

WKNA Board Meeting

June 5, 2014

Rhonda Rich's home

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Homan, secretary

Attending: Rhonda Rich, President

Carol Doerfler, Vice President

Carolyn Homan, Secretary

Ron Freeman

Art Mauer

Clint Holland

Absent: Gary Blake

Rhonda called the meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Approval of minutes -- Board reviewed minutes from the May meeting. Carolyn noted one correction (June 2 “forum” on tow trucks, not form), which she has made in her document. Ron moved approval and Art seconded. Minutes were approved.

Budget for 2013-14 -- Rhonda provided a report on 2013-14 expenses, which she submitted to the City Finance Director Susan Gahlsdorf, showing a total of \$500.87 in expenditures. She said she told Susan to disregard the extra 87 cents over the \$500 budget. In answer to a question, Rhonda explained that some things are billed directly to the city, such as Pronto Signs expenditures. For the rest, Rhonda is reimbursed upon submittal of receipts.

WKNA has been approved for a \$900 budget for 2014-15. Greater Gubser Neighborhood, which asked for \$1,500 in order to do a mailing, also received \$900.

Getting the Word Out – Carolyn has gotten a meeting notice on the SJ calendar for the June 12 special meeting regarding amenities citizens would like to see at Keizer Rapids Park. These are things people would like to be included and considered as part of the upcoming Master Plan process for areas recently brought within the Urban Growth Boundary. Rhonda has submitted a Letter to the Editor to the Keizertimes on the special WKNA meeting June 12, urging neighbors to attend and “share your vision for the new Keizer Rapids Park.” It was noted that the Keizer Parks Advisory Board is holding a public hearing on park amenities on June 10.

The city has been handling notification regarding the Parks Master Plan timeline process through its website. Ron said the various hearings are aimed at getting public input to create a list of potential amenities. A Design Charette set for Sept. 20 will tackle placement of various amenities in the park. He said John Morgan will facilitate the charette. Morgan has been a consultant to the City for some time regarding various planning and facilities issues.

Rhonda said Davis has posted the meeting information on the WKNA website. Carol noted that KYKN, the Chamber website and other outlets will have information about the meeting. Art said the yard signs will be going out as usual.

Rhonda thanked Carol for taking over Facebook page updates. Carol said WKNA’s page has 69 “Likes” and all Board members were urged to add their “Like” to the page.

Next door.com – Rhonda said she has joined this service because she has a rental in the Gubser neighborhood and the Greater Gubser group uses this site as an information exchange. It would be another venue for notification of WKNA events, she said, but it’s more like a “chat room” where neighbors can discuss issues, such as problems with raccoons or kids looking for summer jobs. WKNA can set up an account any time. Rhonda said City Council is in favor because it’s another way to get the word out. To participate, however, you have to connect and acknowledge your address because the site is only for people who live in a designated geographic area (WKNA’s account would set the parameters). Rhonda acknowledged that some people may not like that aspect.

Newsletter/post card? -- Carol reported on information she gathered regarding the potential costs of producing and mailing a post card or a newsletter to neighbors. WKNA would mail to about 3,200 households. Valley Mailing’s post card rates include \$35/thousand for labeling, \$75 to print in black and white and 26 cents each for mailing.

For color, costs would be \$560 for color printing (four cards/8 1/2x11 sheet), plus labeling and postage. The total for b/w post cards would be more than the entire WKNA budget.

For a newsletter, 8 1/2x11 front and back (leaving 1/3 of a page for the label area), printing in b/w would cost \$184; folding is \$29; labeling, \$112; the closure “tabs, \$48; plus 26 cents each for postage. For color, printing alone would be \$2,200. Carol said Valley Printing did note that they could offer some “options” to WKNA as a nonprofit.

The Board discussed options to a post card or newsletter. Carol asked about possibly printing more brochures on the good, trifold paper and distributing more of those as an outreach tool. Clint suggested possibly distributing a piece door to door instead of mailing, in order to save money. He offered to pay for printing if the amphitheater concert list could be distributed at the same time, but this would have to be done before July and the timeline won’t work. Ron suggested the Chamber directory as a distribution option, which is handled door to door by Boy Scouts. But again, this isn’t done until November, which is too late. WKNA would want a piece in neighbors’ hands by early September before the first fall meeting and the design charette for KRP.

Reader boards at the Bank of the Cascades and/or the Keizer Fire Dept. were suggested, as were more yard signs. The matter was left to more discussion at a future meeting.

