfast and the children are out at 2:20 p.m. As for staffing, he says he values his substitutes and has a good group to call on. He said they're fully staffed as far as the vital classified staff as well. Class sizes are reasonable – 3 kindergarten sections are at 23 students, plus a development section at 19. Four first grade sections are at 19 students. None of the higher grades are at 30 but some are close.

REPORTS

City Council liaison Laura Reid – She noted the Willamette River clean-up to be held Saturday at Keizer

Rapids Park and the Stewardship Volunteer Recognition event set Oct. 25 to honor those who helped out on Trashy Tuesdays this year. That cleanup effort runs May through September.

Turf Fields update, Carol Phipps – Carol, Rhonda and Carolyn attended the latest work group meeting which featured the proposed drawings for the project. They helped prioritize the various elements. The project proposes 2 fields side-by-side south of Chemawa Road and east of Walsh Way. The fields will have an entrance and exit off Chemawa right into an ample paved parking area. Lighting for parking and the fields was deemed a priority, along with the buffer of land between the fields and the houses to the east. Bleachers and a concession stand could be a future amenity, as well as a storage area for field equipment. The plans include bathrooms, but these too can be held off as long as porta potties are provided. The initial cost is estimated at \$10 million, thus the need to prioritize elements and look at a phased project.

Little Library, Carol – She is filling in for Kris during Kris's surgery and rehab. Volunteers are working in support of the Library's ballot measure to pass a \$2.50/month fee added to the City Services bill in support of the library becoming a Public Library.

Food barrels, Dennis -- Donations are still down but need is still high. The food bank served 54 families at its last distribution. August saw 71 pounds collected in the WKNA-sponsored barrels at Copper Creek and Bi-Mart; 31 pounds in Sept., plus \$40 cash.

Parks – Trashy Tuesday was held at Wallace House Park in September. On Sept. 12, the City Council's annual Parks Tour included a stop at Palma Ciega. The park has been cleaned up, has a new river viewing bench and an Eagle Scout is building a trail down to the river.

Traffic mitigation –City Council has OK'd a speed table on Cummings Lane at Delight, as requested by WKNA. Also approved were flashing speed limit signs for Shoreline. These are on order.

Candidate Forum -- All five Keizer Neighborhood Associations are sponsoring a Candidate Forum at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, at the Community Center. Candidates for Mayor, City Council, state House and Senate and Marion Co. Commission have been invited.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Upcoming meetings

Oct. 20 – 6 p.m. Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee, City Hall

Nov. 3 – WKNA Board meeting

Nov. 10 – WKNA General meeting. Topic: Public Works, Bill Lawyer

EVENTS

Oct. 15 – Great Willamette Cleanup at Keizer Rapids Park

Oct. 19 -- Candidate Forum, 6 p.m., Community Center