

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

Oct. 10, 2019

Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – In the excused absence of President Carol Doerfler and Vice President Carol Phipps, Secretary Carolyn Homan called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and nominated Past President Gary Blake to run the meeting. Gary then welcomed about 12 attendees.

City Council representative report – Gary recognized Councilman Roland Herrera, filling in for Councilor Kim Freeman, to present an update from City Council. Roland said Monday's Council meeting was a night of awards – recognition of Keizer City employees with the CIS/OSHA safety award; the James Richards Memorial award for community service presented to Mayor Cathy Clark at the League of Oregon Cities meeting. Also, the Latino Action Committee awarded the City of Keizer an appreciation plaque for support of its programs.

He said Council had voted to go forward with the River Road Revitalization Plan that has been two years in the making. He also announced the Oct. 17 McNary Hall of Fame banquet that would recognize the 2001 High School Champion McNary football team, among others.

Approval of Minutes for April 11, 2019 – Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes from the September general meeting, as submitted by Carol Phipps and posted on WKNA's website. Dennis Phipps seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Report:

Budget for 2019-20, Rhonda – No expenditures have been made from the \$550 budget approved by City Council. The association is looking at purchasing some sandwich boards to alert people that a project is a WKNA-sponsored effort, such as the replantings at the Cummings reader board planting and cleanups at the school.

Guest Speaker –

Marion County Emergency Preparedness Program Coordinator Krista Carter – Gary introduced Krista, who recapped and added to her presentation in September. She emphasized that emergency preparedness in the Keizer area revolves mainly around preparing for “The Big One” – the Cascadia earthquake predicted sometime in the next 50 years or so. But preparing for even a small emergency will show just how unprepared a household is, she said.

She urged everyone to store water (enough for 2 weeks: 1 gallon per person per day – more if you have pets) because even though Keizer is supplied by wells, once power goes out, there will be no access to it. And it's estimated to take at least two weeks for substantial outside assistance to occur following a major disaster. Critical services such as electricity, water and sewer could take up to 3 months (electricity) to 3 years (water/sewer) to restore in the event of a major disaster like an earthquake. Areas of Japan are still recuperating from the tsunami there and that country is far ahead of the U.S. In terms of preparedness, she said.

She suggested trying to live 24 hours without power, etc., to get an idea what you need to plan for – food, warmth, water, shelter. Camping gear is perfect. A generator would be a good investment. Having a personal kit in in each car is advised, since we never know where we'll be when disaster strikes.

She pointed people to the web for more details. There is an emergency plan template at <http://www.ready.gov>, state information at <http://www.oregongove/OMD/OEM/> and local information at <http://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/EmergencyManagement/>

Reports

Bylaws changes, Carolyn Homan – Carolyn read through updates made recently by the WKNA Board to the Association bylaws. Changes deal mainly with updating how the association reaches out to members and the city (adding the web, social media, etc.), expanding the association purpose beyond just “land use planning” and eliminating “by secret ballot” from the Board election process. Changes were approved by the Board and by the membership present at the October meeting. New bylaws are posted on the WKNA website: www.westkeizerna.org

Parks updates

Wallace House, Kathy Lincoln – She said there is nothing new to report. She will follow up with Matt Lawyer, who said he has a group of volunteers willing to help clean up the lower section of the park.

Willamette Manor, Dennis Phipps – He said crews have poured concrete for the tennis court resurfacing and also done a new walkway, They still need to do the fence around the court.

Palma Ciega, Gary – He said city crews and police responded recently to clean up the riverside area where trash and debris had accumulated. He said it will take follow-up to keep it usable but a Neighborhood Watch is keeping an eye out.

Keizer Rapids, Dennis – The new “arboretum” plantings done a few years ago by Rotary had not been kept up but the city recently mowed around them and cleaned up weeds. Plaques still need to be installed ID'ing the trees. Posts are being installed for the “sails” that will shade the playground area. The sails will be installed next year.

Discussion topics

Bauer/gravel pit shooting settlement – Rhonda said a recap of the issue and settlement has been prepared and will be posted on the WKNA website. She handed out copies of the recap. Shooting at the West Salem gravel pit has been limited to shotguns only, which should prevent incursions across the river onto West Keizer properties.

Cherriots update, Colleen Busch – Colleen, a member of Salem Area Transit Board, reported that Sunday bus service will be restored in 205 days. She said Saturday service, which is under way, served 27,000 riders in September. The transit board is in need of an East Salem representative

Upcoming Meetings: Next WKNA Board meeting – Thursday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m., Carol Doerfler's home

Next WKNA General meeting – Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Keizer Community Center. Speaker on teen gaming.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.