

## **WKNA General Meeting**

**Oct. 12, 2023 7 p.m.**

**At Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary**

About 21 people in attendance, including Guest Speakers Keizer Fire Chief Ryan Russell and Keizer Fire District Board members Joe Van Meter and Colleen Busch

**Call to Order:** WKNA President Rhonda Rich called the meeting order at 7:05p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

**Minutes of previous meetings** – Rhonda asked for a motion to approve minutes of the Sept. 14 meeting with correction of the October PTA meeting to Oct. 10 (not 20). Joe Van Meter so moved; Art Mauer seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget Report** -- Rhonda said WKNA has a budget balance of \$948.14. We will be getting more brochures printed using Carol P.'s redesign – about 1,000 for \$300. Expenditures already made include more newsletter copies for Keizerfest and fall meetings; printer ink; lanyards for Board members; printing; and a brochure box and paper, for a total of \$251.86.

### **Guest Speakers**

**Marion Co. Parole and Probation Deputy Eric Bandonis** – He shared some messages from Keizer Police Andrew Copeland. Tim Hein, who came to Keizer from Silverton Police a few years ago, has been promoted to Lieutenant. The department has begun a Facebook campaign urging residents to be proactive re: safety and to fight theft. Residents are advised to bring in their mail and packages ASAP, turn on outside lights at 9 p.m., lock home and car doors and make sure no valuables are left in cars parked outside. He also provided information on a Marion Co. Sheriff's Department program to work with offenders called SOAR– Student Opportunity to Achieve Results. Participants go through a rigorous, 12-week program at Chemeketa Community College to give them life skills that help prevent recidivism. The first class of female students graduated this fall. Deputy Bandonis also recognized his boss, new Marion Co. Sheriff Nick Hunter, who was appointed in June.

**Keizer Fire Chief Ryan Russell** – He distributed an informational flyer that explains the levy request Keizer Fire Department is seeking in the November election. The boost from 59 cents to 99 cents will help KFD maintain response time of 6 minutes or less. The goal is to meet that time 90% of the time and KFD is currently meeting it 92% of the time. It's a "big deal" he said, because a house fire can double every 30 seconds. Also, cardiac arrest survivability decreases 10% each minute that passes so the faster the response time, the better the chance of a positive outcome for the patient.

And call volumes are up 73% the past 10 years, with no increase in the support levy during that time. Although labor is KFD's biggest expense, the biggest increase is that for medical supplies, which is an outgrowth of the rise in call volumes, as well as inflation, which was 7.9% locally in 2022. KFD's permanent base tax rate is \$1.35/\$1,000 – the lowest in Oregon. At the levy rate of 99 cents/\$1,000 being sought this year, cost to the average home in Keizer (\$230,000 assessed value) would be \$7.50/month. The increase will allow KFD to sustain current levels of service, maintain response times; retain all current positions and keep pace with growth of the city, as well as prepare for future needs. Board member Joe Van Meter pointed out that assessed values are capped at a 3% rise each year, so the district can never catch up to inflation. The 5-year levy helps fill the gap.

One issue is the number of senior and retirement living facilities in Keizer, which is higher than many other places. Related to that, Board member Joe Meter noted that ambulance reimbursements are a

problem because Medicare and Medicaid only provide a partial reimbursement of the actual cost. For more information, people can go to [www.keizerfire.com/levy](http://www.keizerfire.com/levy).

## REPORTS

**City Council Liaison** – No Council representative at this meeting.

**Food barrels** – Dennis Phipps reported on September collections: 161 lbs at BiMart; 169 lbs. and \$60 at Copper Creek; 33 lbs at Keizer Fire District. Also picked up 53 lbs. today at BiMart and 195 at Copper Creek. Keizer Food Bank reports rising need. They have been serving about 100 cars every Monday and Thursday. Families drive up and food is loaded into their car.

**Keizer United meeting, Carolyn** – Program was from Northwest Human Services Crisis Suicide Line – part of the National 988 Crisis Line Program. The top reason for calling is poverty – people need help with resources. Board member Tammy Kunz reported that the November K.U. meeting will be a Resource Fair with a variety of community organizations sponsoring informational tables. The Keizer Neighborhood Associations will share a table at the event, the second Monday at noon at City Hall.

**Cummings PTA liaison Amber Zimelman** – About 14 people attended. The Jog A Thon was held last weekend. Proceeds not yet reported.

## Parks

**Palma Ciea** -- Rhonda thanked Gary Blake for his regular maintenance work.

**Willamette Manor** -- Carol Phipps wrote another grant to Parks Board to purchase replacement plants to combat erosion on north hillside of the park by the playground. A work day is planned 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 21. The hours of work logged represent the matching input needed to secure the grant. The cooler fall weather should be more conducive to plant survival.

**Keizer Rapids turf fields** -- Carolyn emailed City Manager Adam Brown for an update. The project should go out to bid by Oct. 16. There is only enough funding for the two fields and fencing, with a graveled parking lot. Bids will be opened mid-November and the contract awarded in December, they hope. They will be flexible with construction to get the best price. The project should be done by the end of summer and hopefully before.

Rep. Kevin Mannix's representative Kimberly Castro Monroy said that his position on the Ways and Means Committee will give him more leverage to resubmit a request for funding for the KRP fields, which was turned down in the 2023 session. Even though the upcoming legislative session is a short one, he will try to get the request in and will keep WKNA in the loop.

## Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Safety Committee –

Rhonda reported that the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program redraft is still being worked on. Meanwhile, the speed table at Cummings Elementary School that WKNA requested has been completed and despite some complaints it is serving its purpose. Principal Kronser is happy. Flashing speed signs on Shoreline Drive, which WKNA also sought, also are working to slow traffic. Neighborhood Associations are still hoping to have input on the NTM but the 75% threshold for neighbor signatures endorsing a project is a problem. We will keep following up on this.

**Planning Commission** – Robb Witters has been appointed to the Commission. He said mixed-use, walkable areas were discussed and 3 have been identified for Keizer. The areas will have increased density and can have taller buildings. The goal is to rely less on vehicles and have more walkable areas with easier access to a variety of needed services. Plans will be submitted to the state next month.

**WKNA Little Library** – The Little Library needs kids' books.

**Keizer Community Library** – No report. Annual book sale Oct. 20-21 at City Hall. See website for other activities.

**Keizer NAs/Chamber Govt. Affairs Committee meeting Oct. 18, noon** – The Chamber has asked the Neighborhood Association Boards to identify five main topics of concern for their neighborhood and bring those for discussion at this meeting. Among those ID by WKNA are public safety, traffic/speeding, emergency preparedness, the UGB, parks, green spaces, community library

**Next meetings:**

**Nov. 2 – WKNA Board meeting** –contact Rhoda Rich for more information

**Nov. 9 -- WKNA General meeting.** Guest speakers Patrick Pardo, Keizer CERT Representative; Corri Falardeau, Executive Director, Keizer Chamber of Commerce.

Go to [www.westkeizerna.org](http://www.westkeizerna.org) or Facebook for current information

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**