

West Keizer Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

Nov. 9, 2017

Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary

Call to order – President Rhonda Rich called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed about 14 attendees, including guest speaker Dr. Jerry McGee. Introductions were made around the room and Rhonda asked attendees to put their name in for a door prize drawing for one of Dr. McGee's books.

Approval of Minutes for Oct. 12, 2017 – Rhonda called for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Dennis Phipps moved to approve and Kim Freeman seconded. Motion carried.

Budget for 2017-18 – Rhonda reported spending about \$46 for printing from the \$500 budget.

Speakers

Eric Bandonis, Marion County parole and probation officer – Eric is housed at Keizer Police Department and passed along some alerts from KPD. As the weather gets colder, police advise residents to stay with their car if they are warming it up. Car thieves watch for idling, unattended cars. He also reported that the department has received 31 applications for the five new officers to be added thanks to the new police fee. Of those applicants, he said four are already certified police officers. Testing of applicants will take place Nov. 15 and interviews will begin the last week of November.

Eric handles general parole/probation cases – theft, drug crime, etc. He said case loads for parole/probation are dropping – down 4.2% or 147 fewer clients in Marion County October 2016 to October 2017. He reiterated that parole/probation focuses on cognitive issues with clients so they don't fall back on criminal activities. His average caseload is 41 (it's 53 county-wide). In answer to a question, he said they use risk assessment to judge how often to meet with a client. With medium risk, he meets in-office once a month but also does a lot of field work with field visits to assess how clients are adapting. With high risk, he would meet in-office every week. The treatment program includes cognitive training, substance abuse treatment and parenting classes, among other things to help clients succeed. Some training is handled through Chemeketa.

Kim Freeman, Council Liaison report – She shared cards that have been printed to promote use of the bike repair stations recently installed at City Hall and at the Keizer Station Transit Center. The stations have tools, a rack to lift the bike and free air, unlike air at most gas stations. These stations are a project supported by Keizer's Traffic/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee, for which she also is council liaison.

The Holiday Tree Lighting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 5, and the Holiday Parade will be Saturday, Dec. 9.

From the Traffic/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee, she reported that Keizer Police have again applied for three grants to support DUI, speeding and seat belt enforcement. The grants were very successful this year. She said the city has more than 70 bike helmets available to kids and adults. Those interested are asked to call the city to get a helmet fitting. Bike routes through town are being posted on the city's website. The committee also is working on Walking Routes to School.

At the Planning Commission's Nov. 8 meeting, she said the group looked at the design for the movie theater planned at Keizer Station off Ulali Drive, across from the Transit Center. She said it will have nine theaters inside. As of now, the permit process is proceeding and it should be up and running by October 2018. There will be access from McLeod and via Ulali, thanks to a new traffic light to be installed at the Transit Center.

The new parks and police fees appeared on the city services bill this month for some citizens. This funds parks improvements and five new officers, two of them on the night shift.

Dr. Jerry McGee, Keizer historian and author – He corrected his title by saying he considers himself a “story teller” and started by detailing the two donation land claims of the Keizer family that created the city. The first land claim was filed by John Brooks Keizer, son of Keizer's founder Thomas Dove Keizer. That claim is in the area of Keizer north of Cummings Lane. The second, by Thomas Keizer, was for the area south of Cummings, which includes Fort Wallace or Wallace House. That site was eventually purchased by the City of Keizer and it must remain a park.

He went on to detail some history of Cummings Lane, the first road cut from the Willamette to what is now River Road and named for the Cummings family, who bought 93 acres from the Keizers. River Road was the result of a petition drawn up by Thomas Keizer to move the route of a planned Territorial Road from Lafayette. The original route would have split the Keizers' land claims. His petition moved the route to the edge of their property and became River Road.

He also laid out the history of the Keizer family's journey to the Oregon Territory, drawn by the promise of free land promoted in 1843 by two Missouri senators named Linn and Benton. Other names of note included the Applegate family, who eventually moved further south in Oregon to settle, and the Pugh family, who arrived in the Willamette Valley in 1845 and claimed land east of River Road to Verda Lane.

