

## **West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes**

**May 10, 2018**

**Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary**

**Call to order** – Vice President Kris Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed about 15 attendees. Introductions were made around the room.

**Approval of Minutes for March 8, 2018** – Kris called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 12 meeting, as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Art Mauer moved to approve and Dennis Phipps seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget for 2017-18** – Rhonda Rich reported submitting \$496.03 in expenses for reimbursement from the \$500 budget. She said that the last expense was \$260 for 1,000, provided by Pronto Signs. This should be enough for about two years.

**Budget for 2018-19** – Rhonda acknowledged Carol for an effective presentation to the City Budget Committee hearing at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 3, in support of WKNA's \$500 request for the coming year. The budget request was subsequently approved by the committee.

**Guest Speaker:** Kris introduced guest speaker Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole and Probation officer, who is housed at Keizer Police Department. He said the parole/probation caseload countywide has dropped by 224 clients in the past year. He attributes this to new tactics adopted the past 10 years or so that focus on providing parolees and probationers with the skills and tools they need to adapt to life and not re-offend. He also said his own caseload (he focuses on "general" clients – those whose charged with theft, drug and other such crimes) is up – 53 this year compared with 44 last year. He has no explanation for the jump.

In answer to a question, he spoke about a new program in the last year called Inspire, which was advanced by County Commissioner Janet Carlson and local attorney Catherine Trottman. The program's monthly presentations teach skills such as volunteering, winter cooking, budgeting, how to eat healthier and other life skills. It's an offshoot of the Marion County Re-entry Initiative, again geared at helping parolees and those on probation adapt successfully to life outside jail or prison.

He asked that WKNA send him questions if there are specific issues people would like to see him address. He will present his next quarterly report at the Sept. 13th WKNA meeting

### **Keizer Heritage Foundation/Keizer Cultural Center – Robin Richmond-Barney**

She is a Board member of the Keizer Heritage Foundation and shared news of the name change and other happenings at the center. The Board changed the name to Keizer Cultural Center from Keizer Heritage Center to better reflect the current uses and tenants at the center. The newest tenant, Keizer Homegrown Theatre, moved in in April, transforming the event room into a live theater venue that will seat 70 to 75 people. Other tenants continue to be the Keizer Art Association and the Enid Joy Mount Gallery, Keizer Community Library, Keizer Heritage Museum and the Keizer Heritage Foundation.

All the efforts are run by about 100 volunteers. Volunteers are always wanted and valued, she said. Keizer Heritage Foundation operates and maintains the historic building (the former Keizer School building) via donations and some support from the City. She said volunteers will definitely be needed before the building is painted, which is the next big project. The building was moved to the current site, from the corner of River Road and Chemawa, in 1996 and opened in 1999. She thinks it is the oldest building in Keizer.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the individual organization. They all have separate contacts: [www.keizerarts.com](http://www.keizerarts.com) [www.keizerlibrary.org](http://www.keizerlibrary.org) [www.keizerhomegrowntheatre.org](http://www.keizerhomegrowntheatre.org) [www.keizerheritage.org](http://www.keizerheritage.org)

**Allan Edinger, Toastmasters Inmate Project** – He shared information on his Toastmasters group, which

was invited to Oregon State Penitentiary in 1992. At the time, he questioned if he should even go, but he's been going ever since because "it's our community." He pointed out that many times, family members move to Salem to be close to an imprisoned family member. The spouse may get a job, children enter school. When the inmate gets out, the family doesn't want to move.

Toastmasters decided to help the prisoners cope, especially to impart skills that would be of help when they got out. Many "don't know how to talk," he said, and communication is an invaluable tool. He shared four case studies of former inmates who "could be your neighbor and you don't even know." Three of the four have jobs and are doing well. The fourth has had a job, and wants to go to University of Oregon. His case is complicated by appeals of his "second look" program parole. Allan said the man is doing well despite the set backs he's had.

Allan said Toastmasters is one of clubs at Oregon State Penitentiary. The recidivism rate for someone who was part of a club at OSP is zero. We hear about the bad cases, he said, but there are success stories, too.

**Keizer Iris Fest update** – Bob Shackelford, Keizer Chamber Board Member, was unable to attend. Rhonda said WKNA will be distributing informational flyers about the Fest and the planned race events (half marathon, 5K and fun runs) that will affect those along Manbrin and Shoreline in West Keizer.

## Reports

### Parks –

1) Burning of hazelnut trees at Keizer Rapids – Kris said Bill Lawyer, Keizer's Director of Public Works, is still working with one of the farmers involved on details. However, June 15 is the deadline for agricultural burning and only certain days during the remaining period are open for burning. If no agreement can be reached, burning will be pushed to October. More information will be shared as it's received.

2) Willamette Manor tennis courts – WKNA Board member Dennis Phipps said Robert Johnson, Parks supervisor, says repairs to rips in the fabric used to fix the courts over a year ago are planned sometime this year.

**Delight Street update** – Carol had heard from Karma Kraus at Salem-Keizer School District and she said the District Facilities Department knows about the Safe Routes to Schools program and will apply for grants to help fund sidewalks along Delight Street. This has been a WKNA project for several years to improve the safety of children walking to and from Cummings Elementary. If the May 15 school bond passes, money for sidewalks also is included in that measure.

**Keizer Revitalization Plan** – Carolyn and Kris reported on another input session they attended. Consultants shared background on the project and had a list of goals that attendees could vote on to indicate what kind of improvements were most favored. Consultants also had maps of the River Road corridor at Lockhaven and Chemawa and another map of the Cherry Avenue corridor. Attendees were invited to provide input on amenities they would like to see, issues they'd like to see address ( such as traffic and pedestrian safety). An online survey is available now and more input sessions are planned.

**Cummings School project** – Rhonda said June 23 is the tentative date for more weeding, edging and application of bark dust. We hope the school can enlist volunteers from their business partner, Kohl's, to help with the lands

## New Business/ Announcements

**Recycling Station @ Cummings School** – Kris shared information on the new recycling station, which is located on the Delight Street side of the school. Donations of clothing, shoes, linens, purses etc. are

accepted. The school earns .03 cents/pound of material donated. The station is operated by GemText

**Request for comments – Development partition, 1600 block of Chemawa Road** – WKNA doesn't take a position on requests for partition but will share information as it is received. Comments are due by May 15 on this partition request for three lots along the pathway on the east side of Keizer Rapids Park. The parcel is accessible by a new easement along the pathway off Chemawa Road.

**Book donations for Little Library** – Carol was in need for the library but recently got a nice donation. Children's books, particularly those for toddler ages, are always appreciated.

**Keizer United** – Meredith Mooney invited everyone to attend this organization's meetings the third Monday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 in the McNary Room at the Civic Center. Lunch is provided. This cooperative effort involves the Chamber of Commerce, the Council, neighbors, businesses to address issues and find solutions.

**Mark your calendar:**

**June 14** – Traffic Safety, Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee

**June 21** – Volunteer Coordinating Committee. Rhonda and Meredith Mooney, with Keizer United, will attend in support of their nomination of Richard Boyes as Volunteer of the Quarter.

**June 23, tentative** – Cummings School Clean-up

**Aug. 11, tentative** – John Knox Presbyterian Church community barbecue

**Sept. 6** – Next WKNA Board meeting

**Sept. 13** – Next WKNA General meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.