

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

Jan. 11, 2018

Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – Vice President Rhonda Rich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (President Gary Blake was delayed) and welcomed about 18 attendees, including guest speaker Jill Bonney-Hill. Introductions were made around the room and Rhonda announced that WKNA is still open to meeting topics for the coming year. She asked anyone with ideas to share them.

Attendee Mark Callier, president of Keizer Rotary, announced that the second planting at the new Keizer Rapids Park Arboretum would take place at 9 a.m. Feb. 3. Thirty-three trees were planted Nov. 4 and they plan to plant 43 more in February. Each is a different species. Choices were drawn from Keizer's urban tree recommendation list. He invited anyone interest to volunteer to help with the planting. He said they eventually will have signage and pamphlets available describing the trees and the arboretum project, which will be a Level 2 certified arboretum when finished. Rotary has committed to upkeep and will install irrigation if funding can be secured.

He said the hazelnut orchard is to be removed, starting this weekend. A grove of native trees and picnic area are planned in part of the former orchard.

Also during introductions, attendee Dylan Juran, member of Keizer's Parks Advisory Board, said he would like to present information at a future WKNA meeting on a possible municipal internet service for Keizer.

Approval of Minutes for Nov. 9, 2017 – Gary called for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Art Mauer moved to approve and Rhonda seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2017-18 – Rhonda reported spending about \$46 for printing from the \$500 budget. She said WKNA will need to print more brochures. More budget detail will be covered at the next meeting.

Speakers

Jill Bonney-Hill, President, Keizer Points of Interest Committee – She presented information on the all-volunteer committee's mission and projects. Members are passionate about the history of Keizer, she said, and want to memorialize historic and geographic sites of interest. The committee was formed in 2003 by Dr. Jerry McGee, local historian. Among projects KPIC has completed so far: Schreiner's Iris Gardens, on Quinaby Road, started in 1925 in Minnesota by F.X. Schreiner and now run by his grandchildren here in Keizer; Keizer Christian Church, established in 1963; Claggett Cemetery, the first in Keizer; Spong's Landing Park, located on a donation land claim staked in 1853; kiosks at Ryan Hill Park, Keizer Station, honoring Marie Dorian, Native American woman and the only woman on the Wilson Price Hunt Expedition to the Oregon Territory, and Japanese history in the Northwest, with many immigrants settling in the Lake Labish area; kiosks at Keizer Rapids Park detailing the history of major Willamette River floods (1861, 1890, 1943, 1964 and 1996) and a flood level pole showing how high the waters rose; the 45th parallel sign on River Road; a donation land claim sign showing the northeast corner of the first claim filed (John Brooks Keizer) – filed in 1850 under the Donation Land Act; the statue at City Hall memorializing Keizer's namesake Thomas Dove Keizer; and the Art Walk, noting all the art installations around Keizer. Keizer Fire Department and Old Keizer School (now the Keizer Heritage Community Center) are also Points of Interest.

She said the group is currently working on a kiosk for the Huber property (the cow pasture at Chemawa and Verda that is the subject of development plans) detailing the Savage family history, and an oral history project creating a video archive of people who grew up in Keizer sharing stories from the past. She also shared a brochure featuring pictures of Keizer trees of Interest.

She invited anyone interested in keeping Keizer's history for our kids and grandkids to join the committee, which meets every third Thursday at City Hall.

City Council update, councilor Laura Reid – Reporting in Kim Freeman's absence, she said the holidays were quiet for Council but busy with community activities. The Council is looking into an issue regarding the police/parks fees and the senior discount in condominium projects where the HOA is billed for water. She also said a new police dog is to be inducted next week.

She noted the Salem-Keizer School District bond vote coming up in May (she's a teacher at McNary High). She said virtually all schools will benefit from projects to be funded through the bond but McNary will be a main beneficiary, with a whole new building, relocation of the softball fields and a parking lot revamp that may ease problems for those living on Newberg Drive.

Election of WKNA Officers

Gary asked for nominations for officers and Board members for the association for the coming year.

President – Dennis Phipps nominated Kris Adams, but Kris declined. Carolyn Homan nominated Carol Doerfler. (Although Carol was not present, the nomination had been discussed with her prior to the meeting.)

Vice President – Rhonda nominated Kris Adams.

Secretary – Kris nominated Carolyn

Board members – Art Mauer was nominated by Kris; Dennis was nominated by Carol Phipps; Rhonda was nominated by Carolyn; and Gary was nominated by Art.

There being no other nominations, Gary asked for election of the slate by acclamation. Davis Dyer so moved and Kris seconded. Motion carried.

Reports

Antique Powerland – Attendee and neighbor Les Layton shared some information on Antique Powerland, now called Antique Heritage Park, located at Brooks. There are multiple museums on the 62-acre property, all run by nonprofits. He said the grounds can be rented out for events such as company picnics. A Civil War reenactment is held over July 4th. The traditional "steam-up" events are held end of July and first weekend in August. He provided informational brochures.

Delight Street improvements – Rhonda shared information on this long-running WKNA project. Carol Doerfler leads the WKNA committee that has been working with Keizer Public Works Director Bill Lawyer and Cummings Elementary School principal Martina Mangan. Bill has talked with Salem-Keizer School District about his plan to run a walking path inside the fence on school property from Dearborn Avenue south to the school. A temporary path is in place but a permanent path requires an easement from SKSD. Carol will have more information at the February meeting.

Willamette Manor Park tennis courts – Repair of the courts was completed in 2016 but that winter's harsh weather has caused problems. Rhonda reported that Carol testified on the need for follow-up at the last Parks Advisory Board meeting. Parks Manager Robert Johnson said that repair is on the docket and a rebuild is in the future, thanks to the new parks funding.

Sunset Park Safety letter – Rhonda reported on a letter developed by the WKNA Board and read into the record at the Nov. 6 City Council meeting. It detailed the Board's concerns for public safety after a September incident involving shots fired at a gravel pit gun range across the Willamette River from Sunset Park. Bullets crossed the river and frightened people in the park and also pedestrians on Sunset Ave. The

city has said signs were posted at the gun range advising shooters not to fire across the river. Dennis checked at the gravel pit in question but muddy conditions would not let him access the gun range to check on the signs. WKNA will follow up on the situation.

UGB discussions – Carol Doerfler and Gary Blake were among representatives of neighborhood associations and other groups who met recently with community development consultants regarding the Keizer growth issues. Public forums are planned in a few months to gather more feedback on what kind of growth people want to see, or not, and how to handle attendant issues such as schools, transportation, safety, etc. Everyone was encouraged to get involved.

No Smoking in Parks – The WKNA Board passed a motion backing no smoking in Keizer Rapids Park because of the potential fire hazard. The Parks Advisory Board is discussing a potential ban. Dylan Juran said the parks board plans a public forum on the issue at its next meeting, 6 p.m. Feb. 13.

Mark your calendar:

WKNA General Meeting topics:

Feb. 8 – Cherriots

March 8 – Keizer Chamber of Commerce

Before adjournment, Gary thanked the Board for their support during his terms as WKNA President. Rhonda thanked him for his service.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.