

## **WKNA General Meeting**

**Nov. 14th 2024 7 p.m.**

**At Keizer Civic Center**

**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary**

About 25 people attending, including guest speakers

**Call to Order: President** Rhonda Rich called the meeting order at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

**Approval of Oct. 10, 2024 minutes** – Art Mauer moved approval as submitted; Kris Adams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Budget report** -- Rhonda reported no change from September, with expenditures of \$433.53 and a balance of \$766.47 from the city-approved \$1,200 budget.

## **Community Updates**

**Guest Hector Blanco, Assistant Fire Chief, Keizer Fire District** – He updated the group on the Community Home Safety effort under way and said information will be available on the KFD website within a week.

**Keizer Chamber** – Corrie Falardeau, Chamber Director, presented a run-down on community holiday events:

Holiday Giving Basket Program – gift tags are available at various Keizer businesses. Chamber is organizing community donations of toys and clothing; partnering with Keizer Elks for the food baskets.

Turkey Dash – Will be held Nov. 29

Christmas tree lighting – 6 p.m. Dec. 3

Holiday Lights parade, 7 p.m., Dec. 14

Christmas pancake breakfast at Keizer Fire District – Dec. 15

**Special recognitions** – Rhonda began by thanking any Veterans in attendance for their service to the country.

Thank you to Councilors Laura Reid and Kyle Juran – Their terms are ending as Council liaisons to WKNA and Rhonda thanked them for keeping us updated on City news. WKNA presented Laura with a flower arrangement, as it was her last meeting before she retires from her Council position.

Thank you to Carol Phipps, WKNA Board member – Carol will be honored at the Nov. 18 Council meeting as Volunteer of the Quarter for her instrumental role in organizing a project to stabilize the hillside at Willamette Manor Park and for ongoing beautification efforts at Cummings Elementary School. She also received a flower arrangement.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Fraud protection, Willamette Valley Bank** -- Daylee Howard, Community Engagement and Outreach specialist, presented information on fraud awareness. Americans last year lost \$10 billion to various scams: home repair, foreclosure relief, loan modification, various telephone/credit card approaches, phishing emails, payment app scams and more.

Most all use pressure, urgency and fear to make people react. The advice is to read documents and emails carefully, looking for misspellings, bad grammar, etc.; don't open any unsolicited links; check with your bank directly before you act on some financial "offer"; never give out sensitive information (your PIN, password, Social Security number, etc.); don't respond to an unexpected request without double-checking with your bank or the "source" as to the legitimacy; don't rely on caller ID (scammers are good at fakes); don't respond to request to send money back (you were sent \$\$ accidentally and

need to send it back).

For protection, you can set up credit monitoring and ID theft protection. Check credentials and references of home repair “specialists,” financial experts, etc. Seek second opinions or estimates. Review contracts and documents with a professional. Be suspicious of unknown calls or messages and block spam numbers. You can report frauds and scams to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://ReportFraud.ftc.gov)

If you are scammed, call your bank and/or the police. Change your passwords and report to the FTC. If you lose money, file a police report. And don't feel alone. Scams happen.

Allison Brown, an investment specialist, presented information on Investment Fraud, and emphasized that fear is the big motivator here, too. Scammers play on emotions.

Things to remember:

The IRS ONLY communicates via LETTER. They will never call or email.

Loneliness is an in for scammers

Don't succumb to pressure

Check credentials and references.

For protection:

Monitor your bank account

Check your credit report yearly. Credit card offer more fraud protection than banks.

Don't sign documents you haven't read

Don't open any unknown or unsolicited links

If you are scammed, speak up!

## **REPORTS**

**Council Liaison** -- Councilor Kyle Juran said Council honored Ken Gierloff, president of Southeast Neighborhood Association, with the Volunteer of the Quarter award at the Nov. 4 meeting. Police Chief Copeland also swore in two new officers. In other action, Council authorized the Public Works Director to apply for funding for the Wheatland Road improvement project, slated for work in 2027.

**Food barrels** – Dennis Phipps said the Keizer Community Food Bank this week served 174 families. Need there may be driven in part by recent closure of 6 food banks in the area. Also, Crossroads church is taking over the Faith Lutheran property, but the food bank will stay on site.

## **Cummings School**

**School plantings** – Carol said she'll pull plants soon, with no replanting again until spring.

**Cummings Neighborhood Family Council** -- Kris is the Family Council chair. She said they will be working to connect families to resources they need. Attendance has been an issue and that's on their radar. They will be organizing events to raise money and address issues. Their first is being planned for Jan. 28 to address mental health. They want to adopt an outward mindset and build community.

**Cummings PTA** -- Kris said they have held or plan 3 fundraisers. The recent Jogathon raised \$13,000. Cummings kids are participating in an Oregon Education Conference.

## **Parks**

Councilor Juran also said surveillance cameras are going up in City parks, starting this week at Keizer Rapids. Others are slated for the Little League fields, Claggett Creek and Willamette Manor. All should be up within 2 weeks.

Parks Board member Lisa Cejka said November and December meetings were cancelled. In

September, Pickleball enthusiasts came to talk about setting rules of use for the newly opened courts at Keizer Rapids. They also talked about a potential matching grant for a covered area and bleachers there.

**Palma Ciea --** Gary Blake said it's looking good. Lisa added that the city eventually wants to clear out the heavy vegetation from the river bank there in order to improve emergency access.

**Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee –** Committee member Brenda Lamb said City Planner Shane Witham had presented information and answered questions about the interface of Planning and traffic/transportation around the city. City Council is interested in the idea of a greenway trail through the city. Improving bike safety on Rivercrest was a topic. There is no TSBP meeting in December. They will meet Nov. 21.

**Planning Commission –** Councilor Juran reported that the commission is looking at its rules which haven't been redone in many years. One issue is the two-term limit for members, which is seen by past and current members as a deterrent. It takes a lot to get up to speed on what can be complex planning issues and two three-year terms limits the effectiveness of members. A current example to be tackled is a FEMA floodplain issue.

**Keizer Community Library –** Rhonda reported on a resolution request that is to go before City Council Nov. 18. She attended the Keizer Library Board meeting before the WKNA meeting to hear about the Library's plans to request a resolution designating the community library as Keizer's public library. No funding request is attached to the resolution. People who are interested are invited to speak on behalf of the library at the meeting.

Kris reported that the library is always looking for volunteers and has lots of events scheduled, including regular story times for kids and craft events. The library also is seeking cash donations.

**WKNA Little Library --** Kris just received 6 banker's boxes full for donated books, mostly children's books, which is a great help.

#### **Other meetings**

**Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 –** Parks Board meeting cancelled

**Nov. 13, 6 p.m. –** Planning Commission

**Nov. 14, 8 a.m. --** Ruby Bridges Walk to School at Cummings Elementary

**Nov. 21, 6 p.m. –** Traffic Safety meeting

**Nov. 27 –** St, Edward Community Dinner/Thanksgiving

**Dec. 10, 6-8:30 p.m. Community Safety Awareness event, City Hall**

#### **WKNA Meetings, Speakers/Topics 2024-25**

**Next Board meeting – Jan. 2**

**Next General meeting – Jan. 9, 7 p.m. Speaker: Police Chief Copeland scheduled**

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.