

2016 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION REPORT for the WEST KEIZER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

January 14, 2016 Annual Meeting at the Keizer Civic Center

President Rhonda Rich recognized the 10th anniversary of the reactivation of West Keizer Neighborhood Association and shared an association history she created to include information such as meeting topics and speakers, plus activities through the years and a list of all WKNA Board members, which reflect 70 years of service. Gary Blake then recognized Rhonda for her 10 years as WKNA president and her essential role in making WKNA a viable organization that continues to contribute to the community.

Elections were held for WKNA officers and directors, facilitated by Ron Freeman. Board members were approved unanimously and election results were as follows:

Gary Blake, President

Rhonda Rich, Vice President

Carolyn Homan, Secretary

Directors: Carol Doerfler, Art Mauer, Sarah Head, Clint Holland

Mayor Cathy Clark spoke on some of the accomplishments in Keizer in the past year, including the Big Toy, sand volleyball courts at Keizer Rapids Park and the turf project at McNary High School. She also said “new things are coming” to fill vacant spaces at Schoolhouse Square and other retail areas in Keizer and noted new additions at Keizer Station. She also spoke of the homeless initiative under way in collaboration with the City of Salem and Marion and Polk counties.

Gary Blake presented an update on Palma Ciega Park, which is in disrepair and in need of cleanup. An amenities survey was distributed for attendees were to fill out. Gary said neighbors are ready to volunteer to help with cleanup with city guidance.

January 12, 2016 KEIZER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Palma Ciega Park Improvements – Discussion with West Keizer Neighborhood Association and adjacent property owners

Marty Doerfler, Keizer, reported that several years ago neighbors had cleaned up the park and put in some trails but it has been neglected. He suggested that because it offers a nice view of the river perhaps some benches could be placed in the park, some vegetation cleared and trees cut so that the view would be unobstructed. He added that the trails need some work and he would be willing to assist in that effort. Parks/Facilities

Manager Robert Johnson responded that the park would support a couple of benches and some tree branches could be cut up high and vegetation limbed to enhance views.

Rhonda Rich, President of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association, reported that several neighbors of the park have indicated a willingness to help with development. She reminded the Board that the Master Plan shows a viewing platform over the river and suggested that that be considered. She also suggested adding community gardens and benches.

Gary Blake, Keizer, reported that there has been heightened interest in the park and everyone is willing and anxious to give the park an identity and better security. A group of interested parties wants to work with the City maintenance people and receive assignments in an effort to make the park a place that the neighbors would like to go to. He indicated that one of the neighbors is willing to donate money to help make this happen. He added that there is interest in doing community gardens on the property. Robert Johnson responded that the Master Plan would have to be amended to include community gardens and a formal proposal would be needed to begin that process. He voiced support for the community gardens noting that they are going in in other areas with great success and that having people at the gardens keeps the park safe and keeps an interest in the park. He noted that there is currently not a water supply to the park and that would have to be explored and suggested that the West Keizer Neighborhood Association discuss this and form a vision of what they want to see. He asked that a 'core group' work with him to make the improvements; meeting occasionally to get things accomplished.

Additional discussion took place regarding details of the improvements, police surveillance, installation of doggy pot stations and barriers. Mr. Johnson reminded the Board that developed parks require more manpower maintain.

February 9, 2016 **KEIZER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Palma Ciega Park Improvements – Discussion with Friends of Palma Ciega Park Group (Gary Blake)

Rhonda Rich, Vice President of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association, speaking for Gary Blake, distributed a wish list that had been circulated at the last West Keizer Neighborhood Association meeting. She indicated that Mr. Blake was planning on contacting Robert Johnson to plan a cleanup day at the park. Mr. Johnson noted that he had not heard from anyone regarding the park but he had some ideas of what could be done to improve the park without creating additional maintenance.

February 11, 2016 General Meeting at Keizer Civic Center

Representatives from the Marion County Office of Emergency Management presented "Living on Shaky Ground," including information for residents in the event of a disaster such as fire, floods or an earthquake. Guest speakers were Caitlin Esping, an Americorps volunteer, and Kathleen Silva, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Marion County.

Eric Bandonis, parole and probation officer for Marion County reported a decrease in number of clients, switching a trend in recent reports for increased numbers. He

emphasized how important working with the community is because citizens can be extra eyes and ears for the department, helping officers see things they would otherwise miss.

Carol Doerfler, who spearheaded the Little Library effort, said the Little Library is open for business and is being visited frequently.

February 29 -The WKNA submitted a letter of support to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a grant application by the City of Keizer to make improvements at Keizer Rapids Park. An email was sent to all WKNA members to encourage letters of support. In addition, a brochure box with informational flyers was placed next to the Big Toy and the KRP dog park.

