

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting

7 p.m., Oct. 9, 2014, at Keizer Civic Center
Minutes submitted by Carolyn Homan, secretary

Introduction of members -- WKNA Vice President Carol Doerfler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., with about 22 people attending. Carol welcomed everyone, urged attendees to sign in and asked for introductions to be made around the room. Attendees included guests Roland Herrera and Matt Chappell, candidates for Keizer City Council; Cathy Clark, candidate for mayor of Keizer, and Craig Murphy, Keizertimes.

Approval of Minutes for September 11, 2014 – Carol asked for approval of minutes. Ron Freeman moved approval and Clint Holland seconded. The motion, however, was not voted on.

WKNA Budget for 2013-14 – Carol reported that WKNA has spent \$83.49 for printing out of the \$900 budget for 2014-15.

Police Report – Carol said homeless camps at Wallace House Park have been dismantled but clean-up hazardous wastes and debris left behind still has to be cleaned up to prevent trash from being washed into the Willamette with higher waters this winter. The city is contracting with a haz-mat clean-up firm and Councilor Kim Freeman said bids are out now.

City Council Candidate Forum – Carol again welcomed candidates to the meeting and invited them to give some personal background and their goals upon election. Cathy Clark, running unopposed as mayor, said she has been on City Council eight years and has focused on transportation issues during her tenure, serving on several regional transportation planning groups. She said she has learned how the region can work together to get things done.

She said she believes in the importance of media use to a strong democracy because communication is the key. She has been involved with K23 TV and was on the board of CCTV. She touted Keizer's low tax rate and reliance on volunteerism. She said she has talked with Roland Herrera and Brandon Smith (both unopposed for council seats) and the remaining councilors not up for re-election about the importance of working as a team to maximize effectiveness.

Asked about her vision for the future of Keizer, she said, "We're in the process of crafting it." The River Road Renaissance needs updating. Keizer definitely is going to grow so "we need smart planning" and efforts to grow the economic base.

Roland Herrera, unopposed for Position 4, cited his reputation as a team player and being a "grassroots guy" who has lived in Keizer 37 years. He worked for 20 years for Keizer Public Works, giving him a good knowledge of all Keizer's neighborhoods, and he said he has a parks focus, including current service on the Parks Advisory Board. He

has been very involved with your sports and said he's forged a lot of relationships through the years and wants to use them in a positive way. He also serves on the board of Mano a Mano, a local nonprofit. He said he's learned how to listen, how to get people involved and to bring people together.

As for job growth, he said Keizer needs to be bold and needs to look at other cities and decide what it can do. He suggested a brewery, for instance, and said he favors living wage jobs. Asked about urban renewal funding, he said he would need to research that but that he's open to any ideas that will help bring jobs. Asked how Keizer can get more youth involved in city activities, he suggested social media. He cited West Linn as an example. Citizens there send photos of issues, such as needed street repairs, to alert officials to neighborhood needs. He also cited Facebook as a way to involve youth.

Matt Chappell, who faces Amy Ripp for Position 5 on the council, said he's been in Keizer 22 years and currently serves on the Keizer Planning Commission. "My strength is using the strengths of others," he said. He would look at Keizer in the larger, regional context, citing the governor's economic plan for the state and how growth in Keizer would fit into that. He said he would seek to bring in new businesses and development opportunities, moving forward with expansion of Keizer's Urban Growth Boundary. He said, for instance, he would like to see a hospital in Keizer. Asked about what successes or challenges he could point to during his Planning Commission service, he said he's been able to bring some opposing opinions on difficult issues. Results are hard to point to because it's an advisory board, he said.

Council candidates Amy Ripp and Brandon Smith, who is unopposed for Position 6, were invited but unable to attend the meeting.

West Keizer Parks report –

Update on KRP community build play structure: Ron Freeman, the WKNA Board's representative to the Big Toy Task Force, reported on the group's recent meeting. The main topic was reviewing final updates to the Big Toy website, which is scheduled to go live Nov. 7. He said web visitors will be able to volunteer, donate or sign up to sponsor a picket as part of ongoing fundraising. At its next meeting, the group hopes to have the actual location at KRP for the play structure.

Parks Advisory Board member Clint Holland reported that the group would meet Oct. 14 to decide on what amenities will be planned in the recently annexed section of Keizer Rapids Park. The recent design charrette crafted three plans and the board will work to finalize one plan to forward to City Council for a decision Nov. 3. The group could choose one plan from the design charrette or craft a new design using elements from all three.

Clint said amenities include the Big Toy but also sports fields, an indoor sports facility, bathrooms, drinking fountains and more. In answer to a question, he said that other suggestions could be added for consideration at the Parks meeting and that the list is not closed.

Carol said the goal of the WKNA meeting was to come up with some main concerns she and Rhonda could reinforce at the upcoming Parks meeting.

The question of an indoor facility came up. Kathy Lincoln suggested that although such a facility was a good idea it could go somewhere else in Keizer. She said that one of the main attractions of KRP was its open space. An indoor facility, with its attendant lighting, parking and maintenance issues, is not appropriate for KRP. Parks Advisory Board member Richard Walsh argued that an indoor facility, suggested years ago by an earlier planning effort, is appropriate because Urban Renewal funds were used to purchase the land for KRP. In addition, such a facility would cost many times as much if it were located in a commercial area of Keizer.

Councilor Kim Freeman noted that the city budget has only about a \$60,000 contingency fund so it is wise to consider maintenance costs when planning the park.

The group discussed a variety of issues posed by the three different design plans for KRP, including placement of the Big Toy, bathrooms and parking lots, walking paths (hard surface and gravel), access for people of all abilities, bus access, keeping the orchard and letting it go natural as an environmental succession study in conjunction with a science center; extending the buffer to the neighborhood all the way to Chemawa; keeping the open play field area closest to the river.

It was decided that Design No. 1 from the charrette was closest to WKNA's priorities, if the multi-use sports field in the lower open play area was removed.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Oct. 14 Parks Board meeting, beginning at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers. Council will take up the matter at 7 p.m. Nov. 3.

Adopt-A-Street cleanup for Chemawa Road – This is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 11, from Shoreline to KRP. The work section is limited because of planned paving on the eastern section of Chemawa.

Clint and Carol lauded the city for its work on the Shoreline paving project this summer. The city and its contractor provided great communication with neighbors on the project, they said.

Upcoming meetings – Carol noted that the next WKNA Board meeting will be at 6 p.m. Nov. 6 at Rhonda's house. The next WKNA General meeting is Nov. 13. Anyone with suggestions for meeting topics is invited to share them with any Board member.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.