Adopt-A-Street: Rhonda said she would contact Gary about his situation and whether he wants to continue with Board service, since he has missed several board meetings. Another Adopt-A-Street Clean Up day is due in July so she suggested he could possibly just head up the clean-up days and drop Board involvement. Ron suggested the July clean up might just focus on the section of Chemawa from Windsor Island toward the park because of the continuing road construction on Chemawa east of there. Rhonda said she would ask Gary about setting up a day in July for the work.

Medical Marijuana Task Force – Art confirmed that the task force has completed its work unless the City Council has need for clarification on an issue. There is a moratorium in place on facility siting until May 2015.

Keizer Rapids Park Playstructure report – Ron said the task force met Tuesday but the agenda was light because project manager Mark Caillier is out of town. Ron said the Big Toy website is getting close to completion and will have volunteer signup and management capability through Volgistics. The build date has been postponed to June 14, 2015. In answer to a question, he said the consulting firm, Leathers, is OK with the change in build date but planners haven’t been able to talk directly with them about it yet.

Funding is going well, he said. A \$15,000 grant was received from Oregon Community Foundation and Keizer Parks Foundation’s Pinot for the Parks event raised \$10,000. On Wednesday, Nate Brown presented information on the build to the Oregon Parks group in support of a \$150,000 grant request. Rhonda noted that a letter of support from the WKNA was submitted for the community grant.

The task force also talked about ways to sell the commemorative fence pickets, which are offered for \$35 for families and \$50 for businesses and organizations.

On another note, Ron reported that the Palma Ceia neighborhood pool is for sale for \$75,000.

WKNA Parks Reporter – Clint cited the help of several volunteers who helped install sprinklers at Sunset Park and then reseed the area: John Henke, Carol and Martin Doerfler and others all helped. He said it’s all on automatic sprinkler. More seed will be available in July to finish the reseeding. The city is placing bark dust around the trees, as well.

Rhonda asked about picnic tables. Clint said the park has one and that a second one could be available for placement by July. He said that if there are table needs at other neighborhood parks, WKNA should contact Robert Johnson, the city parks manager. Carol volunteered to tour West Keizer’s parks to see where tables are needed.

Rhonda again thanked Clint for heading up the Sunset Park project.

Cummings Elementary School – sidewalks on Delight – This issue was on the May agenda for the Traffic/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee but was postponed to June 26. Rhonda, Carol and Carolyn, along with Hersch Sangster and Erick Peterson, attended the Safe Routes to School Program meeting on May 19. Sidewalks on Delight is definitely an issue of interest to this group. Carol is trying to get a meeting set up for her and Rhonda with Hersch, Erik and Sherri Tosi, president of the PTC at Cummings, to talk about bicycle safety and other safe routes issues. It is hoped that Hersch might champion this issue but it is complicated because Cummings is a Title 1 school. As such, there is no time in the school day schedule to plan things like bicycle safety training. This may be an issue for WKNA to pursue after the parks Master Planning effort.

Tow Trucks Parking in the City of Keizer – Rhonda and Carol testified at the June 2 public forum that WKNA opposes allowing tow truck parking on city streets. The forum included some heated exchanges. Council is to decide the matter at its next meeting.

Salem River Crossing – Rhonda circulated an information sheet about an open house from 4-6 p.m. June 11 at Courthouse Square, Salem, to update citizens on the “third bridge” project.

June 12 Special General Meeting on the Master Planning Process for Keizer Rapids Park – The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center. Rhonda asked for input on how best to collect information at the meeting, which will be used at the Sept. 20 design charette. The Gubser meeting used “dotmocracy” – soliciting ideas for amenities from those attending, listing them on wall charts and then giving each participant sticky dots with which to vote on their favorites.

Rhonda shared copies of a questionnaire the city sent out in 2006 when the original planning was done for KRP. The questionnaire listed a variety of amenities and asked citizens to indicate their likelihood to use them. She also shared a copy of the summary of the results.

Once again, the goal of the June 12 meeting is to list amenities, not worry about placement. Rhonda added that WKNA will have time at its September general meeting to solicit ideas about placement before the design charette on Sept. 20.

It was agreed to do a dot system like Gubser did at the June 12 meeting, giving each participant 12 dots with which to vote on favorite amenities. The votes will produce a ranked list. Rhonda suggested that WKNA list only things that are not now in the park (Gubser allowed listing and ranking even of things that already are present).

Rhonda’s goal is to produce a vision for what the park should look like, not just a list of amenities. She emphasized that the original goal was to connect the community to the river and that she would want to have family areas, as well as sport courts. She would like to give people a sheet so that they can write down what they want in terms of an overall atmosphere at the park – a family-oriented area? An education center? etc.

Upcoming meetings – Rhonda asked members to pencil in a tentative Board meeting on July 10 in order to plan for fall general meetings. There was not time at the June meeting to discuss potential meeting topics for the coming year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.