March 7 – Carolyn Homan testified at City Council that WKNA's beautification program at Cummings Elementary School continues with pansies planted there by Carol Doerfler.

March 8 – WKNA representatives Carolyn Homan and Carol Doerfler were interviewed as part of local radio station KMUX's Willamette Wakeup program.

March 8 Keizer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Regular Session Minutes

Palma Ciea Park Improvements – Discussion with Friends of Palma Ciea Park Group:

Gary Blake, President of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association, announced that he and other volunteers are ready to put together a program with the City to help make Palma Ciea Park a better place to visit. They would like to begin by cleaning up the property and trimming trees to enhance the view of the river. Scott Klug suggested that in addition to applying for the Parks Board Matching Grant, they check into grants offered by SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism). Mr. Blake added that he would like the City to direct the performance of the work so that volunteers do not do anything wrong. JT Hager provided advice on how to fill out the grant application. Clint ZHolland voiced concern about the longevity of the improvements and a commitment from the City to destroy the invasive species that are killing the trees.

March 10, 2016 General Meeting at Keizer Civic Center

Anne Marie Storms, Education Specialist Keizer Fire District, presented further information on emergency preparedness in the event of an earthquake or other disaster. Her talk included details on how to assemble an emergency supply kit good for 72 hours up to 2 weeks.

Rhonda reported expenditures of \$182.99 (\$100 for the new WKNA logo and \$82.99 for printing) out of the \$500 2015-16 budget. The Board just OK'd spending for brochures (\$180) and website renewal (\$100) for this year. The Board also approved seeking \$500 for 2016-17.

March 12 - Members are encouraged by email notice to participate in the 5th Annual Keizer Community Center Cleanup

April 14, 2016 General Meeting at Keizer Civic Center –

President Gary Blake presented a Certificate of Appreciation to former board member Ron Freeman for his service from 2014 to 2016. Ron also was WKNA's representative to the Big Toy planning group and he and his wife, Kim, coordinated volunteers for that project.

Ron and Kim Freeman were introduced as new WKNA coordinators for the quarterly Adopt-A-Street cleanups.

The WKNA Board approved a \$500 budget request for 2016-17 and President Gary Blake will represent WKNA May 3 before the City Council's budget session.

The Board also approved a proposal to be presented by Gary to the Keizer Parks Board suggesting volunteer labor from the community to help fix up Palma Ciega Park in exchange for a commitment from the city to spray annually to control ivy, poison oak and blackberries. (see Board minutes, April 7th on www.westkeizerna.org)

Representatives from the Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council – Mark Caillier, representative at large, and Michael Runyon, representing Oregon Youth Authority on the Council, described the history of the council and the legal mandate it fulfills to act as an advisory council to the County Board of Commissioners. This includes plans to serve adult and youth offenders; plans to prevent criminal involvement by youth and coordination of community-wide services including treatment, education, employment and intervention strategies.

Lt. Copeland, Keizer Police Department, answered questions related to the local Neighborhood Watch program.

Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole & Probation Officer gave an update.

Members are encouraged to participate in the Monster Cookie Metric Century Bicycle Ride on April 24th and attend the “Discover Your Watershed” presented by Claggett Creek Watershed Council on April 27th.

May 10, 2016 Keizer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Regular Session Minutes

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS:

Gary Blake, Keizer, President of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association, presented a proposal for improving Palma Ciega Park which included a bench and/or picnic table. He added that individuals are willing to donate funds to build a walkway to the river and asked if this was acceptable to the Board. Board members urged Mr. Blake to keep track of volunteer hours and to solicit the assistance of other organizations such as the Claggett Creek Watershed Council and Men of Action. Parks Manager Robert Johnson explained that ivy is difficult to kill and some sprays may be restricted due to the proximity to the Willamette but he would work with the group to destroy the invasive

species. Lengthy discussion followed regarding details of the plans. The board suggested that a trash receptacle be placed near the table or bench.

May 12, 2016 General Meeting at Keizer Civic Center

Presentations were made by Dave Walery, chairman of the Keizer Iris Festival, on highlights of the May 19-22 event, and Richard Walsh, Keizer City Council's liaison to the Willamette River Water Trail Partnership, and member of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Walsh gave details of the water trail that extends 187 miles from the McKenzie River area outside Eugene down to Portland, its benefits and amenities offered to those interest in flat water canoeing and kayaking.

Clint Holland shared information on summer concerts and events planned at Keizer Rapids Park.

The board approves a new and improved version of the WKNA brochure. Creators were Davis Dyer, Carol Doerfler, Carolyn Homan and Rhonda Rich.

