

WKNA General meeting  
Nov. 10 2022 7 p.m., Keizer Civic Center  
Submitted by Carolyn Homan, Secretary

**Call to Order:** 7:05 p.m., President Rhonda Rich

**Welcome** – Rhonda welcomed 17 attendees, including guest speaker Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works Director. Introductions were made around the room.

**Minutes from Oct. 13, 2022** – Gary Blake moved approval as submitted; Tom Homan seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget** – Rhonda reported no change in expenditures of \$431.04, with \$368.96 left in the \$800 budget. The website renewal fee will come up in February (about \$200) and the rest will be spent on sign replacements.

### **Guest speaker**

**Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works Director** – He presented information on the various departments that exist within Public Works, starting with the Parks Department. He brought the preliminary site plan for the multi-sport turf field project to be built at Keizer Rapids Park – which is a major focus right now. He said the plans are not final but close to it and he sees no significant changes. A softball field was eliminated from the original plans, along with a couple other things to cut costs. He said construction should begin next summer.

Planning began last fall with the offer of \$2 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from Marion County. Keizer Council voted to add another \$2 million from its own ARPA allotment. Systems development fees will provide additional funding. The city is working on refining the estimated cost of the project site to determine if the current plan can be built as is without additional funding.

He said even though Marion Co. is providing funds, this is a Keizer project and will be planned and carried out by Keizer. He said it's undetermined how field operations ultimately will be managed. In part, that depends on what the finished project includes. Right now, the plan has a concession stand, which is desirable because it is a money maker, But that will be a management element, among others, such as scheduling fields, collecting fees, etc. The City has no Recreation program, so staffing field management is an issue. If the City runs the fields, it means full control but it comes at a price. Instead, he said the City could apply the Little League model and contract out operations management. All this is to be decided but the City wants to keep fees as low as possible so youth groups can afford to use the fields. He said he believes the city could operate the fields without increasing the current park fee residents pay as part of the City Services bill. But it would change what can be done in other parks.

The fields will be lighted, so that means hours of use will have to be established. The fields also will be fenced. Someone asked about Keizer Fest, which was held this year in the park's north area where the turf fields will be located. He said they are in negotiations with the Chamber of Commerce on how much space is needed. Keizer Fest cannot be held on the turf fields, he added.

A work group of organizations interested in using the fields, as well as community partners like West Keizer and Northwest Keizer neighborhood associations, has been providing input on the design and planning. Groups include representatives of women's football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer

and softball.

He said the project is a major Parks focus right now with big decisions ahead. He anticipates it will take 9 months to a year to build once construction starts next year.

Also at KRP, a paving project was recently completed, connecting the road from the disc golf parking lot down toward the boat-in campsite. Two ADA parking slots have been added as part of the project. In addition, the lower field at KRP was seeded this year as an open-play area. It's been fenced off so the grass can establish, but will be available for use next summer.

In other Keizer parks, a new path down to the Willamette River has been constructed by an Eagle Scout at Palma Ciega Park. This small park at the west end of Cummings Lane was recently cleaned up and a viewing bench and picnic table were added, making it much more usable.

At Wallace House Park, Claggett Creek Watershed Council recently conducted a clean-up day that also included some new plantings and seeding in the lower area. Mr. Lawyer said the City will continue to control invasives (primarily ivy) in the lower area. A few trails may be established in that section but there are no planned play areas there.

He said the play structure at Ben Miller park is being replaced this fiscal year with completion expected by the end of June 2023. In summer 2024, a major face lift is planned for Bob Newton Park, including a play structure, new pickle ball courts and ADA access improvements.

Neighbors brought up an issue with erosion near the east entrance (off 3<sup>rd</sup> St.) into Willamette Manor Park. He said he would look into it. As for damage (again) to the circular "Welcome to Keizer/Salem" sign area at the south end of Keizer on River Road, he said fixing it is the City of Salem's responsibility. Keizer pays for the power to light the sign area.

