

## **WKNA General Meeting**

**May 9, 2024 7 p.m.**

**At Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Robb Witters, WKNA Vice President**

There were 17 people in attendance.

**Call to Order:** Rhonda called the meeting order at 7 p.m. Introductions were made. As a part of introductions Jeff Anderson, newly re-elected Salem Electric board president, shared that their customers average 5.4 minutes of downtime, compared to the national average of 200+ minutes annually.

**Minutes from April. 11, 2024** – Art Mauer moved approval; Robb Witters seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget Report, Rhonda** – She reported expenditures for the 2022-23 year totaled \$1196.68, with a remaining balance of \$3.32.

**Guest speakers** -- Rhonda introduced Chief Andrew Copeland from the **Keizer Police Department**. Chief Copeland began by sharing his personal history which led him to his current position. Chief Copeland was raised in Keizer, attended Western Oregon University, and began working for the KPD in 2002.

Chief Copeland discussed Blast Camp, which brings kids and law enforcement together for 3-4 days and occurs during the summer. The first Blast Camp was in 2014. He then spoke about National Night Out and said that the KPD will visit each neighborhood party that signs up ahead of time. Keizer PD is actively hiring three positions which were vacated through attrition. The Brothers Car Collection will be having a fundraiser to support the Shop with a Cop program.

Chief Copeland spoke about the major law enforcement issues facing Keizer, drugs, mental illness, homelessness, shoplifting, and graffiti. Car theft had been a major issue, but had not been as much of an issue since Covid.

Drugs – in 2023 there were 92 confirmed overdose deaths, 248 total deaths. Thirty deaths were related to meth, seventeen due to fentanyl and another drug, and another seventeen attributed to fentanyl only. Fentanyl is being combined to all types of drugs, but is usually crudely mixed which means you can have one dose of a drug with a fatal amount of fentanyl and another with a non-fatal amount, coming from the same batch. Chief Copeland shared a story of first responders having to revive a son from a fentanyl overdose, and then later having to return to revive the father.

There was a class action lawsuit against some of the opioid companies which Keizer was a party to. Last year KPD received \$75,000 as a result of the lawsuit. This year the amount was \$50,000. The money is used for drug education and prevention programs.

A recent arrest of a lady in Keizer resulted in the confiscation of 20,000 illegal pills. It is believed that much of the supply of illicit drugs originates in China and comes up through South America into America.

KPD are trying to go after the dealers of these illegal drugs.

Mental Illness – there was a recent state bill which would have made the hospitalization of people suffering mental breakdowns easier. That bill did not pass. Currently if someone is having a psychotic event or mental breakdown, two people are required to commit that person to a hospital.

Transients/Homelessness – The transient population are known by the members of the Keizer Police Department. The KPD do not always force those who are houseless to move. Chief Copeland stated that the sidewalks in Keizer are open and exposed to the elements which do make them an inviting place to set up camps. People are allowed to sleep in city parks but are not allowed to set up camps. Keizer does not have resources to assist with those experiencing homelessness, but Salem does. Those resources include Arches, the Union Gospel Mission, and the Salvation Army. If a member of the KPD comes across someone in need of services, they will take them to one of the resources located within Salem.

A question was raised regarding school resource officers. Chief Copeland stated that it probably wouldn't be included in the next budget cycle, but that the KPD, Salem PD, and Marion County Sheriffs office work with the SK school district on threat assessments. There are two KPD officers, paid by the SK school district, who are tasked with threat assessments and investigating felonies. There was a demonstration of metal detectors at a SK school recently

Another question was raised regarding gun violence in Keizer. Chief Copeland stated that gun violence is a greater issue in Salem and Marion County than it is in Keizer.

Shoplifting – The biggest issues of shoplifting occur at Keizer Station. There is currently a license plate reader camera located at Target in Keizer Station. There is the expectation that 16 total license plate reader cameras will be within Keizer. Each of these cameras can hold up to 2 weeks' worth of data. The data is only accessed if a crime occurs and is used to investigate. The software allows for the user to input parameters such as vehicle type, color, and timeframe and video matching the parameters will be returned. This can then be used to track the movements of a suspected criminal.

Graffiti – Most of the graffiti which occurs within Keizer is because of gang activity. Often the people doing the graffiti are armed. Chief Copeland demonstrated how to report graffiti. Graffiti can be reported by going to the Keizer city website at [Keizer.org](http://Keizer.org), clicking on Police Department under Departments, and clicking on "*Forms, Reporting, Requests & Other Information*". That will take you to a page where you can click on "*Report Graffiti*". This link will open a GIS page which allows you to report graffiti as well as see information regarding already reported instances. Keizer city ordinance states that homeowners must clean graffiti off their property within 5 days. If they are unable to do so, the city and KPD have resources available and will assist.

City Council has approved cameras within city parks. They are currently in Keizer Rapids Park and Willamette Manor Park. City Council approved body cameras for the police. Currently the purchase of the cameras is waiting on a grant which will fund half the cost.