Keizer Iris Festival Run and bike ride thru West Keizer is promoted and an informational flyer printed in cooperation with the Keizer Chamber of Commerce is distributed by WKNA board members to approximately 150 households on the route.

June, July and August - no general meeting

June 9, 2016 Traffic Safety, Bikeways& Pedestrian Committee meeting- Gary and Rhonda attend to request an update on Delight St. improvements.

APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Gary Blake, President of West Keizer Neighborhood Association, invited everyone to the neighborhood street clean-up event on Chemawa from River to Keizer Rapids Park. *Rhonda Rich*, West Keizer Neighborhood Association, explained that there is a great deal of pedestrian traffic crossing Walsh Way from the dog park parking lot to the Big Toy. She requested that something be put in place to alert drivers of pedestrians such as cross hatched cross walk, signage, or speed bumps.

STAFF REPORT: Street Division Manager, Mike Griffin reported as follows: • *Sidewalks on Delight:* Possible improvements would be (1) shoulder widening with a pedestrian pathway or (2) a separated path along the asphalt. The Verda/Chemawa roundabout is scheduled for this fiscal year; Dearborn bridge replacement is scheduled for the next fiscal year; and Delight improvements will be scheduled for the following year.

June 11 – Volunteers participate in the quarterly Adopt-A-Street cleanup.

Aug. 2 – National Nite Out events held in West Keizer neighborhood and throughout the city.

August 27 The WKNA members were invited to attend the annual neighborhood barbeque at John Knox Presbyterian Church.

September 8, 2016 General Meeting at Keizer Civic Center

President Gary Blake announced that the quarterly Adopt-A-Street cleanup would be held Saturday, Sept. 10, but would start this time at 9 a.m. to accommodate those who want to attend the 11 a.m. dedication of the city mural on the wall of Town and Country Bowling Lanes on River Road.

Because scheduled speakers had to cancel, an open discussion of neighborhood business was held:

Attendees shared experiences with the new traffic roundabout at Verda and Chemawa; long-term strategies for road repairs in Keizer were discussed; Darrell Richardson shared his idea for an RV park at Keizer Rapids to generate general support for Keizer parks; Gary Blake share the WKNA Board's decision to encourage the City and Parks Board to focus on public safety at Palma Ciega Park in lieu of the proposal to use volunteers to clean up the park if the city agreed to spray regularly for blackberries and weeds (to which there has been no city response).

New chamber of Commerce Executive Director Danielle Bethell presented information on Chamber business, including the recent vote to assume sponsorship of the Holiday Lights parade. A focus for 2017 is the total solar eclipse in August that will bring thousands of visitors to the area.

Barbara Smith-Henke, the website manager for the WKNA, updated the website to include the new logo and format.

September 10 – Council member Kim Freeman, WKNA Secretary Carolyn Homan and others attended the dedication of the city mural on the wall of Town and Country Bowling Lanes.

October 5 Carolyn Homan organized the annual birding trip with the Salem Audobon Society and WKNA at Keizer Rapids Park.

October 12 An email notification is sent out to the WKNA membership regarding a public hearing concerning the Urban Growth boundary expansion to accommodate a third bridge over the Willamette River. The joint hearing involved the Keizer City Council, Keizer Planning Commission, Marion County Board of Commissioners, Polk County Board of Commissioners and Polk County Planning Commission, and Salem City Council.

October 13, 2016 General Meeting at Keizer Civic Center

Shane Starr, Executive Director, CASA Marion County (Court Appointed Special Advocates) explained what her organization does to “ensure that all abused and neglected children in foster homes to find safe, permanent homes where they can thrive.” Presentations also were made by Allen Barker and Laura Reid, candidates vying for Position 1, Keizer City Council, in the November election; and unopposed candidates Mayor Cathy Clark, and council candidate Marlene Parsons. Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole/Probation Officer gave his quarterly report.

October 13 Traffic Safety, Bikeways& Pedestrian Committee meeting

Rhonda Rich, Keizer, Vice President of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association, requested that the Traffic Safety/Bikeways/Pedestrian Committee meetings be televised. Committee agreed by consensus to pursue this. Chair Sangster agreed to work with Council Liaison Kim Freeman on this.

November 10, 2016 General Meeting 2016 at Keizer Civic Center

Rhonda Rich reported that the WKNA Board approved spending up to \$50 from the 2016-17 budgets for two new inserts to the Adopt-A-Street advertising signs reflecting the new 9 a.m. starting time for the cleanups.

Mark Akimoff, Environmental Program Technician with the City of Keizer’s Public Works/Stormwater section, presented details of Keizer’s stormwater system,

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Blake
President of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association