

West Keizer Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes
Sept. 7, 2017

Rhonda Rich's home

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Attending: Gary Blake, Rhonda Rich, Carol Doerfler, Art Mauer, Dennis Phipps, Kris Adams, Carolyn Homan **Guest:** Butch Dunn

Call to order – President Gary Blake called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. For the benefit of the guest, Board members introduced themselves and shared some of their summer activities.

Approval of May 4, 2017 Board meeting minutes – Carol moved approval and Art seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2017-18 – Rhonda said their have been no expenditures from the \$500 budget approved May 2. Expenses for 2016-17 totaled \$481.16, including \$30 for replacement sign inserts for street cleanup, \$13.98 for printer paper, \$92.05 for Website domain name and builder, \$16 for brochure stands, \$183.99 for 500 brochures, \$26.70 for neighborhood “green” flyers, \$18.44 for door hangers, and \$100 for four double-sided yard signs.

Getting the Word Out –

Website – Rhonda will have Barb add general meeting information this weekend. Carol asked about posting a list of the year's speakers so people can plan ahead. Rhonda said she would send Barbara information on the next 2 meetings, but listing topics too far out could be a problem because of the frequent need to change agendas.

Facebook and Keizer Chamber, KT, KYKN, K23 – Carol said these meeting notices are done.

Signs – Art and Dennis said they just need to divide up placement sites and the signs will go up this weekend.

SJ, KMUZ – Carolyn said the calendar notices are posted.

Brochure holders – These are in place. Carol is refilling as needed. Dennis said he needs another one because he used his to replace a broken one at Wallace House.

Nextdoor.com – Carol said she's having trouble figuring this system out in terms of setting up an area for WKNA. Kris offered to take this over. They will meet to work this out.

Little Library – Carol has gotten another donation of children's books, which disappear quickly. She said she and Martin are talking about adding a “second story” to the library for adult books so children's books can go on the lower level.

John Knox Community Garden Barbecue Aug. 5 – Carol and Carolyn attended. It was a nice event, good turnout with a band and good food. Provides a nice opportunity to visit with neighbors.

Parks Discussion – Rhonda

The \$4 parks fee approved by the City Council goes into effect in November, along with the \$4 fee to support police. The fees will be collected via the water bill. The city wants to create a list of ideas and priorities for use of the parks fee and wants public input. A meeting is set for 6 p.m. Sept. 12 at City Hall. Maintenance and repairs will be handled first, but the fee should generate an extra \$600,000 a year for parks, Rhonda said. It will take a year to build up the funds and the city wants priorities in place so work can begin as soon as possible.

Butch Dunn, who lives near Wallace House, suggested perhaps part of the police funding increase could help with policing parks. Rhonda suggested he bring that to the Parks Board meeting Sept. 12 and also alert the Parks Board council liaison (Roland Herrera), who could take the matter to the full council. Butch organized a meeting of Wallace House Park neighbors July 27 in the wake of problems arising from transients once again inhabiting the lower area of Wallace House next to the river. The city hired a haz-mat team to clean up that area three years ago, but homeless camps are back and the thick brushy terrain in this section of the park keeps the violators hidden.

Neighbors have even put up night-time security cameras and police have been patrolling the parking lot, but problems continue, including locked mail boxes being broken into and packages stolen. Rhonda urged Butch to attend the Parks Board meeting Sept. 12, and to encourage other Wallace House neighbors to attend as well.

Gary said long-term maintenance of parks is a security issue, citing Palma Ciega as well as Wallace House. Fire is also a concern for neighbors, given the dry conditions and buildup of brush and undergrowth in park areas next to the river. He said he believes WKNA can help residents come together with the Parks Board and police to make our parks safe. The Sept. 12 meeting is a great place to raise these issues.

In a related issue, repair of the new tennis court surface at Willamette Manor, which was damaged by the severe winter weather, is still pending. Carol suggested the City may need to not just fix the court but completely replace it.

The WKNA list of issues to bring before the Parks Board meeting includes:

1. cleaning out brush in the riverfront parks
2. Willamette Manor tennis court
3. Rotary club's plan to plant 50 or so trees in the buffer area between Keizer Rapids Park and the Tate Avenue neighborhood – the planting area includes land along the new pathway from Chemawa on the east side of the park. The neighbors have not been informed of this “arboretum” plan.

4. Maintenance.

Gary, Carol and Carolyn will attend the Sept. 12 meeting, along with Butch Dunn. Gary will present WKNA's priorities.

Delight Street Improvements – Gary, Art and Carol, as well as Cummings Elementary Principal Martina Mangan, met with Bill Lawyer this summer. Carol said Bill had a plan to install a 10 foot path on the west side of Delight St., from Chemawa to Cummings. There is an issue as the path nears Cummings, however, and a solution would be to run a path inside the fence. To do that requires permission from Salem-Keizer School District, however. Martina is working on that. Meanwhile, work on the path will begin at Dearborn and proceed south, which is a danger area for kids walking to school anyway. This will be on the WKNA general meeting agenda.

Adopt-a-Street – There was no Adopt-A-Street in August. Gary will check with Kim Freeman about the status of this project.

Pre-Eclipse meeting of Tate Ave. neighbors – Carol, Rhonda and Carolyn attended this meeting July 15, called by Ken LeDuc, to discuss safety concerns of neighbors given the plans to open Keizer Rapids Park to camping for the Eclipse. Keizer Fire and Keizer Police were represented at the meeting. Fire was a major concern for neighbors. Rhonda said WKNA should push to have a fire hydrant installed at KRP, but all in all, the Eclipse event went pretty well.

Annual Audubon field trip at KRP – Carolyn said this birding event will be held starting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 13. Those interested should meet at the boat ramp parking lot.

Upcoming General Meetings – Rhonda reviewed upcoming topics:

September 14 – Neighborhood Business (Sidewalks & Parks)
Eric Bandonis

October 12 – Public Works Director, Bill Lawyer

November 9 – Jerry McGee, Keizer History
Eric Bandonis

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.