

WKNA General Meeting

Jan. 9, 2020

At Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road NE, Keizer, OR

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

Call to Order: Carol Doerfler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of minutes – Kathy Lincoln moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 14 meeting and Dennis Phipps seconded. Motion carried.

2019-20 Budget – Rhonda reported no expenditures as yet from the \$550 budget. She said the Board is discussing purchase of some sandwich boards to identify WKNA-sponsored projects and volunteers.

Guest speaker: Carol D. introduced the guest speaker Willie Ball, Energy Specialist with Salem Electric, to discuss residential solar power. He gave some background on Salem Electric, a member-owned cooperative formed in 1938. It purchases power from Bonneville Power Administration. Customers are using this hydro-generated “green” power about 95% of the time. Among the utility's goals are reliability, good customer and employee relations, financial integrity and lower rates. It's relatively small – serving 18,900 customers over a 17.48 square mile service area.

Ball said technology of solar, heat pumps and other similar applications has come a long way and efficiencies are much higher. Salem Electric is working on an Electric Vehicle program that should come online this year with charger systems for home or business that will cost in the range of \$300 to \$400. They also are trying to create incentives for customers to embrace solar and other green technologies.

Salem Electric's solar program was created in 2009; so far 68 customers have installed a system. Some of the pros of a solar system: 1) It's basically clean energy with limited fossil fuel impact. 2) It's renewable and can be used off-grid with the right battery, etc. 3) Space taken up is on your roof 4) It will reduce your utility bill. He also said maintenance is pretty low; the panels have a 20- to 25-year warranty and there's no noise pollution. He recommends getting competing bids from contractors because shopping around can really save money and that affects your pay-back timeline.

Customers getting solar have to sign a contract with Salem Electric. SE pays an incentive – \$300/kW up to 5 for a maximum of \$1,500. If you generate more kW than you use, you “bank” it at SE and SE pays you once a year – 4 cents or so per kW for the excess. He said most systems aren't big enough to bank; they just cut your usage.

Cons of solar include: 1) The initial cost, which can run \$22,000 to \$46,000 for an average-size system of 8 to 10 kW (3 solar panels=1 kW). That's why it's imperative to shop around. 2) Weather, climate affect the production. Locally, you can only expect to produce power half a day. 3) Have to have a good roof before you start because the solar panels are going to last 20-plus years. 4) Areas with high air pollution are a problem for solar. 5) Tilt orientation is an issue. He said systems need to meet a minimum 75% collection capability between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in order to be cost-effective. This is also called a “shade” report.

He said most people considering solar have a passion for the environment and it's a strong reason to install solar. The average home produces 14,900 pounds of CO₂ a year. Solar will reduce that by 3,000 pounds.

Other elements to improve your heating efficiency include installing a heat pump and weatherization such as Insulation, duct insulation in particular. Salem Electric will do an energy audit of your home and make recommendations. Ball, who does audits, can be reached at ball@SalemElectric.com Salem Electric is at www.SalemElectric.com

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Carol called on Board member Gary Blake to run the annual election of officers and Board members for WKNA. Gary opened the floor for nominations. Carol D. nominated Carol Phipps as Vice President; Carol

P. nominated Carol D. as President; Kathy Lincoln nominated Carolyn Homan as Secretary; Carolyn nominated Kathy as a Board member; Carol P. nominated Gary Blake as a Board member; Carolyn nominated Art Mauer as a Board member; Carol D. nominated Rhonda Rich as a Board member. Gary asked for other nominations. None were submitted. Gary made a motion to elect the slate by acclamation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ad-Hoc Board member – Carol appointed Dennis Phipps as the Board's liaison to the Keizer Parks Board and continued committee member with Art to manage WKNA meeting signs and brochure stand placement.

REPORTS

Keizer Council – Councilor Roland Herrera subbed for Kim Freeman to report on the Council's Jan. 6 meeting. The main decision was passage of an ordinance to ban camping on sidewalks, public property and public rights-of-way. The move follows similar action taken by Salem City Council in reaction to the area's homeless crisis. He said the ban ultimately was seen as a decision for the "greater good" of public safety for the entire community. He also noted that Keizer's First Citizen banquet is Jan. 18.

Parks – Willamette Manor – Dennis said the tennis court fencing is finished and crews have backfilled to lessen the edge drop-off of the new asphalt pathways. He also noted new surfacing under the kid's toy at Wallace House, which is the same or similar to that installed at the Big Toy.

DISCUSSION

Traffic, speeding in neighborhoods – Carol D. said that after discussion at the WKNA Board meeting, the group had decided to pursue this issue with the City. She hopes to attend the February Traffic Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee meeting and hopes to get neighbors and leaders such as Patti Tischer, of Greater Gubser Neighborhood Association, to be involved as well. The approach will be to ask for more police presence to monitor speeding, traffic violations and also noise issues as well.

Food Bank Barrels – Carol D. reported on holiday season food collections made via barrels sponsored by WKNA at Copper Creek and Bi Mart. The total is not finalized but should be close to 200 pounds. The City has OK'd expenditure of WKNA funds to purchase a couple of barrels to have for future use, as long as they are clearly labeled with WKNA identifiers. The plan is to put barrels out 3-4 times a year and to attach WKNA brochures for informational purposes.

Cummings/Faith Lutheran Back-Pack Buddies program – Carol reported that the Board also has decided to promote this effort, which involves collection/purchase of certain foods to be distributed to kids in need at Cummings Elementary. Distribution is done via backpacks that are filled and passed out on Fridays, so kids and their families have food over the weekend. WKNA will advertise the program on Facebook, the website, etc., and share a list of needed foods, as well as where people can donate if they choose.

Upcoming meetings – Parks Board, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, Council chambers
Coffee with Cathy, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, Mommy and Maddi's
City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 (due to MLK Holiday)
WKNA Board meeting – 7 p.m., Feb. 6, Carol D.'s home
February WKNA General meeting – 7 p.m. Feb. 13; speaker Robert Johnson, Keizer Parks manager
March WKNA General meeting – 7 p.m. March 14; speaker Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.