

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2015

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

President Rhonda Rich called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center, invited anyone who hadn't to sign in and welcomed the approximately 15 people attending, including guest speaker, Keizer Police Chief John Teague. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Nov. 13, 2014, general meeting minutes – Rhonda noted that copies of the minutes were available at the back of the room. Kim Freeman moved approval and Ron Freeman seconded. Minutes were approved. Rhonda pointed out that copies of the minutes are now on the WKNA website. She also welcomed new Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark to the meeting.

Budget for 2014-15 – Rhonda reported that \$121.42 has been spent so far for printing. She also noted that Councilor Kim Freeman has been appointed WKNA's liaison to City Council.

Keizer Police Dept. presentation, Chief John Teague -- Chief Teague noted that he reported last year about his philosophy of policing, which takes a more problem-oriented approach. For years, departments chased numbers, he said, and used numbers of arrests, etc., to rate effectiveness and judge hiring needs. But with public safety the goal, police needed to change what they do, he said.

Problem Oriented Policing (POP) aims to identify problems and solve them, thus driving down crime and making citizens feel safer. He gave two examples of how it's working in Keizer, one involving a disruptive man on meds and another a renter who hosts loud parties and is a major annoyance to neighbors. Rather than continue to respond to neighbor complaints, officers routinely check in where there are potential problems. In the case of the renter, officers are working with the landowner toward an eviction notice. By being proactive, KPD can head off problems before neighbors call with complaints.

Another issue on the rise is transients or squatters living in foreclosed houses. He also cited the drug bust this week on Juedes at a problem house where drug activity had been occurring for 20 years. This is the kind of problem KPD wants to ID before neighbors have to live with it. This case was reported to KPD in December and the raid was made early Jan. 8.

Personal contacts with citizens help ID these issues and problem-solving policing helps make neighbors feel safer. To tackle these kinds of problems, two officers were reassigned from the traffic safety unit. KPD did not feel it was sacrificing public safety in order to reprioritize department workload, he said, citing local statistics that indicate there is a point where issuing more traffic citations does not yield increased traffic safety. He added that the police department looks for that point where they're neither sacrificing traffic safety nor issuing more citations than necessary.

One issue with POP is how to measure success. Community safety is harder to measure than number of arrests. Surveys do help gauge how people feel and KPD will be doing those every other year. Officers also are having more conversations with citizens in order to identify issues.

In question and answer, Chief Teague emphasized that KPD officers still are stopping cars and writing citations. But he also wants them to talk with people and use discretion. For many families already living

in poverty, a \$200 traffic ticket can have a “Generational impact” that can make a situation much worse, he said.

Asked about a computer forensics investigator position the city intends to hire, he said the job should be posted soon. He said Polk County is interested in “buying” part of the investigator’s time. With cell phones, computers and the variety of other electronics to deal with, this kind of investigator is invaluable today.

Mayor Clark referenced an issue that came to City Council last year when parents along Sandy Drive and 4th cited problems with McNary students “hanging out” in the area. Smoking, inappropriate language and other more serious issues, such as drug use, had parents in fear for their young children. The area was off school property, so the school district could not take action. The city installed a gate at the end of the street and convinced the school to keep it locked. This has solved the problem, Chief Teague said.

He also reported that KPD is leading a pilot for Salem-Keizer schools on truancy. Police are often called by parents to take a child to school, but police can’t act unless the child is in a public place.

Report from Eric Bandonis, Marion County Sheriff’s Office, Parole and Probation officer – Officer Bandonis, who is housed at Keizer Police Department, said parole/probation case loads saw their first increase in years in December. It was only 10 cases and he said the cause is unknown.

Elections of WKNA Board of Directors: Rhonda noted that the board consists of four Directors and three Officers: President, Vice President, and Secretary. All positions are for a term of one year. Board member Ron Freeman then oversaw director elections, accepting nominations for the three officer positions first, beginning with President.

Carolyn Homan nominated Rhonda Rich for another term as president. Carol Doerfler seconded. Rhonda was elected by consensus. Carolyn nominated Carol Doerfler as vice president; Rhonda seconded. Carol also was elected by consensus. Carol then nominated Carolyn as secretary and she was elected by consensus. For clarification, Kathy Lincoln asked if anyone could present a nomination and that was confirmed.

For the four board positions, Ron Freeman, Art Mauer and Clint Holland (who was not present) were elected by consensus. Barbara Henke and Kathy Lincoln both declined nomination to the Board, so there is one remaining open slot to be filled on the board, hopefully at the next meeting.

West Keizer Parks reports –

Update on KRP community build play structure -- Ron Freeman reported that the Big Toy task force met on Tuesday, the first meeting in over a month. There was some conversation regarding siting of the Big Toy and after measurements, it was moved slightly from where the Parks Board had placed it. He urged anyone interested to check the website at www.keizerbigtoy.org. The site lists ways to volunteer and donate, and there are pictures of the design, an overview of the location, etc.

He said the task force is working with the farmer who manages the hazelnut orchard as they get ready to start construction of the Big Toy. He said they are trying to maximize orchard harvest even as they need to remove some of the trees to accommodate construction, which is scheduled June 10-15.

Rhonda noted that WKNA's website, westkeizerna.org, has been updated and new web manager is Barbara Henke.

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Rhonda invited all to stay for a brief WKNA Board meeting to follow, to talk about meeting topics for the coming year.

The next general meeting is 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at Keizer Civic Center.