

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2015

Keizer Civic Center
Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – President Rhonda Rich called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center and welcomed approximately 26 people attending, including guests Craig Murphy, with the Keizertimes, and candidates for various special district elections who were among the evening's speakers. Introductions were made around the room and Rhonda encouraged everyone to sign in.

Approval of Minutes for March 12 – Rhonda asked for a motion to approve, which was made by Ron Freeman; Art Mauer seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2014-15 – Rhonda reported expenditures so far of \$464.98 and noted that the Board had approved spending another \$150 for signs, \$100 for design of a WKNA logo (these are maximums) and \$135 for start of a Little Libraries project. That will leave a \$50 balance in the \$900 budget.

Budget request for 2015-16 – The \$500 request will be presented at the May 5 Budget Committee meeting. This includes \$100 for the website, \$200 for printing and \$200 for signage. Rhonda noted that WKNA will not meet again before that first budget committee meeting and urged anyone interested to attend.

For information on WKNA, she urged anyone interested to go to the WKNA website, which is being updated by Barb Smith Henke. Information on the Little Libraries project, the Big Toy and other issues is provided there and it's easy to navigate.

Board Vacancy – Rhonda introduced Sarah Head, who was approved as a new Board member at the April 2 Board meeting. WKNA bylaws allow a Board addition via Board vote if a vacancy remains after the January general meeting elections.

West Keizer Parks reports –

KRP community build playstructure -- Ron reported that a consultant from Leathers, the firm helping design the Big Toy, had met recently with all group leaders in preparation for the June 10-14 Big Toy build. He urged anyone interested in helping to go to the website – www.keizerbigtoy.org – to sign up. People can sign up for an hour, one shift, a day or the whole week. Guest Roland Herrera, Keizer councilman, noted that there “is something for everyone” to do on the project, from child care to helping with meals.

Ron and Kim Freeman are in charge of volunteer recruitment. She said they will need help at the volunteer tent during the build, from greeters to runners to escort signed-in volunteers to the staging area. Runners then will escort groups to the various work captains. People can show up the day of the build without being signed up in advance,

but people must sign up ahead of time in order to get a T-shirt. More than 200 people are needed per shift – 3 shifts per day/5 days.

West Keizer Parks update – WKNA Parks representative Clint Holland was absent, but Rhonda noted that the Keizer Parks Advisory Board would meet Tuesday, April 14, at 6 p.m. and would consider sale of Palma Ceia Park. This is just the start of the discussion, she said, and WKNA has taken no position at this point. She said Parks Board meetings are televised on channel K23, if people are interested but can't attend the meeting.

Little Libraries – Board Vice President Carol Doerfler is taking the lead on this project, but also could not attend the meeting. Rhonda noted that the Board approved pursuing this at its April 2 meeting. A Little Library is basically a big bird house – big enough to accommodate a log books to sign out books and write notes about books read. Neighbors donate books and the site becomes a sort of neighborhood gathering spot. The Board approved starting with one library at Moneda and Shoreline, in front of the Doerflers' house. It costs \$35 to register the library with the national organization. WKNA also will attach a box for its informational brochures to the library. The goal is to have one in place this fall.

Keizer Iris Festival Update – Joe Egli, festival chairman, presented details on the May 14-17 event. Things get under way with the May 7 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. The festival kickoff happens at a sponsor lunch May 14, followed by the kickoff party that evening starting at 6 p.m. with a barbecue chicken dinner. A golf tournament will be held on Friday, the parade on Saturday. There will be fun runs and a full marathon again, which is a qualifier for the Boston Marathon depending on the runner's time. Egli thanked WKNA for its help last year it notifying neighbors of the marathon route through West Keizer.

The Festival will be sited on Cherry Avenue again his year but the street will be closed further north, up to Columbia Bank. Another change is that the festival will feature local craft brews and local wines. Other events include a Pet Parade and pet skills show, a senior talent show, a play put on by Keizer Home Grown Theater. Egli said a clean-up day along Cherry Avenue in preparation for the festival will be held April 25. He encouraged anyone who wants to volunteer for any of the activities to go to www.irisfestival.com

Candidates for May 19 special elections – Rhonda introduced candidates for Salem-Keizer Transit District Richard Stevenson and Colleen Busch, subdistrict 2, and Kathy Lincoln, unopposed for subdistrict 3; Salem-Keizer School Board, Zone 6, Timothy Moles, who is running against Chuck Lee. Mr. Lee could not attend; and Keizer Fire District candidates James Mulhern, running against Chet Patterson for Position 3; Michael Bauer, unopposed for Position 4; and Betty Hart and Jim Taylor, Position 5. Mr. Patterson could not attend but provided an information sheet. The candidates were given a maximum of 10 minutes to provide background on themselves and why they are running.

Richard Stevenson moved to Keizer in 2007 and worked for New Jersey Bell Telephone and in the automotive repair industry before retiring due to disability. He is transit dependent and said it's frustrating to be limited to travel 5 days a week. "I can't go to church without a friend or a cab." He is on the citizens advisory committee to the transit board and said his goals include getting weekend and evening bus service and creation of a shuttle system to sites within Keizer such as Keizer Station, Volcanoes Stadium and Keizer Rapids Park during special events. He asked for people's votes in order to make positive changes.

