

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2018

Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – President Carol Doerfler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed about 15 attendees, including City of Keizer Community Development Director Nate Brown. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Minutes for Feb. 8, 2018 – Carol called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Feb. 8 meeting, as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Kris Adams moved to approve and Gary Blake seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2017-18 – Rhonda reported spending about \$241: \$101 for printing and \$140 on renewal of the website agreement with GoDaddy. Another \$225 will be spent soon for 500 more brochures, totaling \$466 out of the \$500 budget. The Board has OK'd seeking another \$500 for 2018-19 with the same categories as this year: \$75 for printing, \$225 for brochures, \$140 for the website and \$60 for signs.

Guest Speaker: Guest speaker Danielle Bethell, Keizer Chamber of Commerce executive, was unable to attend. Community Development Director Nate Brown filled in with information on the Keizer Revitalization Plan, which is in the public outreach phase. The city received two grants to fund efforts to look at targeting reinvestment and setting new standards for development along the city's central corridor – River Road and Cherry Avenue. Officials are looking at zoning, development code, strategies for fostering new types of housing and mixed-use development, job-creation opportunities, investment in infrastructure and other visioning elements. The first phase included listening sessions, to which West Keizer Neighborhood Association sent three representatives to be interviewed by the city's consultants on the pros and cons of urban growth and what residents want to see. The next phase will be a year-long process and starts with listening sessions March 20 and 22 with city staff and consultants. Nate again requested two or three representatives from West Keizer to take part. Attendees have a choice of when they attend and sessions will be 45 minutes long.

Among questions to be addressed: Should developers including housing units in new commercial developments to help the city meet its growth needs? Should commercial property owners and business owners contribute to creation and addition of public amenities? How can the city make better use of available land through greater density or re-purposed parking lots? What features would reduce driving and increase walking cycling and public transportation opportunities?

There will be other opportunities throughout the year to provide input. Three or four public forums are planned on revitalization. He said they want participants who have a vested interest in the community. Meredith Mooney, who is helping with Keizer United, expressed interest. She said Keizer United hopes to bring together neighborhood associations, churches, businesses, etc. in a united front for a better community.

Nate said there is more information about the revitalization effort on the city's website and Community Development's Facebook page.

Reports:

City Council – Kim Freeman

The council will hold its annual long-range planning meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, March 12, in preparation for budget deliberations. They will be talking about stormwater, water, police and parks fees, among other things. Budget hearings are set for May 1 and 3. Budget requests are due by March 31.

Other topics:

- The annual City Hall clean-up, which is open to all, will be held Saturday, March 17, starting at 9 a.m.

- Workers will be removing some trees around the bridge on Dearborn next to Claggett Creek Park, in preparation for that bridge to be replaced this summer.
- Seven intersections on River Road are scheduled to have new ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramps installed in coming weeks. Because of the extra costs of this work, River Road probably won't be resurfaced this year, she said.
- The city's Stormwater Department is working on completing requirements for the Department of Environmental Quality permit.
- New water lines are planned for Dietz and Greenwood avenues this year.
- Of the five new police officers to be added thanks to the new police fee, four were reserve officers. Since there also has been a retirement, Keizer Police still has two more officers to hire.
- A Community Conversation on the State of Our Schools will be held at 6 p.m. March 22 at City Hall, sponsored by Keizer Chamber.

Kim invited all citizens to City Council meetings, which are held the first and third Mondays, with the third Monday dedicated to planning. If you can't attend, meetings are televised in channel K23, as are meetings of the Parks board, and Planning and Traffic/Bikeways committees. Anyone with questions or an issue can contact any of the councilors. In answer to a question, she said the new hotel at Keizer Station will result in added transient occupancy taxes. Marijuana taxes also are being collected, but the city has received no checks so has no estimate of those revenues. She said the city is conservative in its approach and doesn't make plans for any new funding until the money is in hand.

Parks –

- 1) Smoking ban in Keizer parks – Rhonda Rich said she, Carol and West Keizer neighbor Bob DeVore testified in favor of a smoking ban at the Parks Advisory Board's Feb. 13 public hearing. A representative from Marion County Health Department, who worked on the county's ban on smoking in county parks, also testified. The Parks Board then voted to send to City Council a request to ban smoking in all city parks. The issue has not yet been put on the council's schedule. She said there will be public hearings and council values public input.
- 2) Burning of hazelnut trees at Keizer Rapids – The hazelnut orchard has been removed and Public Works Director Bill Lawyer said the wood piles are scheduled to be burned by mid-May. Ag burning regulations will be followed to help prevent smoke intrusion into adjacent neighborhoods. Bill Lawyer will notify WKNA and neighbors when burning is planned.
- 3) Willamette Manor tennis courts – WKNA Board member Dennis Phipps, who lives next to the park, checked again on the courts and said problems remain with the 2016 repair job. The city says corrective action is scheduled at some point.
- 4) Sunset Park gunfire incident – Carol reported on a letter she wrote to Mr. Davis, owner of the gun range in Polk County where gunshots originated in September 2017 that came across the Willamette River and entered Sunset Park, frightening neighbors and park visitors. The letter was signed by the WKNA Board and copies were sent to City Council, Lt. Copeland at Keizer Police Department and Dan Dietz, a neighbor who helped place warning signs at the gun range. The issue is tabled for now. WKNA will monitor the situation in case there are future incidents.
- 5) Delight St. update – There is no further word on plans for a new pedestrian path to improve safety for students walking to Cummings Elementary along Delight St. The issue of sidewalks around Cummings is included in the school bond measure up for a vote in May. WKNA is tracking the issue and will have Karma Krause from the school district as a speaker at the April WKNA meeting.
- 6) Adopt-A-Street – The WKNA contract for Adopt-A-Street cleanups is at an end and the Board has decided to drop out of the program. Inmate crews have been tending the rain gardens along Chemawa and the city now is contracting a landscaper to care for the rain gardens, reducing the need for extra street cleanups there. The Board has discussed adopting another community service activity. Options are still being considered.

New Business

Cummings School pansies – The WKNA Board in recent years has replaced the bark dust and planted pansies around the Cummings reader board. Carol said she and Rhonda visited the school this week and saw that other planters also are in need of work. The plan is to talk to the Cummings PTC to see what they would like in terms of beautification. A clean-up day this fall is a possibility. Rhonda said WKNA is accepting donations toward beautification efforts. No date has yet been set for the reader board planting.

Mark your calendar:

Upcoming meetings & activities –

April 5 – Next WKNA Board meeting, 7 p.m.

April 12 – WKNA General meetings 7 p.m. Dylan Juran, Keizer Internet Project; Karma Krause, School District representative on the district's upcoming bond measure.

Topics for future meetings:

May – Allan Edinger, inmate project

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.