

West Keizer Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

Nov. 2, 2017

Rhonda Rich's home

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Attending: Rhonda Rich, Carol Doerfler, Dennis Phipps, Kris Adams, Carolyn Homan

Guest: Bob DeVore

Absent: Gary Blake, Art Mauer

Call to order – Vice President Rhonda Rich called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Oct. 5, 2017 Board meeting minutes – Carol moved approval of the minutes as submitted and Dennis seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2017-18 – Rhonda said she spent \$45.99 for an ink cartridge.

Getting the Word Out –

Website – Rhonda will get the general meeting agenda to Barb this weekend for posting to web.

Facebook and Keizer Chamber, KT, KYKN, K23 – Carol said she missed the deadline for submission to Keizer Times because she was away (the deadline is well in advance of publication) but it's possible Eric Howland at the KT may have listed the meeting anyway. The other outlets have been handled.

SJ, KМУZ – Carolyn said the calendar notices are posted.

Signs – Dennis said he's putting out signs now in the southern half of West Keizer neighborhood. Rhonda asked that signs go out as soon as the agenda is posted this weekend.

Brochure holders – Carol refilled brochure holders when she got back from New Jersey. She asked if we should suspend refilling them during the bad weather because the paper gets wet. She will continue to refill the holder at Keizer Rapids because so many people use that park. It was suggested she put the brochures in a plastic bag to protect them. It also was suggested that we get a sign to attach to the holders directing people to the WKNA Facebook page and/or website. She will check out possibilities.

Nextdoor.com – Work on this is at a standstill. Kris found out we cannot create a new neighborhood if the boundaries conflict with another neighborhood, which is the case because of the existing West Keizer Nextdoor account. It was decided to stay with the West Keizer group and advertise our meetings and events through that.

Little Library – It continues to do well.

Parks Discussion – Rhonda invited West Keizer neighbor Bob DeVore to report on the Oct. 24 public forum on use of the new parks fee. The meeting was facilitated by Matt Lawyer. Parks Advisory Board chairman Dave Loudon also attended, along with Public Works Director Bill Lawyer and Parks Manager Robert Johnson. Bob said 15 to 20 citizens attended and Mayor Cathy Clark dropped in.

Bob shared a handout, which covered the process used by the Parks Advisory Board to glean community input on priorities for use of the fee. The two-phase process started September to November with: Forming a Parks Prioritization Committee to hold meetings and forums to gain input and evaluate a priorities listing from parks staff. They considered the condition of various parks assets, rating them from 5 (the worst) to 1 (the best); the type of park (community, neighborhood or undeveloped); and safety, accessibility, resource distribution and scope of the project.

Phase II, November to January, has the parks board affirming or adjusting the committee

recommendations; turning the list over to staff for cost analysis and tentative timelines; getting cost analyses and timelines from staff; holding a work session for discussion; making final adjustments with staff; and finally, presenting final recommendation to Council.

The handout also listed the proposed 18- to 36-month work plan developed by staff to identify priority actions and items, starting with hiring two full-time employees in order to get them trained before spring. Bob said interviews for those positions have begun. Other top actions: Replacement of aging equipment and vehicle inventory and system-wide tree maintenance, removal of invasive species, trail assessments and ADA transition plan. In a list of Increased Services, items and actions include increased mowing and lawn care.

In a listing by specific park, types of work were listed, along with a “score” developed by staff using the 5 to 1 rating scale. The top score of 3.85 went to replacing the playground at Meadows Park and repairing the sports courts at Northview and Bob Newton parks. Matt Lawyer focused on this work plan. He defined some terms used in the plan including “replace” – remove old items and get new; and “repair” – fix items that are broken. (As an example, irrigation is marked for replacement in some parks and for repair in others.)

Other projects listed items and actions to be considered if funds become available or partners bring projects forward with matching funds. These include Capital Improvement projects such as lawn and a walking loop at Keizer Rapids; parks lighting for safety; work at Carlson Skate Park; and a new equipment shop. Bill Lawyer clarified that this shop is for all Public Works equipment, not just Parks.

