

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

Feb. 8, 2018

Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – President Carol Doerfler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed about 16 attendees. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Minutes for Jan. 11, 2018 – Carol called for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Gary Blake moved to approve and Rhonda seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2017-18 – Rhonda reported spending about \$46 for printing from the \$500 budget and said \$100 to GoDaddy for hosting the WKNA website is an upcoming expense. She said WKNA will spend most of the budgeted funds by year's end. Plans are to request another \$500 for 2018-19. WKNA will need to print more brochures, which are put out at city parks among other places.

Guest Speakers

Mayor Cathy Clark, City Council update – Reporting in Kim Freeman's absence, she noted new businesses in town, which include the newly opened Waremart and new restaurants Gyros Mediterranean Grill, replacing Birdie's Bistro, and Aromas Fusion, replacing Jade Garden. Also now open is Human Bean coffee shop, in Schoolhouse Square. Coming soon are a laundromat in Schoolhouse Square and, at Keizer Station: Hop Jack's, Cafe Yum and the Holiday Inn Express, as well as a cinema complex.

She said Waremart has brought new jobs to town and added local access to groceries for residents. She also thanked Safeway for its service the past year or so. She said it was never designed to be Keizer's only full-service grocery.

Regarding the new parks fee being collected, she said the city has hired two new employees as planned with the new fee and they have started work on past-due maintenance tasks. Maintenance improvements should be apparent this spring. She thanked everyone who provided input on priorities for use of the new fee. She said it will take up to three years to accomplish all needed repairs and rebuilds needed at city parks. Upgrades to Americans with Disabilities Act standards are planned for every project.

As for the police fee, the city has made four offers of employment. The fee will fund five positions.

She said schedules are posted for upcoming Planning Commission meetings (the sign code will be up for discussion) and city Budget Committee deliberations. Budget hearings begin the first week of May.

Rhonda asked about plans for disposal of the hazelnut trees recently removed at Keizer Rapids Park. A neighbor expressed concerns about smoke entering surrounding neighborhoods if the trees are burned. Mayor Clark said plans are to burn on a day when conditions allow the smoke to rise rather than blow into neighboring property. The burning is allowed as an agricultural operation; it is not "backyard" burning, which is prohibited.

Mayor Clark also lauded Keizer Rotary's planting of 76 trees as part of the new arboretum on the eastern edge of KRP. More trees are to be added in future.

Max Casquero, Marion County parole and probation officer – He was filling in for Eric Bandonis, Marion County parole/probation officer housed at Keizer Police Department. He said Eric has a caseload of about 45 "general" clients (theft, drugs, etc.) Max specializes in clients with mental health issues, such as a bipolar diagnosis. He said the department will be moving into a new building near the county jail but Eric will continue to be house at KPD. In answer to a question, he said community policing is the trend. The department is working on outreach to residents, including school resources officers such as those working at McNary High School.

Kathy Lincoln, Salem Area Mass Transit District Board member – She represents Subdistrict 3, which includes North Salem and a part of Keizer, and came to report on expansion of service planned to Cherriots bus service, thanks to legislation passed last year. Several cuts to service were made in 2009, including late evening hours and weekend service. Buses currently run from 6 a.m., or earlier, to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HB 2017 creates the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund, with revenue coming from a payroll tax of 1/10 of 1%. She said funds will go back to the areas where taxes are collected and this eventually will allow Cherriots to restore some services eliminated some years ago. The most-requested changes include later evening hours and Saturday and Sunday service, as well as holiday service, according to a survey done by Salem Area Transit last November. Also, more frequent service on current routes was requested rather than adding service out into neighborhoods. The survey report is online at Cherriots.org, summarizing results of the 2,852 surveys collected.

She said they don't know how much money they'll have to work with. Rules for the tax collection are still being written and collection won't start until this July. Early 2019 or spring of 2019 will be the earliest that improvements can be launched.

