

WKNA Board meeting

Oct. 5, 2023 7 p.m., at City Hall following Community Diversity Engagement Comm. Meeting)
Submitted by Carolyn Homan, Secretary

Attending: Rhonda Rich, Gary Blake, Carol Doerfler, Robb Witters, Carolyn Homan, Carol Phipps, Kris Adams, Art Mauer

Call to Order – Rhonda called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of Sept. 7 minutes – Several typos noted. Robb moved approval as corrected; Carol D. seconded. Motion approved

Budget report – Rhonda reported expenditures of \$232.38: \$103 for 200 copies of newsletter for Keizerfest, Back to School night at Cummings, flyer boxes and fall meetings; \$61.99 for printer ink; \$29.56 for lanyards; \$37.83 for 7 copies of Neighborhood Traffic Management Program. Current budget: \$1,200, with \$1,100 total estimated expenses

Getting the Word Out

Website -- Nothing new here but do need to revise some content. Have added T-Shirt World as a sponsor for our WKNA T-shirt printing.

Subscription list of WKNA emails -- City has requested WKNA's distribution list, but have decided against that. Robb suggested we get signup info to members so they can decide for themselves to connect with the City. Rhonda will include link in her email to members about the General meeting. Residents can sign up to get Committee meeting packets, Council meeting packets, etc. We can also add the link on our Facebook page.

Signs – Rhonda will order 5 more signs. Art had one stolen; Kris will give hers to Art. Carol P. said we need more of the skinny brochure-type boxes (they keep the rain out better).

Brochures – Group reviewed revision Carol P. created. It looks great! Carolyn suggested trying a sans serif font for photo cutlines to make them stand out. Carol will finalize and get it ready for printing.

Little Library – Doing well. Robb will work on a design for bookmarks to distribute that denote WKNA's sponsorship of the Little Library.

Keizer Library -- Kris said children's events are popular and some in Spanish have been added, along with a pre-school story time. A chess club and game night have been started. The annual book sale will be Oct. 20-21. Patron numbers are up. Barbara Miner is new Board President.

Facebook postings – Add food bank need and the link to sign up for City information.

REPORTS

Food barrels – Sept.: BiMart 161 pounds; Copper Creek 169 lbs. and \$60. Carol P. has Halloween decorations to add to the barrels.

Keizer United – Next meeting, Oct. 9

CUMMINGS SCHOOL

Cummings PTA -- 6 p.m. Oct. 10. Carol D. and/or Kris attending. Latest Cummings Connection newsletter didn't include WKNA information. Rhonda: we need to check the deadlines and make sure they can use our information. Carol D. will check with Principal Kronser.

School grounds plantings – Things are looking good. Recent rains have helped.

Nov. 14 is the Ruby Bridge Safe Routes to School Walk. WKNA may be able to help with this.

Audubon Bird Walk – Carolyn said about 10 people attended – none from West Keizer apparently. It was good weather and about 30 species of birds noted.

Parks

Willamette Manor – Carol P. is writing another grant to Parks Advisory Board for replacement kinnikinnick. She is asking for 55 more plants plus bark dust mulch (3 yards), and a couple of “stay off the hillside” signs. Since Carol will be out of town, Rhonda will present the grant request at the next Parks Board meeting. If approved, we would set up a work party for 9 a.m. Oct. 21.

Palma Ciega – Gary still spending about 6 hours a week keeping brush trimmed and debris picked up. If City crews trim and don't remove debris, Gary to call Robert for help.

Parks Board/Council parks tour – Rhonda and Carol D. joined the tour just for the Keizer Rapids Park visit. Rotary had done work near Amphitheater to accommodate food trucks. City has allocated a \$15,000 grant to extend electricity to the south open field area, which has been designated as an “event space”. Rhonda wants to contact Chamber and ask to be involved in some way so we can know in advance about some of the plans for KRP's use.

KRP soccer fields – Carolyn will email Adam Brown for an update on this project.

Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Comm. –

Sept. 21 meeting, Robb – Verda speeding came up (north of the roundabout). Resident tried to use the NTM but got only 50% of resident signatures. There are still concerns about the lack of sidewalks by the new apartments. Speeding on Claggett was pursued by City and Mike Griffin (liaison from Public Works) said the speed monitor showed there was no problem. Mike deBlasi requested that the committee get these reports for review. No agreement on that.

Testimony to Community Diversity Engagement Comm. Oct. 5 – We learned that the Traffic committee was told that its redraft of the Neighborhood Traffic Program could not change the process itself. Rhonda testified that the NTM program redraft should remove neighborhood associations as a petitioner for traffic changes. A resident can petition, and can seek NA backing, but the 75% threshold for neighbor approval is too high. It's too high for individuals, too, but a NA should be able to use door hangers to “get the word out.” She suggested the City agree to do mailings to gain resident buy-in. Carolyn also testified that the 75% threshold is too high and spoke to the equity issue of intermittent sidewalks, as well as deplorable sidewalk condition in many areas of town. (Acknowledging that sidewalk repair is the responsibility of homeowners, which in itself is an equity issue, given the high cost involved.) Also, despite the rewrite, the plan remains opaque and stands as a barrier to citizen involvement in traffic issues.

Planning Commission – Robb was congratulated as a new members of the commission. He said commission discussed process and decided not to involve neighbor review. But Robb would like to

revisit so that a partition, for instance, would not gain Commission approval without input from neighbors. He believes the commission needs feedback so they know the impact of decisions on residents.

St. Edwards Community Dinner Nov. 22 -- Carol D. and Kris are getting information on this and whether WKNA Board can volunteer to help with tray pickup, etc. Carol said they expect 500 or so people for the dinner so any and all help is welcome. Carol will reach out to the office manager to confirm WKNA participation. Hours are extended for this dinner to 3-6 p.m.

General Meetings

Nov. 9 – Keizer CERT rep Patrick Pardo; Corri Falardeau, Chamber exec, re: Holiday events

Next Board meeting – Nov. 2 – Discuss “no soliciting: signs and effect on distributing door hangers, etc. Speakers and topics for Jan., Feb. March for December newsletter

January – Andrew Copeland, Keizer Police Chief

February – Libert House, Center for Hope and Safety

March – Shane Witham, Community Development Director OR State of the City Joint NA meeting?

April – Joint NA Candidate Forum

May --- Neighborhood Watch Program