

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

**Nov. 14, 2019**

**Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA secretary**

**Call to order** – 7 p.m. by President Carol Doerfler. She welcomed 16 people to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

**Approval of Minutes for Oct. 10, 2019** – Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes from the October general meeting, as submitted and posted on WKNA's website. Rhonda Rich seconded. Motion carried.

### **Guest speakers**

**Satellite Gaming** – Carol D. introduced speaker Jamie Harris of Satellite Gaming, an organization working to involve area youth in a positive community focused on video gaming. He said many youth are involved with video games almost 100 percent of their time but parents are not involved with their kids in any way related to gaming. Satellite Gaming sponsors events to bring kids and parents together around activities where students compete and parents learn. Satellite Gaming has 13 programs throughout the Salem-Keizer School District and they also partner with Salem Keizer Education Foundation. He acknowledged there have been and are problems with the video gaming culture but Satellite is trying to create a community that will result in a healthy gaming culture.

Satellite requires kids to volunteer in the community and they stay connected through after-school clubs. The group plans a lot of team-building activities, such as escape rooms, and has classes on things such as computer repair.

Satellite's mission statement is "Pointing students to Jesus Christ by building relationships through video games" but Harris said they don't emphasize the Christian element during programs held at public schools. Overall, their work is focused on partnering with the local and online community to create bully-free eSports environments for student competition along with opportunities for parent education about gaming. It's about kids having a place to succeed in a welcoming community. Keeping them involved in positive activities makes the community a safer, better place, he said.

Satellite has obtained its 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation and now has a Board of Directors, bylaws etc. Classic Homes has donated a space for meetings. Harris invited anyone to view a video on the organization at [www.satellitegaming.net](http://www.satellitegaming.net).

**Max Casquero, Marion County Parole and Probation officer** – He filled in for Eric Bandonis with the quarterly report and update. Police are asking neighbors to be watchful throughout the holidays, as criminal activities such as package theft typically increase.

He said Parole and Probation officers typically have a case load of 75 and they continue to focus on lowering recidivism.

**Bill Lawyer, Keizer Public Works Director** – He reported on the latest plans for a safer route to Cummings Elementary School and McNary High for students walking along Delight Street, where there is no sidewalk. Salem-Keizer School District is handling a path on the west side of Delight from Cummings School north to Dearborn. Funding for that is part of the recently passed bond measure and he said the path should be installed next summer.

He is focused on creating a path along Delight Street from Dearborn north to Chemawa and has met with neighbors to show them a design for a 10-foot pathway next to the asphalt on the west side of Delight. Because the right of way is skewed, it will not be possible to have 3 feet of separation between the road and the path. There will only be a 1-foot separation but he plans a fog line on both sides of the road. Neighbors were positive about the design, he said. The project is scheduled to go to bid in December with construction by the end of June. The Palma Ciega sign at the corner of Dearborn should not need to be

moved, he said.

Some concerns were raised about whether parking would be allowed on the strip, which would force children to walk out into the roadway to get around cars. He said there are no plans to restrict parking but if neighbors bring the issue forward, restrictions could be put in place.

In other news, Bill said the concrete is done as part of the Willamette Manor tennis court repair and fences are going up. Court resurfacing will happen next spring.

At Wallace House, he said a volunteer group (Councilor Kohler's group, which handled bark chip removal at the Big Toy at Keizer Rapids Park) is looking for another project and plans a substantial cleanout of the lower section at Wallace House next September. It will involve mainly brush removal in the flatter areas where homeless individuals have been camping. Bill said he wants to make it a community event, involving WKNA, the Claggett Creek Watershed Council and others.

Bids have been received for a water line project on Cummings from Shoreline to the west end, to be done this winter. That's the only water or storm line project in West Keizer this year.

**Colleen Busch, Salem Area Transit Board representative** – She said Cherriots is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year. Six-day service has started and people can take a 3-question survey at [www.cherriots.org](http://www.cherriots.org). She said there will be no service on Thanksgiving or Black Friday. Cherriots does partner with the city of Salem to offer free rides to warming shelters.

## **Reports Parks updates**

**Palma Ciega, Gary** – He has checked out the Palma Ciega sign at Dearborn and Delight because a homeowner was concerned it was in need of repair. Gary thinks it is sound, it just needs repainting.

**Keizer Rapids** – Carol D. reported that KRP and Wallace House, as well as Meadows park, will be getting some fitness equipment stations, thanks to Jeff Davis, who has received a Parks Board matching fund grant. Davis installed exercise stations last year at Country Glen and Claggett Creek parks.

## **Discussion topics**

**5<sup>th</sup> St. Traffic** – Carol D. said traffic/speeding problems continue on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and also are a big problem in the Gubser area. WKNA hopes to get neighborhoods together to take the issue to the Traffic Safety/Bike-ways/Pedestrian Committee and on to Council to see what can be done.

**Food barrels, Carol P.** – Copper Creek has agreed to host a food donation collection barrel that WKNA is organizing. A site for a second barrel is being sought.

**Holiday events** – A flyer of Keizer-area holiday events was distributed.

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m.** – Salem-Keizer School District forum regarding use of \$35 million received from the Student Success Act to meet students' mental or behavioral health needs and decrease academic disparities while increasing overall academic achievement.

**Dec. 3** – Keizer City Charter Review Task Force, 6 p.m., City Hall

Christmas Tree Lighting, 6-7 p.m., Walery Plaza, Cherry Avenue and River Road

**Dec. 1-26** – Miracle of Christmas Light Display, Gubser Neighborhood. Nonperishable food and cash dona-

tions accepted at the tent to benefit Marion-Polk Food Share

**Dec. 14** – Keizer Holiday Lights Parade, River Road; Jingle Dash Fun Run before the parade

**Next WKNA Board meeting** – Thursday, Jan. 2, 7 p.m., Carol Doerfler's home

**Next WKNA General meeting** – Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m., Keizer Community Center. General meeting and election of WKNA officers and Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.