

## **WKNA General Meeting**

**Nov. 9, 2023 7 p.m.**

**At Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary**

About 16 people in attendance, including Guest Speaker Patrick Pardo and Quinn Stoddard, Keizertimes reporter

**Call to Order:** WKNA President Rhonda Rich called the meeting order at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

**Minutes of previous meetings** – Rhonda asked for a motion to approve minutes of the Oct..12 meeting. Carol Doerfler moved approval; Tom Homan seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget Report** -- Rhonda said WKNA has a budget balance of \$948.14 from the City-approved \$1,200 budget. The newly designed brochures (thank you, Carol Phipps) have been printed at a cost of \$324 and Rhonda also will be getting more yard signs.

### **Guest Speaker**

**Keizer CERT representative Patrick Pardo** – He presented information on what the Community Emergency Response Team volunteers do to help residents prepare for and overcome the effects of a disaster – everything from ice storms and other weather events to earthquake or fire. They also learn skills to help other civic leaders and disaster responders, too, so that disaster response is coordinated and effective. By knowing their neighborhoods, canvassing in the aftermath of a disaster, they can communicate better who needs help and who's OK, so that services can be properly focused. They have relationships with various organizations and businesses, like Cascade and Bi Mart, that have emergency supplies and equipment that can be deployed when needed.

CERT helps neighbors know what to do to prepare. Have a family plan and set up a place to go if you need to evacuate. Hold practice drills. It's important to practice even things like filling out forms so you can act quickly in an emergency.

Do you have an emergency radio? It's vital to be able to keep informed, both before a storm and after for instance. Do you have emergency clothes, food and water set aside? The recommendation is to be "two weeks ready." That includes a gallon of water per person per day. Because of that, he suggested looking into a simple water purifying system to cut down on the quantities you need to stockpile. The "dollar" stores can be a source of inexpensive items to use in creating your emergency cache. Think about the needs of everyone in the family (medicines, other health needs), your pets as well. He has important papers copied on a thumb drive so they aren't lost in flood or fire.

In addition to your household ready kit, it's good to have a "go" kit for each car, with a first aid kits, food, some water and extra clothes. Having a fire extinguisher for the car is a good idea, too. Councilor Laura Reid mentioned the importance of being prepared as you travel. Being stranded after an ice storm means no power for gas stations to pump gas. You may need food and water, as well as blankets and extra clothes if you get stranded on the highway.

CERT is a program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Part of CERT's mandate is to document activities for the post-disaster public record. They log volunteer hours, which is important in advocating for the community and getting FEMA disaster assistance funding to the area.

He said Keizer CERT is just getting back to in-person meetings post-COVID. Meetings are 7-8:30 the second Monday of the month at City Hall. Anyone can attend. To be an official member you do have to train and take online classes. A variety of resources, such as how to create a family emergency

action plan and material checklists, is available at Oregon Office of Emergency Management, [www.Oregon.gov/OEM](http://www.Oregon.gov/OEM) and from FEMA at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov). Keizer CERT also has a Facebook page.

## REPORTS

**Chamber holiday events** -- Chamber Executive Corri Falardeau could not make the meeting. Rhonda said a list of Holiday events would be published in the upcoming WKNA newsletter and Keizertimes.

**City Council Liaison** – Councilor Laura Reid reported that the City is recruiting for a new City Attorney. Application period closes in the next week. That position reports directly to Council. Bids for the Keizer Rapids Park turf field project are coming in.

She said a list of holiday events around the city will soon be published in the Keizertimes.

**Food barrels** – Dennis Phipps reported picking up 70 pounds this week and added that this is the time of year that donations pick up. October donations at Bi Mart totaled 103 lbs.; 204 lbs. at Copper Creek; and 15 lbs. at Keizer Fire District. Councilor Reid urged people who are regularly setting aside food, clothing and other items for their emergency preparedness kit to think about donating foods to the food bank as you rotate items out. Outdated food isn't donatable but as you renew stocks, take those that are still within the "use by" period and pass them along. Dennis said Keizer Community Food Bank is averaging 100 families every service day (Mondays and Thursdays). The food bank also will take fruit from home fruit trees and pet food also is always welcome.