She said transit staff are drawing up schedule options and a proposal for enhanced service. The proposal will be posted on the Cherriots website, Facebook and Twitter as of Feb. 13. Staff will be holding community input opportunities in the coming weeks. The first one will be from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 13 at the downtown transit center. Two tabling events will be held at the downtown transit center Feb. 14, the first from 6 to 8 a.m. and the second from 2:30-4:30 p.m. An open house is set for 6-8 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Keizer Station transit center. The final event will be from 12:30-4:30 p.m. at the downtown transit center. A full list of open houses and tabling events is at www.cherriots.org.

To provide ongoing feedback, she said the transit district is creating a Citizens Advisory Committee. The nine-member group will meet four times a year. People who ride the buses and are interested in bus service are invited to apply. The application is at www.cherriots.org.

In answer to a question, she said the Cherry Lift buses will run on the same schedule as that established for regular buses. She also said the new funding is aimed at gearing up for service expansion (hiring drivers, etc.) Since weekend service can use the same buses that are used during week days, there should be limited need to purchase buses. Any additions would have to be funded through grants or other regular funding streams, she said.

Reports:

Parks –

- 1) Smoking ban in Keizer parks: Rhonda said the Parks Advisory Board has set a public hearing on whether to ban smoking in city parks for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13. Citizens are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. The WKNA Board did vote to ban smoking at Keizer Rapids, except in parking lots, because of the fire hazards.
- 2) Willamette Manor tennis courts – Carol said there will be replacement of the courts and they are on the parks maintenance schedule. WKNA will keep tabs on progress.
- 3) Sunset Park gunfire incident – Jolene Kelly, Public Information Officer for Marion County Board of Commissioners, reported on her response to the letter the WKNA Board sent to commissioners in late 2017 regarding the incident in September 2017 where gunshots originating at a gun range across the Willamette River in Polk County entered Sunset Park. She informed WKNA that the commission could provide support if needed but that the commission has no actual jurisdiction in the matter. Carol said she has followed up with Keizer Police on their response and has confirmed posting of warning signs at the gun range, located at a gravel pit off Wallace Road. The landowner is being cooperative, but Carol said she will write a letter to him to thank him for his cooperation and to encourage him to ensure public safety in the future. Gary Blake emphasized that gunshots continue to be heard and that WKNA should stay vigilant because of the potential danger to

Keizerites.

UGB – Carol noted that citizen input hearings are planned later in February on potential changes to the Urban Growth Boundary. WKNA will send out email alerts when dates are finalized.

Delight St. update – WKNA has a committee (Carol, Art Mauer and Gary Blake) to pursue the matter of sidewalks along Delight Street, from Cummings School to Dearborn, and eventually up to Chemawa, to improve safety for children walking to and from school. Carol and Art met recently with Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works Director, on the matter. Bill is still working with Salem-Keizer School District to facilitate planning. A temporary path has been established inside the chain-link fence from the school about half-way to Dearborn, on the west side of Delight. An earlier plan the committee worked on with Bill required an easement be granted by the school district. The district rejected that but Bill is pursuing a right-of-way plan and hopes are to get a permanent path installed some time in 2019.

Adopt-A-Street – Carol said the WKNA contract for Adopt-A-Street cleanups is at an end and the Board has decided to drop out of the program. The city is contracting a landscaper to care for the rain gardens along Chemawa from March to November, greatly reducing the need for extra street cleanups. It was decided that selecting another community service activity would be a better use of time. Among the options being considered are working with the community food bank, helping out at Cummings School or the community garden.

New Business

KRP tree burning – Rhonda said this was covered earlier. WKNA needs to find out when burning will occur so that neighbors can be notified.

Mark your calendar:

Upcoming meetings & activities –

March 1 – Next WKNA Board meeting, 7 p.m.

March 5 – WKNA Annual Report to City Council, 7 p.m.

March 8 – WKNA General meetings, 7 p.m. Daniell Bethell, Chamber of Commerce, scheduled speaker

Topics for future meetings:

April 8 – Dylan Juran, Internet project

May – Allan Edinger, inmate project

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.