

**West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2014**

Submitted by Carolyn Homan

President Rhonda Rich called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center and welcomed the approximately 30 people attending. She invited them to stay for a short Board meeting to follow the general meeting at 8 p.m. She noted copies of minutes and the agenda available at the back of the room, as well as a list of potential meeting topics for 2014. She asked for citizen input on meeting topic preferences, to be addressed at the Board meeting later in the evening.

Introductions were made around the room.

**Approval of Oct. 10, 2013, general meeting minutes** -- Gary Blake moved approval and Rick Hammerquist seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Keizer Police Dept. presentation, Chief John Teague and Lt. Andrew Copeland** -- Chief Teague discussed changes in police work in recent years, including long required training and probationary periods for new officers, a code of ethics and a body of knowledge called evidence-based policing. These have greatly increased the professionalism of the force. Police today are seeking to address the root of problems that cause crimes, rather than just lock people up for committing crimes. Police officers want to address the risk factors to help control crime and get involved to prevent crime from happening. The goal is to make people's lives better.

He noted that only about 120 empirical studies have been done on the job of policing. In order to help gauge whether Keizer's police department is accomplishing goals, a citizen survey being sent to Keizer residents will include several safety- and traffic-related questions. The last survey, for instance, indicated displeasure with Keizer's motorcycle patrol. Teague has reduced that force from two to one motorcycle patrolman.

Overall, KPD is below the national average for solving crimes, Teague said. He added that that that is a system problem because resources had been put into traffic control. Since becoming chief, he has moved two positions from patrol into the detective force. This should help the department focus on identifying potential crime and solutions.

In a question and answer period, Teague said citizen calls indicate that Keizer has more of a traffic congestion problem than perceived problems in terms of traffic law enforcement.

Teague heartily endorsed Keizer's Peer Court program, which involves youth meting out justice to fellow youth caught breaking laws. He said it definitely works, helps keep kids on a positive road and needs continued funding.

Teague and Lt. Copeland both agreed with a questioner that the shift in police work toward prevention is more like social work and involves a different skill set than straight policing. Copeland said it involves cooperation with other agencies to get people the resources needed to cope with issues in their lives and deal better with the risk factors that can lead to crime. KPD cooperates frequently with agencies such as Salvation Army and Marion Co. mental health.

The question of what the neighborhood association could do to help came up and the Neighborhood Watch program was mentioned. Teague said that in stable neighborhoods -- those without a lot of mobility and a lot of crime -- Neighborhood Watch programs work very well.

In answer to a question of how police deal with the mentally ill, Lt. Copeland noted that he just completed a crisis intervention training -- one week of classes to teach police effective ways to handle

these situations. He said KPD wants all officers to take the training. Marion County has a trained response team and KPD works with them, too, in appropriate situations. Teague noted that this is a resource-driven issue.

**Service certificate presentation** -- Rhonda presented a certificate of service to outgoing WKNA Board member Rick Hammerquist. He served on the Board since January 2011, was vice president last year, was involved with several parks issues and tennis association activities in Keizer. Rhonda also recognized outgoing Board member Davis Dyer for his two years of service. Davis is WKNA's webmaster and also designed the group's informational brochure. He has offered to continue updating the website for the time being.

**Keizer Rapids Park playstructure update** -- Ron Freeman, WKNA's representative to the playstructure planning committee, said the group met Jan. 7 The primary focus is working up a project budget and planning fundraising. The project name is now the Big Toy at KRP. Committee (co-??) chairman Richard Walsh said the group tweaked playstructure drawings and engineers with project consultant Leathers & Associates will now finalize construction drawings.

The group **has made** a funding presentation to Rotary Foundation, and within a week or so, Walsh said, they will be asking groups to sponsor different elements of the playstructure. There will be about 20 different "naming opportunities" for major donors. Individual pickets for the fencing are being sold for \$35 each and about \$1,500 has been raised so far that way.

Ron said the Keizer Parks Foundation will hold its "Pinot in the Park" fundraiser on March 14 and funds raised this year are being dedicated to the playstructure project. Volunteers to work on that fundraiser and the playstructure project are being sought. City Councilor Kim Freeman is in charge of playstructure volunteer recruitment and she urged everyone to sign up, noting that there are many ways to help beyond actual construction activities.

**Election of 2013 Officers:** Before elections commenced, Gary Blake, Rhonda and former board member Don Beckman explained the procedure for selecting three officers and four board members. Gary then coordinated the election process, which began with officer selections. Davis Dyer nominated Rhonda Rich for President. There were no other nominations. Gary asked for her election by acclamation, which was confirmed.

Richard Walsh nominated Gary Blake for vice president. Martin Doefler nominated Carol Doerfler. Gary then rescinded his nomination and Carol was elected by acclamation.

Carolyn Homan was nominated by Carol Doerfler for secretary and was elected by acclamation.

Board member nominations began. Art Mauer was nominated by Carolyn Homan; Gary Blake was nominated by (Davis Dyer?); Clint Holland was nominated by Richard Walsh (??); and Ron Freeman was nominated by Clint Holland. (??) Don Beckman and Dave McKane declined nominations. Richard Walsh moved to close nominations and Art Mauer seconded. Davis Dyer moved to elect the four nominees by acclamation; it was seconded and approved.

The 2014 Board members are:

President Rhonda Rich, Vice President Carol Doerfler, Secretary Carolyn Homan and board members Art Mauer, Gary Blake, Clint Holland and Ron Freeman.

Gary thanked Rhonda for her past service and for agreeing to serve once again as WKNA president. Rhonda also thanked Gary for heading WKNA's Adopt A Street project and noted that another clean-up day for Chemawa Road west of River Road would be organized soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.