Parking issues which the public wishes to report on can be submitted in the same manner as reporting Graffiti.

Neighborhood Watch – There are two active neighborhood watches within Keizer. Most people use Nextdoor.com instead. The KPD is happy to set up a neighborhood watch program within neighborhoods. KPD uses, and recommends, [nnw.org](http://nnw.org), which is the national neighborhood watch website, for information, resources, etc.

## **REPORTS**

**City Council Liaison** – Councilor Laura Reid reported that the Iris Festival Parade would be May 18. The city is no longer receiving any Strategic plan Input from the public. Any budget input needs to be brought forward.

**Food barrels, Carol Phipps** – Food donations are down from previous years, but the need continues to rise. In March, 77lbs was collected from BiMart, 398lbs from Copper Creek, and 115lbs from KFD. In April 119lbs was collected from BiMart and 45lbs plus \$40 from Copper Creek

**Keizer United** – Carolyn Holmann attended the April 11 Keizer United meeting and has typed notes, which were made available at the WKNA meeting.

**Cummings School** – The next Cummings PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 14. This will be Amber's last meeting as her kids are moving on to middle school. She will try to recruit another parent to act as a liaison between the Cummings PTA and the WKNA.

Carol Phipps reported that the plantings for the season have been completed at Cummings Elementary. The spigot for watering is still broken and so Carol brings water from her home to water the plants.

**Parks – Willamette Manor**: Carol P reported that the hillside planting WKNA did last fall is looking great. She wants to take the caution tape down surrounding that area.

Wallace House and Sunset: No new information.

Parks Board: At the last Parks Board meeting there was discussion to redo the skate park located at City Hall. Tammy and Jackie asked if there could be a little library put in all city parks.

KRP: May 11 there will be a basics fishing class held from 9:00-11:00. The class will be free. City Council has asked the Parks board to support the construction of a pavilion at KRP. The pavilion would be big enough for Keizer Fest and would be a permanent structure. The board said they needed more details. The construction of a pavilion would be a change to the master plan

**Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee** -- A member of the Keizer Fire Department was at the TSBPC meeting to discuss the KFD's involvement with the committee. The KFD is considered a part of the committee within the bylaws. The representative suggested the KFD would send a representative when a topic was on the agenda which affected them. A question was raised about speed tables, which the representative stated the KFD had no formal opinion on.

A member of DKS was at the meeting and discussed national standards for traffic control. He stated the current manual was recently updated for the first time in approximately 12 years. He stated that stop signs are not acceptable means to control speed. Individual agencies now have more flexibility on speed control. Other topics discussed include different colored painted areas in streets and their meanings, and percentiles used when performing traffic studies (was limited to 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, now it can be opened up to use 50-85<sup>th</sup> percentile.)

An ODOT speed zone study document was discovered on the TSBPC website. If it should be removed was discussed.

Mike Deblasi, from the TSBPC emailed Shane Witham, Keizer's Planning Director, and asked if the committee could be included in planning decisions. The committee would like to have representation on climate discussions. Tammy Saldivar, committee chair, will look into how to make that happen.

**Planning Commission** – The planning commission discussed some changes to the Keizer city code. One change was to reduce setback requirements along Collector and Arterial streets, another to allow an increase in square footage of accessory structures, and the third to bring conditional and variance requests to the committee for consideration. The Planning Commission approved the

recommendation to reduce setbacks. The Planning Commission also approved the recommendation to start reviewing conditional and variance requests, with the one request that the committee review both minor and major variance requests, not just major ones as was in the draft language. The third change, an increase in the maximum allowed size for accessory structures will be brought back to the committee for further consideration as a consensus was unable to be achieved. The June Planning Committee meeting has been cancelled

**Little Library** – The little free library on Cummings remains popular. There is always a request for more books to stock it with, especially children’s books.

**Keizer Community Library, Kris Adams** – The library is bringing on a bilingual outreach volunteer. Volunteers are always needed. There will be a book sale May 17 and 18. The library has a wish list on Amazon. In January of 2022, there were 381 library card holders. In 2023 500+ card holders and in 2024 700+.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

A request for suggestions of speakers in upcoming meetings was made by Rhonda.

### **City Committee Meetings**

May. 13, noon, City Hall, Keizer United

May. 14, 6 p.m., Parks Board - Cancelled

May 14, 6 p.m., Cummings, PTA

May 15, 6 p.m., Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Comm. (note: date change, third Thursday)

June. 12, 6 p.m., Planning Commission - Cancelled

All committees meet at City Hall

To subscribe to information on city meetings go to [www.keizer.org/add-to-distribution-list](http://www.keizer.org/add-to-distribution-list)

### **West Keizer Neighborhood Meetings**

Thursday, June 6 (changed to June 13), 7 p.m. WKNA Board Meeting, location TBA

Thursday, September 12, 7 p.m. WKNA General Meeting, City Hall – Speaker Share Witham, City Planning Director

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**