

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

Sept. 8, 2016

Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – President Gary Blake called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center and welcomed approximately 13 people. Introductions were made around the room and Gary asked everyone to sign in. Attendee Colleen Busch noted that she is helping get the Southeast Neighborhood Association started.

Gary announced changes in the agenda because scheduled speakers had to cancel. The main item is now an open discussion of city or neighborhood concerns and news.

Approval of Minutes for May 12, 2016 – Gary asked for a motion to approve. Davis Dyer so moved and Carrie Maher seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2015-16 – Gary said that WKNA's \$500 request for 2016-17 was approved by the city. No expenditures have been recorded so far.

Open Discussion of Neighborhood Business

Adopt-A-Street cleanup – Gary announced that the quarterly cleanup would be this Saturday, Sept. 10, but would start this time at 9 a.m. to accommodate those who want to attend the 11 a.m. dedication of the city mural on the wall of Town and Country Bowling Lanes on River Road. Cleanup volunteers are to meet at Shoreline/Windsor Island and Chemawa roads.

Roundabout experiences – Carolyn asked if people had used the new traffic roundabout at the intersection of Verda and Chemawa and what their experience had been. Those who have used it reported no problems. Colleen Busch, who is on the Salem-Keizer Transit District Board and the Keizer Fire District's budget committee, said that city buses are able to use the roundabout with no problems and Keizer Fire trucks have also tested it with no issues.

Long-term strategies re: road repairs – Carrie Maher asked whether there were long-term strategies for street repairs throughout Keizer. She said sidewalks are crumbling in some neighborhoods and streets are torn up, which doesn't help the appearance and attractiveness of these neighborhoods. She lives on Larry and said installation of a new water line resulted in a bad street patch job. She also noted that the condition of sidewalks and streets makes it hard for those walking or pushing strollers, etc. Since Cummings is a walkable school, it's an issue for school children, too.

Colleen said that the transit district is working on these issues. Carolyn pointed out that Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works director, has reported in the past that street repairs, done in cooperation with Marion County, are prioritized. Providing input to the city on issues with certain streets might help change a street's prioritization.

Art Mauer said a multi-use path on Delight street is in the works to improve safety for school kids and others walking and riding bikes along this busy street. Construction hasn't yet been scheduled, however, and Gary said residents and WKNA need to keep this as a priority project.

RV Park and Keizer Rapids Park – Darryl Richardson shared his idea for an RV park at Keizer Rapids to provide funds to support parks throughout Keizer. With 50 sites at \$30/night, rentals for 6 months would provide \$270,000. He's offering the idea as an alternative to the city's plan to add a parks support surcharge to water bills.

He's been told an RV park is not part of the master plan for KRP, but he said that the plan also doesn't include many amenities for seniors, either. Master plan elements such as soccer, softball and an indoor arena are focused on youth sports. He would include a pickle ball court for senior recreation as part of the RV park. He will pursue the idea through the Parks Advisory Board.

City Council Liaison report, Kim Freeman – She noted openings on city committees: one position on the

Arts Commission and two openings on the Stormwater Advisory group. A youth councilor also is needed for City Council.

She alerted people to the increase in garbage fees coming Oct. 1. She said this hike is due to increases in tipping fees at the garbage incinerator.

City Council has a busy upcoming schedule:

Sept. 12 is the annual parks tour, starting at 5:45 at Chalmers Park. This tour is open to anyone.

Sept. 19th – council meeting, with land use issues surrounding the Herber farm property (at Chemawa and Verda) on the agenda

Sept. 26th – work session on stormwater permit. There are a lot of changes from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Oct. 3 – council meeting

Oct. 12 – a joint session, starting at 6 p.m., with Salem council and Marion and Polk County commissioners re: the Urban Growth Boundary.

She also noted the child safety seat clinic 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 10, hosted by Keizer Police Department in the parking lot at City Hall.

Transit items, Colleen Busch – She pointed out that the Legislature last session OK'd a bus pass program for state workers. The district also is working with the Legislature on a statewide transportation package to make access more equitable across the state.

Palma Ciea Park – Gary updated everyone on the status of the park. The WKNA Board last week decided the best course of action was to encourage the city and the Parks Board to focus on public safety – no overnight campers, no illicit activity – with residents and police keeping a watch on the park so it's safe for residents and anyone who might legitimately use it. Development of the park is pushed to the future. In answer to a question, he explained that WKNA made a proposal to the Parks Board that the neighborhood would organize volunteers to clean up the park if the city would agree to spray regularly for blackberries and other weeds. There has been no city response. Daryl pointed out that neighbors would have to maintain the space, as has been done at Sunset Park.

Other business: New Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Danielle Bethell

She introduced herself and said she's been a part of Keizer for 20 years. She is head of McNary Boosters and a Rotary member as well as chamber director. She said the Chamber is changing its business model and focusing on membership and the benefits that members can expect.

She announced that the Chamber board had just voted to assume sponsorship of the Holiday Lights parade. The annual Tree Lighting will be Nov. 29th, with the holiday parade the next Saturday. Concerns had been raised about the fee to participate in the parade and she said the fee would be lowered this year.

She said the Chamber's goal is to have its office back on River Road within 3 years.

A big event in 2017 will be the Solar Eclipse. She said the Keizer chamber is cooperating with the Salem Chamber and Salem Travel on activities. Salem Travel maintains a website listing the many events already planned in the area.

Progress on the new hotel at Keizer Station is still being held up over the issue of parking spaces. The project is a month behind schedule.

Next meetings: Adopt-A-Street Sept. 10; WKNA Board meeting, Oct. 6; WKNA General Meeting, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.