**Cummings PTA** – Carol D. reported that a representative of an Eco School program in Portland made a presentation. There is a possibility that Cummings could partner with the community garden at John Knox Presbyterian Church on Cummings. One issue is getting children safely down the street. An option would be to create raised beds or other gardening possibilities on the Cummings grounds. Another topic was Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Nov. 14. Starting at 8 a.m., the whole school will walk a route from the east entrance south and then west to Rivercrest, up to Dearborn and then down Delight back to the school

## Parks

**Palma Ciega** -- Gary Blake continues regular maintenance work.

**Willamette Manor** -- The hillside at the park was replanted and mulched by a work party (Rhonda, Carolyn and Tom Homan, Carol and Dennis Phipps and Kathy Lincoln) on Oct. 21 thanks to another grant Carol Phipps wrote to the Parks Advisory Board. The plants look good and the area has been roped off to prevent people walking on the area.

**Wallace House** – Rhonda attended the Claggett Creek Watershed Council/WKNA work day. She brought donuts for the work crew. About 12 people came and planted a pollinator garden and built a new path down to the river from the area just west of the north parking lot at Wallace House.

**Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Safety Committee** – Robb Witters said the Traffic Management Program redraft is still being fine-tuned by the Committee. WKNA is still lobbying to reduce the requirement for petition signatures needed to advance a traffic calming element or other requested street project. The plan requires getting 75% of residents on an affected street or streets. WKNA and others would like that dropped to 51%. When the redraft is complete, it will go to City Council for final approval.

**Planning Commission** – Robb reported that the committee heard an appeal of an approved lot partition on Dearborn. A neighbor wanted the partition blocked because of a driveway setback issue.

The commission voted to uphold the variance and partition because there was no evidence the City did not follow the regulations in granting the partition in the first place and there was no evidence the petitioner's house would be affected. The decision may be appealable.

**WKNA Little Library** – Carol D. said we received a bag of Dr. Seuss books. Children's books are always welcome. Newly created bookmarks were passed out. Robb created a design that features info on WKNA meetings and other information that will be put in books so those using the library know WKNA is the sponsor. Carol also thanked Carol P. (and Carol P's granddaughter) for designing and affixing a colorful Thanksgiving turkey decoration to attract attention to the Little Library.

**Keizer Community Library** – Kris Adams reported on recent activities. Game nights are being sponsored. A chess club for kids and adults is under way. The library is also participating in a national program promoting early reading called "1,000 books before kindergarten." Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is also part of that effort.

The library needs more volunteers so it can be open more hours. There were 1,000 visitors in August and 714 in September. There are new books all the time thanks to donations. The library's computers are busy all the time.

**St. Edward's Community Dinner** – The November dinner will be Wednesday, Nov. 22. WKNA Board members plan to attend to help with seating and tray pick up. Organizers expect 500+ people to attend.

**Keizer Fire District levy** -- Betty Hart, KFD Board member, thanked voters for passing the levy increase measure on Nov. 7. Election results are to be certified Dec. 4. Fire district reps will be picking up lawn signs for reuse – or they can be returned to fire hall.

**Salute to Vets** -- Rhonda ended the meeting with a salute to all veterans for their service.

**Next meetings:**

**City Committees** – all start at 6 p.m. at City Hall

**Parks Board** – meets second Tuesday. Upcoming: Nov. 24; Dec. 12; Jan. 9

**Planning Commission** – meets second Wednesday. Upcoming: Dec. 13 cancelled; Jan. 10

**Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee** – meets third Thursday Upcoming: Nov. 16; Dec. 21 cancelled; Jan. 18

**Keizer United** – meets second Monday at noon Upcoming: Nov. 13; no Dec. meeting

**West Keizer Neighborhood Association Meetings**  
**No December Meeting**  
**Jan. 4, 7 p.m., WKNA Board meeting**  
**Thurs., Jan. 11, 7 p.m. – WKNA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Elections for Board of Directors**  
**Keizer Police Chief Copeland guest speaker**

**Coming soon: Winter Edition of "WKNA Today" newsletter**

To be "In the Know" for City committee meetings, go to [www.keizer.org/add-to-distribution-list](http://www.keizer.org/add-to-distribution-list) to receive agendas. For more on WKNA, go to [www.westkeizerna.org](http://www.westkeizerna.org) or Facebook for current information and/or visit our Facebook page

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**