In the Claggett Creek Park watershed area, he outlined a major wetlands enhancement project that's in the works. As part of getting the new apartments approved at Verda and Dearborn, the property owners donated 11 acres east of Claggett Creek to the City. He's negotiating to purchase another 2 ½ acres and envisions new plantings compatible with a wetland, along with a boardwalk and pullouts with informational signage. Visitors will be able to use the boardwalk to go from Dearborn to Chemawa along the creek. The project will improve water quality in the creek, as well as provide an enhanced area for waterfowl. He sees it as a showcase for the City. Grant funding will be sought. Completion will take several years.

**Sewers** -- Keizer's sewers are maintained by Salem. He said the sewage treatment plant on Windsor Island Road was designed to handle cannery waste. With all the cannery closures, that plant now has capacity for many years.

**Streets** -- Two traffic/pedestrian safety measures sought by West Keizer Neighborhood are in the works. He said flashing speed limit signs to be placed on Shoreline have been ordered and should arrive in mid-December. Exact locations have yet to be announced. A speed table to slow traffic on Cummings Lane by Cummings Elementary School is being designed. A fence on the south side of the road at the intersection with Delight is in the right-of-way so that will have to be dealt with. He thinks the project will be more expensive than first thought but it is in this budget cycle. Construction won't start until the end of June.

Other street projects being planned are resurfacing of Cherry Ave. from Greenwood to the south city limits and this year installing a rectangular flashing beacon on Chemawa at Rickman for the pedestrian crossing to the Library, Heritage Center and City Hall. Further down the line, the City is in design talks with Oregon Department of Transportation to improve Verda from Dearborn to south of Alder. The project includes curbs and sidewalks, the realignment of Claxter at the intersection with Verda and possibly removal of the school zone on Verda. He said he's not in favor of the latter. The project won't happen until 2026 or later.

**Stormwater** – One project West Keizer neighbors on Rafael may notice is an upcoming inspection of the Willamette River dike in their area. But the main issue recently has been amendments to the development code requiring green infrastructure to treat stormwater. It has to be filtered before it goes into pipes in order to cut the amount of pollution. He said they consulted with engineering firms on the code changes and they're consistent with other cities in the area. Keizer has been making developers handle stormwater this way anyway. The Planning Commission has approved the code amendments and they now go to Council for final approval.

**Water** -- Keizer consistently is able to provide clean and pure water from its series of wells. Issues for residents arise from the iron, manganese and other minerals that make the water very hard. A sulfur smell is sometimes an issue for some residents. The City has started a \$1 million project to improve the well at Meadows Pump Station, which hasn't been used as much because the mineral content. Rehab of another well also is in the works. He said new pipes will be installed on Newberg Drive, pending successful bids, with construction expected to begin in February.

He invited questions and urged anyone with a question or issue to email him: [lawyerb@keizer.org](mailto:lawyerb@keizer.org)  
He will get back to you.

## REPORTS

**City Council liaison Laura Reid** – She noted her disappointment, although not surprise, at the defeat of the community library funding measure that was on the November ballot. The City has OK'd \$60,000 in ARPA funds for library operations that should get the library through next year, maybe longer, but the long-term future is uncertain.

**Little Library, Carol** – Supply of books remains strong.

**Food barrels, Dennis** -- Donations have been a bit better: 31 lbs. and \$40/September; 96 lbs. and \$40 cash/ October. He said he picked up 70 pounds on Monday (total from the Bi-Mart and Copper Creek barrels) – one of the best days in a while. Donations are always greatly appreciated, especially as the holidays approach!

**Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.**

## Upcoming meetings

**WKNA does NOT meet in December**

### 2023 meetings

**Jan. 5** -- WKNA Board

**Jan. 12, WKNA annual meeting – Election of the Board of Directors**

**And Emergency Preparedness, Anne-Marie Storms, Keizer Fire District**

**Feb. 2** -- WKNA Board

**Feb. 9** – WKNA General meeting: Adam Brown, Keizer City Manager

**March 2** – WKNA Board

**March 9** – WKNA General meeting: Mayor Cathy Clark, State of the City (possibly joint meeting with other Keizer Neighborhood Associations.