

West Keizer Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

Oct. 5, 2017

Gary Blake's home

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Attending: Gary Blake, Rhonda Rich, Carol Doerfler, Art Mauer, Dennis Phipps, Kris Adams, Carolyn Homan

Call to order – President Gary Blake called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Rhonda shared copies of the Keizer Traffic Safety, Bikeways & Pedestrian Committee minutes from Sept. 14, highlighting the section on Placement of Routes To School. The committee thanked Wayne Frey for his efforts in development of walking routes to area schools. We are not sure what their plans are and how they differ from or dovetail with results of the WKNA committee's meetings with Bill Lawyer and Cummings Elementary Principal Martina Mangan regarding a safer route along Delight Street for children walking to Cummings and McNary High.

Approval of Sept. 7, 2017 Board meeting minutes – Art noted the need for clarification of the section on Delight St. improvements regarding placement of a walking path inside the chain-link fence on Cummings School grounds from Dearborn to the school. The minutes need to say “on the west side of Delight Street.” Carol moved approval of the minutes as corrected. Art seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2017-18 – Rhonda said there have been no expenditures from the \$500 budget OK'd May 2.

Getting the Word Out –

Website – Rhonda will get the agenda to Barb on Saturday.

Pertinent to the agenda, the Board discussed the recent gunfire incident originating in a gravel pit gun range on the west side of the Willamette that resulted in bullets entering Keizer's Sunset Park and frightening pedestrians and neighbors walking along Sunset Avenue. Shirley DeShon reported on this to City Council Sept. 18 and Rhonda will ask if she can be at the general meeting to give an update. Gary said it's good WKNA has been involved in this kind of issue, given that neighborhood safety is a priority. He said WKNA should send a letter to council, with copies to Mayor Clark, Chief Teague and City Attorney Johnson, regarding WKNA's concerns and ask for updates on any followup. Carolyn offered to compile Board member comments into a draft letter. Board members are asked to email her their thoughts for inclusion and she will share the draft for approval before submitting it.

Facebook and Keizer Chamber, KT, KYKN, K23 – Carol said these meeting notices are done. She will post a notice on FB that she will be gone for a couple of weeks.

Signs – Art and Dennis are sharing this duty.

SJ, KMUZ – Carolyn said the calendar notices are posted.

Brochure holders – These are in place. Carol just refilled them and Rhonda will get brochure copies to Dennis so he can handle needed replacement during Carol's absence.

Little Library – Carol has gotten more children's books. She said she and Martin are talking about adding a “second story” to the library for adult books with kid's books on the lower level.

Nextdoor.com – Kris has contacted Nextdoor representatives for assistance in entering WKNA's boundaries but gotten no response. She will keep working on it.

Parks Discussion – Rhonda, Gary, Rhonda, Carol and Carolyn attended the Sept. 12 Parks Board meeting for input on use of the parks fee. Gary attended the special Sept. 22 Parks Board meeting regarding Wallace House Park. He said it was a rehash of issues already discussed regarding safety

and recent transient activity. Parks Board members Matt Lawyer and Dave Louden were both there, along with Parks supervisor Robert Johnson. The recent gunshots originating at the gravel pit across the Willamette River from Sunset Park came up. Darrell Richardson, who lives adjacent to Sunset, was at the meeting. WKNA Board needs to evaluate the priorities for use of the new parks fee when the list comes out.

Gary, Rhonda, Carol and Carolyn attended the Sept. 18 Council meeting and listened to several neighbors of Sunset Park report on the the gunshots that originated at a shooting range at a gravel pit in Polk County across the Willamette River from the park. Bullets from an AR-15 rifle reportedly narrowly missed a couple of people and people were fleeing the park. Gary and Rhonda added their comments about the importance of neighborhood safety and the need for an official response. This is not the first incidence of stray bullets from this location, according to neighbors. Rhonda has emailed testimony from the Parks Board and Council to the Board.

Willamette Manor tennis courts – Dennis said not much has been done. Areas for repair were marked in taped and he taped some other areas, but nothing was done. He said there has been vandalism recently. The issue of WKNA having park liaisons was brought up. Rhonda said we used to have these and maybe it's time to reinstate them.

For the upcoming WKNA meeting, Rhonda will email October's speaker Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works Director, a list of topics we'd like him to address, in addition to his priorities. WKNA topics include park safety, Delight St. improvements and the rain gardens along Chemawa, where overgrown vegetation seems to be creating a safety hazard. We also would like a follow up on Willamette Manor tennis court repairs to keep the pressure on for remedial action.

Smoking in the parks – Rhonda said this is a topic on the Tuesday night Parks Board agenda. She cannot attend but will follow up. Salem has banned smoking in its parks and Rhonda is in favor of a ban, for fire safety if nothing else.

Delight Street Improvements – Carol will send the Board the minutes from the meeting she, Gary and Art had with Cummings Principal Martina Mangan and City Public Works Director Bill Lawyer this summer. Bill will be asked to update WKNA at the general meeting if he has new information to report.

Adopt-a-Street – There was no Adopt-A-Street in August. There's no update as yet on plans for another clean-up or more information about the scheduling of work by inmate crews along Chemawa. Dennis volunteered to follow up with Kim Freeman to find out if our cleanups need to continue. Rhonda has talked with the gentleman who lives on Chemawa and routinely walks the street to pick up trash. She said he should be a candidate for Volunteer of the Quarter.

Topics for Upcoming General Meetings – Jerry McGee is scheduled for November. The Board was interested in Rhonda's suggestion that we ask him to talk about city government “back when” he was on the Council, as an option to his usual Keizer history talk.

She will put a request for meeting topics on the October agenda. She suggested having Chief Teague in January. Carol suggested another session on disaster preparedness. Kris volunteered to take over arranging meeting speakers.

Goals for 2017-18 – These were briefly reviewed. The annual Audubon tour of Keizer Rapids will be at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 13.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.