

WKNA Board Meeting
March 4, 2021, 7 p.m.
At Keizer Civic Center
Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

Attending: Carol Doerfler, Carol Phipps, Rhonda Rich, Kathy Lincoln, Art Mauer, Gary Blake, Carolyn Homan, Dennis Phipps

Call to Order: Carol D. called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. An announcement was made that the “free pansy” coupon from Egan Gardens had appeared in the Statesman Journal and would also be in the Keizer Times. The pansies should be picked up and delivered to Carol Phipps for planting at Cummings Elementary’s Reader Board.

Approval of minutes – Carol noted a correction under the Cummings School item. She had asked Michele Roland-Schwartz to take the issue of repainting the Cummings Cougar Mascot to the Keizer Arts Commission. Kathy moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020 Board meeting as corrected and Gary seconded. Motion carried. (This was the last Board meeting – January 2021 was canceled due to Covid.)

2020-21 Budget – Rhonda listed expenditures of \$82 for sign holders, \$55 for the food donation barrel “wrap” and \$143.88 for the Go Daddy website fee (less than last year because no domain security charge this year). There is a \$270 balance to spend until June 1. Carol D. said she would check on the due date for 2021-22 budgets. Carol asked if we could use funds to pay for Cummings clean-up materials or equipment. Rhonda was doubtful since the funds are to be for communication but Carol said she would query Tim Wood, the city’s finance director, since WKNA uses the cleanup efforts as a PR tool.

Carol P. asked about purchasing more brochures boxes. She will look into a more waterproof model, since withstanding winter rains is a problem with the current boxes. Carol D. suggested erecting a box at the walk-through to Keizer Rapids Park from Tate Ave. because of high foot traffic there.

New City Council liaison – Carol said Ross Day is our council liaison this year.

REPORTS

Parks Board – Carol D. Rhonda and Gary attended the Feb. 25 meeting held with the MIG consultants to review progress on revamping the parks Master Plan. On Feb. 24, all WKNA Board members but Art met via Zoom with the MIG consultants to share priorities for neighborhood parks that were desired in the new Master Plan. Carol P. recapped input: The consensus was to focus on what we have and making it better – perhaps even hiring more staff to keep up with maintenance. Among desired items: At KRP, support for the amphitheater such as a bathroom in that area; a covered picnic area, Picnic areas at other parks were supported as were toy structures at more parks (new or upgraded). At Palma Ciega, a viewing platform or bench for birding, etc., was mentioned. People supported natural vegetation and green spaces not more pavement. There was strong support for keeping the parks fee where it is.

Carol D. said the Feb. 25 meeting included a slide presentation and the WKNA feedback was featured. Matthew Poteet cited Carol D.’s letter listing some of WKNA’s priorities. In the discussion about recreation, the consultants said cities don’t typically entertain a recreation program until the population reaches 50,000 or so and Keizer’s tax structure basically means the city can’t afford such a program.

Rhonda shared some statistics from the survey and said 38% supported maintaining what we have; 29% supported more amenities; and 16% supported a recreation space.

In the end, five sites were featured for focus: Keizer Little League complex; Bob Newton; Baer Park; Northridge and Palma Ciega.

A few days after that meeting, Carol D., Dennis and Gary met with Matthew Poteet at Palma Ciega to survey possibilities. Gary said neighbors of the park along Cummings have said they're leaning toward asking the city to take down the park sign. The feeling is that it needs a reason for people to visit there – a bench, an exercise area, safe access to the river or something. Carol D. said green spaces need to be preserved and she sees Palma Ciega as a candidate as a “pocket park” for the surrounding area.

Kathy said access to the river is very important and Wallace House is an example of how an overgrown area can be cleaned out.

Carol D. asked if Salem Audubon might be interested in supporting improvements at Palma Ciega because of the birding aspects. Carolyn said she would check.

Rhonda shared copies of the 2008 Master Plan for Palma Ciega. She said the current survey identifies Palma Ciega as a park that needs attention. It was agreed that the March 9 Parks Board meeting would be a good place to show up and make the case for focus on Palma Ciega.

Food Donation Barrels – Dennis said donations are down. The barrels have brought in \$300 in cash donations. Carol said she would get information on Nextdoor and Facebook in support of food donations.

Future Board/General meetings – Carol said there is a conflict with Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Association meetings if we want to continue meeting at City Hall. A decision also needs to be made on whether to resume in-person general meetings. It was agreed to restart General meetings in April (April 8), at which time we can hold Board elections, postponed from January. The Board meetings can piggyback with the General so that city crews only have to do one cleanup. It was decided to hold the April Board meeting at 5:30 April 8 at City Hall just prior to the General meeting. Carol P. will contact Mayor Clark to see if she can be speaker at that meeting.

Cummings School Cleanup – It was agreed to move the full cleanup to fall and this spring, just add pansies to the Reader Board planter and the planter pots at the entrance. Carol P. will handle the plantings. Rhonda will get some bark dust to freshen the Reader Board planter.

Newsletter – Carol D. said she never heard back from Jeff Anderson on the request for his union to print a WKNA newsletter. It was decided one could be done quarterly via email as an adjunct to the in-person meetings. Kathy said she could work on one for distribution in May.

Annual WKNA report to the City – Carolyn has prepared the report and Carol D. will present it to Council April 29 at 7 p.m. Carolyn will send the report to the Board in advance.

Future meetings – Parks Board, 6 p.m. March 9; City Council 7 p.m. March 15 (Volunteer of the Quarter presentation); Traffic Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee, 6 p.m. March 18.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.