

2020 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION REPORT for the WEST KEIZER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2020

Jan. 2, WKNA Board meeting – Discussed pursuing neighborhood traffic issues, along with Southeast Keizer and Greater Gubser associations. The approach will start with the Traffic, Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee. Decided to sponsor food barrels for three or four food collections/year at neighborhood locations, such as Bi Mart and Copper Creek. One collection period would be Thanksgiving to Christmas.

Jan. 9, WKNA General meeting, Keizer Civic Center – Election of the new Board and directors was held. The following slate was installed: President, Carol Doerfler; Vice President, Carol Phipps; Secretary, Carolyn Homan. Directors: Art Mauer, Gary Blake, Rhonda Rich, Kathy Lincoln. Carol appointed Dennis Phipps as an ad-hoc member and the Board's liaison to the Keizer Parks Advisory Board. Guest speaker Willy Ball, Energy Specialist with Salem Electric, discussed residential solar power. Salem Electric's solar program was created in 2009. Reported at least 200 pounds of emergency food collected in WKNA-sponsored barrels at Copper Creek and Bi Mart (sponsored in cooperation with Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Association) over the holidays.

FEBRUARY 2020

Feb. 6, WKNA Board meeting – Agreed to add Dennis Phipps as the Board liaison to the Keizer Parks Advisory Board. Plans were made to replant the Cummings Elementary School's reader board planter with pansies this spring. Also discussed the WKNA annual report, to be given April 6 to Council.

Feb. 13, WKNA General meeting – Guest speaker was Dave Bauer, Salem Electric Board member and candidate for re-election to that Board. Gary Blake reported that he had been invited by the City to participate in the Citizens Police Academy, which is designed to educate citizens on what police do and how they do it. Carol D. reported she had attended that night's Traffic Safety, Bikeways, Pedestrian Committee meeting, immediately before the WKNA meeting, and believes it will be up to WKNA to pursue the Neighborhood Traffic issues with City Council. The only current advice is to call police with a license and car description if possible when speeding/running red lights, etc., are noted. She 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. Carol D. reported that WKNA member Gary Klein attended the last City Charter Review committee meeting. He said the revised charter will go to the public for a vote.

MARCH 2020

March 3, City Charter Review task force meeting -- WKNA Board member Kathy Lincoln is a task force member. She said omitting Section 44 regarding LGBTQ rights is the main focus for the Task Force.

March 5, WKNA Board meeting – Parks Liaison Dennis Phipps reported visiting all 19 of Keizer's parks and noted Parks Board members assigned as liaisons to the parks in West Keizer: Clay Rushton is liaison to Willamette Manor; Matt Lawyer to Wallace House; Dylan Juran to Sunset; and Wayne Frey to Palma Ceia. All the parks board members are assigned to Keizer Rapids.

The group discussed how to pursue neighborhood traffic issues and concerns. Topics included Salem's use of traffic cameras (effective but expensive), that expense vs hiring another police officer for traffic, and working with city planners toward safer streets through design standards.

March 12 -- WKNA General meeting cancelled because of COVID

March 29 – Planned Cummings School Cleanup and replant of the reader board canceled due to Covid.

APRIL 2020

WKNA April Board and General meetings canceled due to Covid.

WKNA submits \$550 budget request for 2020-21

May 2020

May 7, WKNA Board meeting – The Board met on Rhonda Rich's patio for social distancing.

Little Library replacement – Martin Doerfler painted the replacement library (the original was hit and destroyed by a distracted driver) and he and Tom Tomczyk mounted it on a post secure in a cement base.

Palma Ceia neighborhood sign at Cummings and Shoreline – Sign was prepped and repainted by the Doerflers.

May 12, City Budget Committee meeting – Held virtually; WKNA's \$550 budget request OK'd.

May 14 WKNA General meeting canceled due to Covid

AUGUST 2020

August 8 – WKNA Board members Carol Doerfler, Carol Phipps and Carolyn Homan meet to discuss meeting speaker scheduling for the coming year. Also discussed possibility of developing a newsletter to keep neighbors informed during the ongoing pandemic if in-person meetings cannot be held. Prototype developed just in case and Jeff Anderson was contacted about the possibility of having his labor union shop print and mail the newsletter.

August 19 – Carol D. purchases "wrap" with WKNA logo for the second food donation barrel; placement of barrel to be decided.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sept. 3, WKNA Board meeting, on Carol D.'s deck – Group discusses possibility of developing a newsletter but for now, general meetings at Keizer City Hall have been OK'd by City staff.