Officials noted that new paths and other items will be installed to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Questions arose about the possibility of parks programs being developed and that was listed as a goal once the infrastructure needs are addressed. Bob said that Mayor Clark was in favor of the idea.

Bob has asked for a drinking fountain at Keizer Rapids Park and has been told its 'on the list' of future projects being considered,

Mayor Clark thanked the Parks Prioritization Committee for its work to develop recommendations to the Parks Advisory Board on priorities for use of the new fee. Rhonda also thanked Bob for attending this meeting.

Willamette Manor tennis courts – Carol said she emailed Robert Johnson about this today but has not heard back. Robert's most recent communication was an Oct. 10 email in which he said the city may have to reach out to other vendors because of issues with the installing vendor. City staff can't handle the repair job themselves.

Smoking in the parks – Rhonda said Darrell Richardson testified against this at the Oct. 10 Parks Advisory Board meeting. The board voted to ban smoking except in parking lots. The recommendation goes to Council. Rhonda said she may testify at that time in opposition to allowing smoking in parks.

Delight Street Improvements – Carol emailed Public Works Director Bill Lawyer for an update but he has heard nothing back from the Salem-Keizer School District. The district has to grant an easement for the pedestrian path proposed to run inside the fence on school property on the west side of Delight Street from Dearborn south to Cummings Elementary. Bill said he will stay on it. WKNA has pursued this project for several years in order to improve safety for children walking to Cummings School.

Adopt-a-Street – Since inmate crews continue regular cleanups along Chemawa the question is whether WKNA adopts another street or an alternative project. Rhonda said she is pursuing a Volunteer of the Quarter award for Richard Boyes, who lives on Chemawa and does litter patrols a couple of

times a week. Rhonda said she will get more information and proceed.

As an Adopt-A-Street alternative, the Board discussed other possibilities, such as a spring cleanup at Cummings school.

Topics for Upcoming General Meetings – Rhonda said she will call Jerry McGee to confirm him as November speaker. January will be Board elections.

Kris reported on meeting topics gathered at the October meeting. Of this list of topics she passed out, Fire Chief Cowan, Police Chief Teague and Keizer Chamber director got the most votes. Also getting votes were Kathy Lincoln with Cherriots, a UGB update from Nate Brown and “River Road businesses.” Other suggestions included Marion County recycling and a speaker from Marion Soil and Water Conservation District on creating backyard habitat for birds and wildlife. Carol has suggested a repeat of disaster preparedness. Kris said she will prepare a list for discussion at the January meeting. She will contact Chief Cowan about speaking in January, in addition to Board elections. She will have the Chamber Director as backup if Chief Cowan can't attend.

Change in Meeting Venue – Carol broached the idea of meeting once again at a site that is within the West Keizer neighborhood instead of City Hall. WKNA used to meet at Cummings School. Other neighborhood associations meet either at a school (Gubser) or a church (Southeast Keizer.) The board was not in favor of meeting at a church. Rhonda said the school district was not very accommodating when WKNA met at Cummings in the past. It was decided to stay at City Hall, especially since the meeting signs list that venue.

Letter to Council re: shooting incident – Carolyn has prepared a letter to council, city officials, Marion and Polk commissioners regarding the September incident involving shots coming from a gravel pit across the river from Sunset Park. The gravel pit is located in Polk County and is the site of a shooting range. West Keizer neighbors testified at the Oct. 10 council meeting about the incident and their concerns about public safety that were created. The WKNA Board decided in October to send a letter echoing those public safety concerns and asking council to keep WKNA advised as to any response to the incident. Rhonda said Gary agreed to present the letter at the Nov. 6 council meeting and other Board members, including Rhonda, Carol and Carolyn, said they also would attend. It was agreed to have the letter read into the record at that meeting. Rhonda will get a copy to Barb for posting on WKNA's website and she also will ask Barb about getting a copy to Shirley, who is away for the winter.

January Board meeting – At Rhonda's house, 7 p.m. Jan. 4.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.