

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

**April 13, 2017**

**Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary**

**Call to order** – President Gary Blake called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and welcomed about 14 attendees, including guest speakers from Keizer Chamber of Commerce/Keizer Iris Fest – Carlos Soto and Dave Walery – and Hersch Sangster, president of Salem Bicycle Club and chairman of the Keizer Traffic Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee. Gary encouraged everyone to sign in and introductions were made around the room. Gary welcomed new WKNA Board member Kris Adams, who was approved by Board vote at its April 4 meeting.

**Approval of Minutes for March 9, 2017** – Gary called for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Rhonda Rich moved to approve and Carol Doerfler seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget for 2016-17** – Rhonda reported that \$481.16 has been spent from the \$500 budget. The Board is asking \$500 for 2017-18. Gary will present the request to the City Council budget session at 6 p.m. May 2. Rhonda invited anyone interested to attend that presentation.

### **Presentations –**

**Iris Festival** – Gary welcomed the representatives from Keizer Chamber to talk about plans for the 2017 Iris Festival in mid-May. Festival chairman Dave Walery introduced Carlos Soto, who is the Festival Run chairman, and Bob Schackelford, who is a main assistant for the overall Festival. Carlos described plans for set-up for the full and half marathons and 10k race to be held Sunday, May 21. He said barricades will be up by 6:30 a.m. at the starting line site at River Road and Manbrin. Starting about 5 a.m. road signs will go out along the route from Manbrin to Shoreline and up to Chemawa Road, then on out into the country on Windsor Island Road to Matheny Road and back. He said the River Road/Manbrin intersection will be open again after about 6 hours or as soon as the last runner goes through the finish. He said the races are all U.S. Track and Field certified and are Boston Marathon qualifiers. For that reason, they use accurate and sophisticated timing equipment and the course is properly laid out with timing stations and water stations set up all along the route.

He said Keizer Police will be on duty for four hours to handle traffic at the intersection of Chemawa, Shoreline and Windsor Island roads. Two support vehicles will be traveling the route with two-way radios for safety precautions. He said one runner had to be transported last year after a health issue arose.

He said he's expecting about 37 entrants for the marathon, which starts at 7 a.m., and he's going for 200 for the half marathon (there were 147 last year.) The half marathon starts at 8 a.m., followed at 8:15 by the 10K.

Dave said they have sweepers go through the route following the race to pick up any leftover trash or other items but if neighbors have any concerns, they can call his cell – 503-559-8211.

Carlos also said he is helping the Chris Dudley Foundation route its Diabuddies Dash (run/walk) planned Saturday, April 22. (Foundation spokesperson Kelsey Tullis could not attend the meeting.) Carlos said the Dash will feature 10K, 5K and 3K events beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Keizer Rapids Park. Organizers are expecting about 150 people. He estimates the event should be done about noon. The route proceeds south on Shoreline and on through West Keizer.

Dave said plans for the Iris Fest grounds are pretty much the same as last year. The same streets will

be closed, including Cherry from Manbrin to Bi-Mart. One change involves the car show, which will be at the Elks Club from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, during the Festival, instead of a week later as it was last year.

Relative to the Iris Festival, Hersch Sangster said there also will be a family bike ride starting at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 21, from Cummings Elementary School out to Spongs Landing Park and back.

**Zoe Bluffstone, representative for Kathleen Harder, candidate for Salem-Keizer School Board –**

Zoe explained that Kathleen is a Zone 1 candidate, but all voters can vote for all candidates, regardless of zone. Kathleen is a physician, a product of public schools and has children and grandchildren who went through the public school system. She is an advocate of emphasizing science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as the arts in education. Zoe reminded everyone that the election is May 16.

**Hersch Sangster, President of Salem Bicycle Club and Chair, Keizer Traffic Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee –** The Salem Bicycle Club (SBC) has existed since 1969 and puts on over 400 rides a year (seven to 10 a week) in the Salem/Keizer area. He said the group has several rides through the West Keizer neighborhood, including a regular Thursday family ride from Cummings Elementary out Windsor Island and back on Wheatland Road.

