

WKNA General Meeting

May 11, 2023 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center lobby

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

About 21 people in attendance, including Guest Speakers Ben Crosby, Keizer Code Enforcement Office; Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole and Probation deputy; City Councilor Laura Reid; and City Manager Adam Brown.

Call to Order: WKNA President Rhonda Rich called the meeting order at 7 p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

Minutes of previous meetings – Rhonda asked for a motion to approve minutes of the April 13 meeting. Carol Phipps moved approval; Carol Doerfler seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Report -- Rhonda said WKNA has spent \$796.99 of the city-approved \$800 budget. A request of \$1,200 is being made for all five Neighborhood Associations for the coming year and if OK'd by the Budget Committee (meetings May 8-9), it will go to the June Council meeting for approval.

Guest Speakers

Marion Co. Parole/Probation -- Eric Bandonis, Marion Co. parole and probation deputy stationed out of Keizer Police Department, presented his regular report. He started with information on the graffiti problem in Keizer. There is a link on the City of Keizer website to the KPD and the forms to report graffiti. The police want to have a photo if possible and information on the site of graffiti in order to track incidents and help identify perpetrators. There is also a form to register a home surveillance camera, which again helps police track incidents and perpetrators. KPD is also signing up Neighborhood Watch people. There is a form for that as well. Go to the City of Keizer website and follow the link to KPD and click on Forms and Other Information.

Thanks to a new program, there also is a Community Crime Map link there. This program shows sites around Keizer and Salem where crimes have been committed. Only data from April and May is up so far and there are no "live" photos of police action. Crime reports have to be approved before they can be posted, so there is a time lag.

Marion Co. Sheriff is retiring and Eric said the county commission will appoint a new sheriff in July. He also said parole and probation caseloads are now gender specific with the training of new female Parole Officer and another who will start soon. Because of this change, his now all-male case load is down to 40.

Keizer Fest -- Rhonda introduced James Lelack, President of Keizer Chamber of Commerce, to report on plans for the event to be held Aug. 11-13. He said it will be in the same section of Keizer Rapids Park as last year and that extra parking has been planned. There will be music in the tent as usual. The Keizer Fest parade will be held Aug. 12. In answer to a question, he said that no regular concert series is planned for KRP amphitheater this summer. The Chamber will sponsor a JFK concert and students from McNary in cooperation with The Rec will put on a musical event at some point. He referred people to the Keizer Chamber's calendar of events on their website.

Ben Crosby, Keizer Code Enforcement Officer – Rhonda introduced Ben, who passed out a brochure outlining Code Enforcement Department procedures and areas of responsibility. The unit is part of the city's Planning Department and handles everything from trash can placement to weed and grass maintenance.

Graffiti is a major issue right now in Keizer and cleanup is the responsibility of property owners. Rules state that cleanup is to be accomplished within 5 working days. The city has developed a graffiti kit to help out with cleanup. Incidents should be reported to the KPD nonemergency line and a report form is available on the KPD website.

Crosby said compliance with rules like sidewalk maintenance, improperly parked cars, nuisance trees (Limbs can't obstruct the view of any traffic control device or sign) and other code violations is pretty much complaint driven. He asked people to email him about issues because he's a one-person shop and it's easy for phone calls to get lost in the shuffle. He can be contacted at crosbyb@keizer.org or 503-3438. Code Enforcement Support is supplied by Megan Hurley, building permit specialist with Planning, at 503-856-3440 or hurleym@keizer.org.

He answered a variety of questions, including camper and other vehicle parking. Non-drivable vehicles are not allowed period – even in someone's driveway. Other vehicles parked on the street have to be moved every 72 hours. Utility trailers have to be moved every 48 hours. No parking is allowed on lawns either. He said violations should be reported to KPD.

Complaints can't be anonymous to the City but the information also can't be shared with the perpetrator. He said that once you report it and he checks it out, he becomes the complainant.

Sidewalk maintenance is the home owner's responsibility. If a problem is reported and the home owner can't or won't fix it, the City may fix it and bill the home owner. He said residents should go to the City website and comment about this as part of the Strategic Plan survey that's under way. The city wants to know how residents feel on a variety of issues. He said he would like to see a sidewalk maintenance fund created to help with this issue. It could be part of the strategic plan.

Public safety is his top priority. He knows people get frustrated when they report parking and other non-safety related problems. But these tend to drop off his priority list because he's a one-person department. He works with Keizer and Marion Co. fire departments, for instance, on "dangerous building" declarations after a major fire. This has to be done because of the public safety element.

He urged anyone with a complaint to contact him. He will respond but he also asked people to be patient.

City Manager Adam Brown -- He outlined the city's Strategic Planning process that's under way. A web page is up – there's a link from www.keizer.org – and comments will be received until June 16. He said Council needs citizen voices. The information will help them create the plan, which will be used next year to build the budget. The plan should help guide city policies and expenditures for about 5 years.

