

## **West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes**

**Nov. 10, 2016**

**Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary**

**Call to order** – President Gary Blake called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Keizer Civic Center and welcomed approximately 14 people. Gary asked everyone to sign in and reminded everyone that they can keep up with WKNA activities at [westkeizerna.com](http://westkeizerna.com) and on Facebook. Introductions were made around the room.

**Approval of Minutes of Oct. 13, 2016** general meeting – Gary asked for a motion to approve (Rhonda emailed the minutes to the WKNA list). Rhonda moved to approve the minutes. Tom Homan seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget for 2016-17** – There have been no expenditures from WKNA's 2016-17 budget. Rhonda noted that the Board did approve, at its meeting tonight, spending up to \$50 for two new inserts to the Adopt-A-Street advertising signs reflecting the new 9 a.m. starting time. The next Adopt-A-Street cleanup is Dec. 10.

### **Speakers:**

Gary introduced **Mark Akimoff, Environmental Program Technician** with the City of Keizer's Public Works/Stormwater section. Elizabeth Sagmiller, Environmental & Technical Division Manager at Public Works, was unable to attend.

Mark presented details of Keizer's stormwater system, starting with the fact that Keizer was hit with 3 billion gallons of rain in October, a record. He said Keizer covers 7.5 square miles and stormwater is the water that hits impervious surfaces such as streets, roofs, sidewalks and parking lots. Because stormwater ends up in our streams and rivers, it's heavily regulated by EPA.

Mark said Keizer has a separate sanitary sewer system, with waste sent to the Willow Lake treatment facility. Street runoff goes to catch basins connected to an outflow piping system and eventually, all the water flows into the Willamette River, but there are regulations to make sure pollutants aren't going directly into the river.

Education is used to enlist citizens in cutting down on pollutants that go into the system. Slogans on markers near street catch basins include "No Dumping, Drains to River" (blue colored) where conveyances take water directly to the Willamette, and "No Dumping, Only Rain in the Drain, (red) for those draining to the Underground Injection Control pipes. "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain" is a regional slogan used for educational purposes. Citizens can help by doing things such as using the appropriate label rate for lawn fertilizer to cut pollutants in runoff; keeping up with car maintenance to limit pollutants such as brake dust, oil/radiator leaks, etc.; keeping lids closed on recycle bins to limit plastic items from entering the system. He said DEHP, a chemical in any soft plastic, such as water bottles, is a big regulatory target because of thalate in the runoff from this chemical.

In answer to a question, he said home owners can help by keeping as much runoff on site as possible -- using techniques such as rain gardens (routing runoff into a depression where water-loving plants are planted there to absorb water and limit runoff) and improving soil's water-holding capacity with compost, for instance.

To control runoff, cities use a variety of techniques. The "green" streets concept has gained favor, incorporating more natural areas such as planters, tree wells, rain gardens, etc., beside paved areas. In some instances, hardwood chips are added to landscaping to act as a sponge for pollutants and to slow runoff.

He said the new bioswales along Chemawa Road worked well in October. They result in less impact to streams and water quality because they infiltrate and treat pollutants. There also is less traditional infrastructure to manage and repair. The curb cutouts have to be kept clear, however, to ensure that water flowing from the street enters the bioswale.

In answer to a comment, he agreed that tall plantings in bioswales can be an issue for drivers. Ideally, plantings are to be kept below 30 inches in height for safety. Keizer is removing some taller shrubs that were improperly placed in the swales.

He said in terms of effectiveness, the bioswales do limit to some extent runoff of heavy metals into streams and are very good at reducing velocity of overflow.

In answer to a question, he said Keizer does have a discharge ordinance so anyone who witnesses someone dumping a pollutant down a catch basin or otherwise polluting the outflow can call Keizer's code enforcement office or contact him, [503-856-3444](tel:503-856-3444), [akimoffm@keizer.org](mailto:akimoffm@keizer.org), or Elizabeth Sagmiller, [503-856-3563](tel:503-856-3563), [sagmillere@keizer.org](mailto:sagmillere@keizer.org). He said that although soap is a major problem in storm runoff, city ordinance exempts car washing from the discharge ordinance. He said the best thing citizens can do is take their cars to a car wash, where water is recycled.

**New Business** – Carol Doerfler announced that the Little Library is in need of children's books and asked people to bring them to the library at the corner of Shoreline and Rafael or to her door, 4615 Shoreline.

**City Council Liaison report, Kim Freeman** – The City is still recruiting volunteers for three positions on the Keizer Points of Interest committee.

At its Nov. 14 work session, the council will meet with the Parks Board. The council is looking at ways to fund parks and police. The meeting starts at 5:45 p.m. and is open to the public.

The city's Tree Lighting ceremony will be at 6 p.m. Dec. 6. The Christmas parade will be at 6 p.m. Dec. 10. The Chamber of Commerce also is sponsoring the Jingle Bell run, as well as the Turkey Dash on Nov. 24.

She said she visited the Keizer Community Food Bank recently and learned that because of low food stocks, they are having to limit the number of families helped. The most-needed foods include peanut butter, tuna and macaroni and cheese. The food bank is open Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m., and Thursdays, 9:30-11 a.m.

In answer to a question about whether Keizer would hold a leaf cleanup day, as Salem does, Kim said she hadn't heard anything but would check. (She later learned from Bill Lawyer, director of Public Works, that the annual leaf haul was discontinued last year due to a large decrease in the number of people taking advantage of it. The leaf haul was a regional event. The City of Salem, Marion County, and the City of Keizer all had drop-off locations staffed by local garbage haulers. The hauler determined it was not cost effective to do the event with the drop in participation. Bill also said Keizer staff are offering to pick up bags of leaves on Dec. 8 for senior citizens who contact the city. Seniors can contact Jenniffer Warner at [503-856-3561](tel:503-856-3561) or [warnerj@keizer.org](mailto:warnerj@keizer.org) to make arrangements for city staff to pick up leaves. This information will be posted on our web site and put out on social media as well.)

She also was asked about recreational marijuana outlets on River Road. She said the new one, Oregon Bud, has opened. In the recent election, a 3% tax on recreational marijuana was approved in Keizer and she was asked if the money would go to police. She said the funds will go to the general fund and indicated that about 80% of the general fund does support the police. But the tax won't go into effect until January and she said the city won't make any plans for additional funding until it's clear exactly what can be expected.

**Mark your calendar:**

**Next WKNA Board meeting** – Thursday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m. at Gary Blake's home

**Next WKNA General meeting** – Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. WKNA Board elections will be held. Speaker: Bill Lawyer, director of Keizer Public Works Dept.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:15 p.m.