The club's two main rides are the Monster Cookie Metric Century, coming up April 30, and the Peach of a Century, held in late summer. The Monster Cookie, which is a recreational bike ride, begins at Salem's Capitol Mall but definitely affects West Keizer. It traverses several West Keizer streets, including Shoreline, as it winds 62 miles from the Mall north to Champoeg Park and back.

He said the first riders could be expected down Shoreline around 11:30 a.m, with the main group probably between 2 and 2:30 p.m. He said they emphasize bike safety and courtesy with all participants. He said one advantage to the neighborhood is that the city will sweep the streets before the ride, for the safety of riders.

The first Monster Cookie was held in 1977. Hersch said it's the first event of the Oregon cycling season and will attract 2,000 or more riders. Of those 54% typically are from outside the Salem-Keizer-Silverton area. The ride even draws people from other states and countries. The big feature is cookies at various stations along the route, hence the name, and SBC purchases 950 dozen from a local vendor.

In all, the event pumps about \$35,000 into the local economy. Event fees are \$25 with preregistration, \$35 for day-of entrants. The money raised goes to the SBC and its foundation, which support bike safety and skill programs and helmet programs at area schools, Boys and Girls Club and other venues.

**Other business:**

**Keizer City Council liaison, Kim Freeman –**

- The new Winco/Waremart project (in the former Albertson's site) was permitted April 3.
- She said council has set budget meetings May 2, 4, 9 and 15, but not all may be needed. Hours for the sessions are 6-9 p.m. It is a status quo budget.
- The parks survey is in and a Public Forum for input is planned May 8. Council will be starting discussions on police department needs as well. She said a new officer was sworn in Monday. Since he had experience and did not need to attend training, he is already on the job. The officer is a replacement, not an addition, she said.
- A council work session will take up the Homeless Initiative Task Force and a plan of action at

5:45 p.m. April 24.

Kim also is council liaison to the Traffic Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee, which met just before the WKNA meeting. She said the city will start storm drain line repair work along River Road on Monday and continue from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. for two weeks. She also said the city received a \$4,000 grant from Oregon Department of Transportation to address speeding. Officers will be targeting Shoreline, Dearborn, Chemawa and River Road.

Hersch also noted that the traffic committee is trying to raise money for a bicycle repair station at City Hall. Estimated cost is \$1,400. He said this is of growing importance as more and more service stations charge for air, making a flat tire on a bicycle a pocketbook issue for many families.

#### **New Business –**

**Willamette Manor tennis courts** – Board member Dennis Phipps said he talked with city parks manager Robert Johnson about cracks that have occurred this winter in the newly resurfaced courts. Robert thinks the courts will need to be repaired every year. The city will get to it this summer. The company that did the work may help.

**Cummings Elementary School beautification** – Carol Doerfler said the pansies have been planted around the school's reader board and are doing well. She thanked those who donated pansies and Rhonda, Martin and Carolyn for helping plant the flowers and spread bark dust.

**Safety Routes to Schools** – Carol attended tonight's Traffic Safety committee meeting to report on this and review the history of WKNA's concerns about the lack of sidewalks along Delight where so many children have to walk to get to school. In 2014, WKNA met with Cummings PTC about this safety issue and has also talked with Bill Lawyer. The city's street repair schedule has focused on the Round About in 2016, the Dearborn bridge over Claggett Creek this year and WKNA understood that the improvements to Delight would be up for consideration next year. There is concern that may not be the case and that it's important to keep the issue on the front burner. The new principal at Cummings, Martina Mangan, was at the safety meeting and outlined the many parking and traffic issues that face the students and parents who are picking up and dropping off children every day.

Carol thanked the traffic committee for its support of the issue. Kim recommended having Martina come to a Budget meeting to talk about the issue, saying it's a powerful message for councilors to hear.

Gary said the best thing WKNA can do is keep the issue out front.

#### **Upcoming calendar items:**

- The Diabuddies Dash at KRP, April 22
- The Monster Cookie Metric Century Ride April 30
- WKNA Board meeting, 7 p.m. May 4
- WKNA general meeting, 7 p.m. May 11, which will feature Mayor Cathy Clark's State of the City talk.
- WKNA Adopt A Street Cleanup along Chemawa Road, 9 a.m. Saturday, May 13.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.