He also recounted the story of Keizer's incorporation, which required population of 20,000, verified by a bona fide census. Portland State would do the census for \$20,000 but how to pay for it? Unincorporated Keizer only had a local Service District run by three people. But the district did have \$20,000 set aside to assess the safety of the Keizer dike. The district loaned that money to pay for the census, which verified the 20,000 population. When the city incorporated, it absorbed the service district, ending the need to pay back the loan.

Reports

Oct. 24 Parks Forum – Bob DeVore attended and reported on plans discussed for use of the new parks fee. He shared copies of the handout used to detail the process used by the Parks Advisory Board to glean community input on priorities for use of the fee and the 18- to 36-month work plan that has been developed. He said he attended the forum because he had a personal interest in requesting a drinking fountain near the amphitheater at Keizer Rapids Park. He was told this is on the list for consideration.

The two-phase process used by the Parks Prioritization Committee started in September and the first phase is pretty much finished. Phase II, November to January, has the parks board affirming or adjusting the committee recommendations; turning the list over to staff for cost analysis and tentative timelines; getting cost analyses and timelines from staff; holding a work session for discussion; making final adjustments with staff; and finally, presenting final recommendation to Council.

The handout also listed the proposed 18- to 36-month work plan developed by staff to identify priority actions and items, starting with hiring two full-time employees in order to get them trained before spring. Bob said interviews for those positions have begun. He defined some terms used in the plan including “replace” – remove old items and get new. This may require additional public input. “Repair” – fix broken items that are in place. He said Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards are being used for new paths and other items. The work plan listed types of work, along with a “score” developed by staff using a 5 (the worst) to 1 (the best) rating scale. Most items averaged 3.6 or higher.

There's interest in developing programs at parks. Bob said that Mayor Clark was in favor of the idea. Public Works Director Bill Lawyer attended the forum and clarified that a new equipment shop listed under the work plan is for all of Public Works, not just Parks. Bob said Bill also expressed confidence that the additional funding will allow all the projects on the list to be done within three years. Also attending were Parks Manager Robert Johnson and Dave Loudon and Matt Lawyer from the Parks Advisory Board. About 15 to 20 people attended.

Bob said Mayor Clark thanked the Parks Prioritization Committee for its work to develop recommendations

to the Parks Advisory Board on priorities for use of the new fee. He also said the city is still interested in public input. The next Parks Advisory Board meeting is Nov. 14. Rhonda encouraged anyone interested to attend that meeting to provide input.

Sunset Park Safety letter – Rhonda shared copies of the letter developed by the WKNA Board and read into the record at the Nov. 6 City Council meeting. It concerned the September incident that involved shots fired at a gun range across the Willamette River from Sunset Park. Bullets crossed the river and frightened people in the park and also pedestrians on Sunset Ave. Copies of the letter also will be shared with Marion and Polk County commissioners as a matter of public safety.

Delight Street improvements – Carol Doerfler said she has checked with Bill Lawyer about his plan to run a walking path inside the fence on school property from Dearborn Avenue south to Cummings Elementary School. The path requires that an easement be granted by Salem-Keizer School District. The project is being sought to improve safety for children walking to school along Delight Street, where there are no sidewalks. Bill said he will stay in touch with SKSD about the easement.

Information item – Information was shared on a new business in Keizer, ***IS living*** (Integrated Supports for Living). It is a therapeutic community living program to create equal opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities to live and work in a way to maximize autonomy. They also help people with brain injuries transition into the highest level of independence. As ***IS living*** gets up and running, they are cooperating with Salem Hospital to provide services to homeless people who are dealing with cancer. The business is looking for input on how to become more integrated into the community and is seeking clients.

Mark your calendar:

Rhonda said there will be **no WKNA meeting in December**. Board elections will be held at the Jan. 11, 2018 general meeting. The speaker is to be announced.

To keep posted on November-December events check West Keizer Neighborhood Association on Facebook and visit the Chamber website at www.keizerchamber.com.

WKNA can also be found on the web at www.westkeizerna.org.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.