Kathy Lincoln has lived in Keizer 25 years and has been an attorney 36 years, serving with the Oregon Department of Justice as general counsel for the Oregon Department of Transportation until 2013. Her experience has shown her "how important the transit system can be to a community." Mass transit is critical to limiting congestion and for people who can't drive or don't have a car. She said effective transit increases the livability of a community. She would push for funding for evening and weekend bus service and for other improvements such as connectivity between buses and other transportation links, including trains. She said she is interested in hearing citizens' concerns.

Colleen Busch moved to Keizer in 1989. She home-schooled her seven children and has worked for Federal Express and part-time for the Oregon Department of Revenue. She has served on the Keizer Fire Department budget committee and got interested in transit through Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark. She believes transit helps connect people with their work and activities and can help grow the economy. She noted that there are funding questions and encouraged people to check out the recent survey in Keizertimes asking if transit should be funded through a payroll or property tax.

James Mulhern has lived in Keizer two years but in the area (Brooks, etc.) for 20 years. He's been a firefighter for 21 years with Marion County Fire District. As a union leader there, he said he has worked on creative solutions to budget problems. He has two associate degrees related to firefighting from Chemeketa Community College and taken related classes at Western Oregon, too. He also has taken budgeting classes. Although he has no "big agenda" for changes, he said he sees opportunities. He noted past conflict between Marion County Fire and Keizer Fire districts, but said there's a new chief and a new era of possibilities.

Mike Bauer has lived in Keizer his entire life – his father and grandfather also served with KFD – and said he's running to improve an already great service. He has a bachelor's degree in fire service from Eastern Oregon that "will help my decision making on the Keizer Fire board." He noted he has served in every capacity at KFD, starting as a cadet at the age of 14 to being a volunteer and eventually as a career firefighter. He has been with Clackamas Fire Department the past 8 years. Challenges ahead for KFD include the bond renewal for equipment (election this fall), recruitment and retention of volunteers and increased calls for assistance to care homes and clinics. He said he would make decisions based on common sense and integrity.

Betty Hart moved to Keizer in the mid-70s and has been involved in the community ever since. Her husband, Mike, was on the Keizer City Council in the 1980s and then on the KFD Board. He retired in December due to health reasons. Betty said she has worked on some KFD campaigns and served on the committee to hire the current chief. She worked 20 years with the City of Salem with the Citizen Involvement Committee, including neighborhood associations. She said it was important to understand public policy, the budgeting process and key issues so that people could understand and make informed decisions. After leaving the City, she was Chief Financial Officer for Northwest Human Services. "I know about budgeting and finance and what a Board member needs to understand for effective decision making." Two main issues facing KFD are the equipment bond measure this November and maintaining staffing. "I know how important Keizer Fire Department is to the community."

Jim Taylor has been in Keizer since 1947. He served 12 years on Keizer City Council and has chaired its Budget Committee and said those experiences would be an asset on the Keizer Fire District Board. He sees bolstering the volunteer role at KFD as a priority.

Timothy Moles noted his "good and bad" experience, referring to his military experience in the Army and then the Navy, some jail time, a PTSD diagnosis and a rebuilding period. He works now on a renewable energy project in Central Oregon. He has learned accountability and said education and kids are a big part of his life. Training the next generation is vitally important, he said. Oregon ranks last in education nationally and "that's unacceptable," he said. "It's time for a change."

According to Patterson's information sheet, he has been in Keizer since 1978 and in 1982 was involved in the Keizer Incorporation Committee. He served twice on City Council and was the city's first budget officer. He is a CPA and has 25 years of financial management experience, including service as CFO and Vice President of Finance and Planning at Mennonite Village in Albany, and Vice President of Administration and Finance at Western Baptist (now Corban University). He served on KFD's budget committee from 2013-2015. He lists his highest priority "will be to the men and women of the fire service and the equipment they rely on to respond to the needs of those they serve."

In a question and answer period, the candidates were asked what strength they would bring to the school board. Timothy Moles answered accountability. Betty Hart said she is a good listener and good at understanding complex issues and bringing information together. Mike Bauer noted his education and experience, as well as the legacy of his family giving back to the community. James Mulhern cited his background in the whole department, top to bottom, and knowing what's going to bring the group together. Colleen Busch said she wants to give back to the community and cited her involvement in community service and her organization and listening skills. Kathy Lincoln cited her history in the law and that she knows how to cut through the fluff to the heart of an issue. Richard Stevenson said his experience running a business had taught him how to communicate with people and also "how to get people through the door," which is

critical to an operation's success. He noted that he has working relationships already with Transit Board members because of his service on the transit advisory committee.

Rhonda thanked all the candidates for coming.

Upcoming meetings – Rhonda said the next WKNA Board meeting is 6 p.m. May 7 at her home, followed by the next general meeting at 7 p.m. May 14 at Keizer Civic Center.

Dates for the Big Toy Playstructure Community Build will be June 10-14. Kim Freeman noted that Claggett Creek Watershed Council would have a booth at River Front Park in Salem for the Earth Day celebration there. Mark Callier will be giving boat rides.

She also repeated the dates for Keizer Budget Committee meetings, starting May 5 and continuing May 7 and 12, and potentially May 19.

And finally, the Keizer Volunteer Coordinating Committee is holding a training on how to run a meeting at 6 p.m. May 16 at City Hall. The session is open to all, she said.

Betty Hart also noted the Mother's Day pancake breakfast put on annually at Keizer Fire.

Rhonda invited everyone to attend City Council meeting April 20 to help recognize Gary Blake, former WKNA Board member and ongoing coordinator of WKNA's Adopt-A-Street efforts, as Volunteer of the Quarter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.