REPORTS

City Council Liaison – Councilor Laura Reid reported on final planning for Keizer's 40th anniversary party being held Friday, June 16, and Saturday, June 17, at City Hall. Friday will be an '80s dance from 7-10 p.m. and Saturday will feature vendors, games, a celebration for former mayors and councilors, karaoke and more from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Information is available at www.keizer.org/bdayparty

In recent Council action, she reported on the leash law that is being considered. Staff are drawing up an ordinance for consideration. One concern is ADA dogs, which probably will be exempted, and

whether to include school property in the ordinance.

Food barrels – Dennis Phipps reported that donations are needed. Collections were good the first week of May and the trend seems to be continuing. The Keizer food bank reports that need is way up since the end of Covid-related extra food stamps occurred. WKNA sponsors collection barrels at Copper Creek Mercantile, Bi Mart and Keizer Fire.

Keizer United, Kris and Carolyn – Carolyn reported that the speaker was from Salem for Refugees. The group is now an official resettlement site through World Relief Organization. They bring people and resources together to help refugees thrive. They provide cultural orientation, employment services, housing, etc.

Various upcoming events were announced by organization representatives attending: Earth Day at KRP; Keizer Fire car seat clinic May 9, Mother's Day Pancake breakfast May 14 and the KFD 75th anniversary celebration May 20; a conference on the future of affordable housing May 15 at the Salem Convention Center; a Learn to Fish event May 20.

Keizer United's May meeting will be the third Monday, May 15, but future meetings will move to the second Monday: June 12 and July 10. There is no meeting in August.

Cummings PTA liaison Amber Zimbelman -- She said it was the group's last meeting until fall and they talked about their budget and elected officers. Carol Phipps said decorative pots by the front door have been planted and she put fall perennials in the concrete planters in front of the cafeteria.

Parks

Palma Ciega -- Gary Blake has spread the bark dust/chips delivered by the City. He said regular maintenance by the City is still an issue. The park is getting used, which is great.

Willamette Manor -- Carol Phipps has purchased native ground cover with grant funds from Parks Board. Plans to plant the hillside north of playground at Willamette Manor to prevent erosion. Work will start May 9 at 10 a.m. Volunteers welcome.

KRP turf fields – Rhonda said WKNA provided a letter of support for Rep. Kevin Mannix's request for a \$1 million state capital funding grant. City Manager Brown said they are waiting on a price on the turf field portion of the project. Depending on the final cost estimates, fundraising may be necessary to complete the project. If the \$1 million in capital funding comes through (word should come by the end of June), at current estimates there would be a need to raise another \$900,000. City Manager Brown said they are working with the contractor for the best price. Construction could start this fall.

Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Safety Committee – Robb updated the Committee at its April 20 meeting about feedback from neighbors on the effectiveness of the flashing speed limit signs installed on Shoreline earlier this year. WKNA board members canvassed neighbors from Chemawa south to Moneida and got a mostly positive response. Comments will be passed along to Council.

The Committee also discussed the rewrite of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program they have undertaken. WKNA is weighing in along with other associations and committee members. Once feedback is compiled, the rewrite will be presented to Council. One area of concern is a requirement that individuals or neighborhood associations gather petition signatures from neighbors in an area where a traffic mitigation is proposed. Going door to door for signatures is viewed as a risky activity these days. Moving to an electronic survey of some kind seems more reasonable.

Planning Commission – Robb reported that the committee took up fees for land use changes for

middle housing, which hadn't been raised since 2014. A 21.5% hike was recommended and looking at comparable cities (Silverton, Newberg, Albany, etc.), Keizer's fee is still lower even with the hike. The Committee OK'd sending it to Council for approval. The site plan review fee is separate from the building permit.

Keizer Community Library and WKNA Little Library, Kris – The Little Library needs more children's books, which go out quickly. She will put her address information in the Little Library because book donations should be delivered to her house.

The Community Library has hired a new manager. She is a former volunteer at the library. The grant writer got a grant in support of children's programs and several are scheduled for the summer. The Library also has gotten a grant for large-print books.

The Library has been doing outreach to senior centers and other groups. The Library's annual book sale will be May 19-20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at City Hall. Paperbacks are 50 cents and DVDs and hardbacks, \$1.

Next meetings:

Keizer 40th Birthday celebration @ City Hall – June 16-17

Keizer Fire District 75th Anniversary @ Keizer Fire Station, 2-5 p.m. May 20

Bike Skills event – 1-3 p.m. June 10, City Hall

National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 1 – contact Keizer Police Dept for information

Keizer Fest @ Keizer Rapids Park – Aug. 11-13

WKNA general meeting – 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14

Go to www.westkeizerna.org or Facebook for current information

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.