Food collection barrels -- Food donations to collection barrel have been strong -- 1,000 lbs. one month and 800 to 900 lbs./month now. Carol D. says her postings to Facebook and Nextdoor have emphasized donations at the food barrels and to Keizer Food Bank in general because the need is so high. Group discussed where to place second barrel – Sherwin Williams and Mommy and Maddi's mentioned.

Sept. 10, WKNA General meeting, City Hall lobby – Guest speaker Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works director, updates the group on division activities. The major upcoming Parks issue is an update of the Master Plan. Public input will be sought from groups and individuals, including neighborhood associations, virtually if necessary. **Cummings School issues** – The annual cleanup was canceled because of Covid. Cummings Principal Magda Romero provided a written report on construction at the school. One issue is a new support post at the entrance that blocks part of the Cummings Cougar mural. They are looking at ways to incorporate the post in the design. Carol D. said she would contact the Keizer Arts Commission and/or McNary's art department to see if they have ideas about how to handle this.

Sept. 15, WKNA newsletter meeting -- Carolyn, Carol P. and Rhonda met and discussed a layout, possible content for a potential WKNA newsletter. Carolyn shared a draft layout with the group. Space was left for a "President's message" where new and breaking issues could be addressed.

Sept. 26 – Carol D., Carol and Dennis Phipps and Carolyn meet at Mommy and Maddi's for placement of second food collection barrel. New addition is sturdy sign to list the "most needed" food items.

Sept. 27 – Carol D., Carol P. and Carolyn met to formulate an agenda and three prepared questions for a Candidate Forum to be held in place of the WKNA General meeting in October. All candidates for the four contested City Council seats, as well as the mayor, have been invited.

OCTOBER 2020

Oct. 1, WKNA Board meeting, on Carol D.'s deck – Discussed WKNA newsletter idea. Carol D. will follow up with Jeff Anderson in December about the possibility of getting the printing/postage paid for and report back to the Board in January. Rhonda said WKNA may have some funds left to help with costs. Even if in-person meetings continue, a newsletter could be a way to get the word out to a bigger audience.

Oct. 3 – West Keizer neighbors help with Claggett Creek Watershed Council clean-up and planting effort at Wallace House Park. WKNA helps publicize. Cleanup needed after a city contractor bushwhacks the lower area to clear brush and vines that have provided cover for homeless individuals camping there.

Oct. 5 – Carol D., Carol P. and Carolyn meet with Tracy Davis at City Hall to talk about set-up of the lobby area for the upcoming WKNA Candidate Forum.

Oct. 8, WKNA Candidate forum at City Hall lobby (replacing WKNA General meeting) – Forum involved all but one candidate for Keizer City Council plus the mayor. Moderator was Lyndon Zaitz of the Keizertimes. Timekeeper was Davis Dyer. David Dahle of Keizer TV live-streamed the forum to the WKNA Facebook page and also recorded it so people could watch later. WKNA invited the presidents of the other neighborhood associations. Candidates answered three prepared questions, as well as written questions submitted from the audience. Attracted about 20 observers.

NOVEMBER 2020

Nov. 12, WKNA Board meeting (held at Civic Center prior to General meeting) – Discussed Parks, where to hold future Board meetings (City Hall before General meetings) and the issue of repainting the Cummings Cougar mascot (the mural was bisected by the recent construction). Carol D. took it to the Keizer Arts Commission but no action has been taken.

Nov. 12, WKNA General meeting -- Guest speaker Robert Johnson, Parks and Facilities division Manager for the City of Keizer shared two handouts – Accomplishments Since Parks Fee Enacted and the Parks Priorities 3-5 year plan. He highlighted accomplishments since the parks fee began and updated the group on this year's focus – updating the Parks Master Plan. Meetings to obtain public input to start in December, to involve as many groups as possible. They see citizen input as vital because the Master Plan information shows what **could** be built over the next 10 to 15 years. If a project isn't on the plan, it can't be considered.

Marion Co. parole and probation officer Eric Bandonis reported on a new project as of October 2019 – the Marion County TJC (Transition from Jail to Community) Program. It involves non-violent offenders in work crews at parks, on roads, etc., to keep people using their time productively. He also reported on the De Muniz Resource Center, a project of Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action open to anyone. It provides legal assistance, help in signing up for the Oregon Health Plan, help in finding employment, etc. All this is free to the community.

DECEMBER 2020

December Board and General meetings are not held during this month-

Food barrel collections for the year total 2280 pounds, plus a 900 pound donation of dog food from Copper Creek and \$319.00 in cash

JANUARY 2021

January Board and General meetings canceled due to Covid. WKNA submits Resolution to City to cancel annual Board elections until the Covid restrictions allow for a General membership meeting.