

WKNA General Meeting

Jan. 9, 2025 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

About 17 people in attendance, including speaker Keizer Police Chief Copeland.

Call to Order: Rhonda called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Liaison report -- Rhonda introduced new Keizer Councilor Marlene Parsons to give the Council report. Regular liaison, Councilor Kyle Juran, was unable to attend. She talked about the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument that Council has endorsed and that is planned for Ryan J. Hill Park in Keizer. She said Council will need to approve the design, which should come before them in a few weeks. Organizers need to raise funds to purchase the memorial. A lot of work to prepare the site is being donated, she said, which will save \$50,000. Total cost will be about \$150,000. Partners include the City of Keizer and Keizer Elks but she said the project will not cost the City any money. The City has donated the site and City Manager Brown is applying for a grant.

Introductions -- Rhonda thanked Marlene for her report and introductions were made around the room. WKNA welcomed four new attendees.

Minutes from Nov.9, 2023 – Art moved approval; Tom Homan seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Report, Rhonda – She reported expenditure of \$141.44 for 150 copies of the December newsletter for a total of \$574.97 so far from the approved \$1,200 budget. From the remaining \$6.03, WKNA will renew its website, print another newsletter and some certificates of appreciation for our food-barrel sponsors.

Guest speaker – Rhonda introduced Keizer Police Chief Andrew Copeland. He has been with KPD for 23 years, chief for about 1 ½ years. He said the department has had a lot of retirements in recent years and is down 7 positions from the authorized 50-person force. It's a challenging transition period that is asking them to do more with less. But he said he believes the department is hiring better cops than ever. The attitude is to hire for strong personal attributes – humble, helpful, empathetic, integrity, a warrior mindset -- because "we can teach how to be a cop."

KPD has put 16 license-plate readers into use around town. He said the devices let officers ID if a stolen car comes into Keizer. It helped them track some kids who stole a car after attacking the owner and it also helped solve a recent shooting.

Technology is also helping with park security via 22 cameras that are being installed in Keizer parks. It alerts police to people sleeping in parks (prohibited) and those defacing park signs, fences and buildings with graffiti. He also said body cameras are coming to the force in a month or so. On the less technical side, KPD also has added a "comfort dog" to the force.

The department received a \$167,000 grant to combat retail crime. With the funds, they are doing overtime "stings" at Target BiMart, Safeway, etc. There is a lot of retail theft at Keizer Station, he said. Ten people were recently arrested and \$2,000 in stolen goods recovered.

A top 10 safety list was done a few months ago and the biggest issues were traffic, homelessness, and theft. He said they do their best to contact every homeless person who comes into Keizer and redirect them to resources. A cleanup of homeless camps at Wallace House Park a few years ago cost thousands of dollars and he said they want to avoid a repeat.

In answer to questions, he said the City Council recently OK'd \$800,000 to purchase a property on Bailey St. that abuts the KPD property. This will provide about 2 acres and a facility for storage of vehicles seized as part of homicide, aggravated assault, some drug cases, etc. Any car attached to such a case must be held in perpetuity as evidence in case of a future retrial or appeal. The cars have to be kept in good condition, so they have to be stored inside. This new property will provide the space KPD needs.

Asked about PERS costs, he said all police agencies are coping as best they can with increases in PERS, insurance, etc., and most are down positions, including Marion Co. and Salem as well as KPD.

KPD is doing "area checks" to keep tabs on the new turf fields and other amenities added at Keizer Rapids Park. The code enforcement officer helps with this too. Graffiti is an ongoing issue. The artwork added to some utility boxes is helping.

Election of Officers -- Vice President Robb Witters conducted the annual Board elections, noting that if none of the 7 Board positions was contested, the slate could be approved in one vote. Robb nominated Rhonda as President and Rhonda nominated Robb as Vice President. Robb nominated Carolyn as Secretary. As Board members, Art Mauer, Kris Adams and Carol Phipps were re-nominated. Rhonda nominated Brenda Lamb. Robb moved to accept the slate as nominated; Tom Homan seconded. Motion passed. Rhonda said WKNA would be working on possible changes that may be proposed to the Parks Master Plan to accommodate a new pavilion at Keizer Rapids Park, as well as other issues. The Board meets the first Thursday of the month January to May and Sept. to November 7 p.m. at her house unless otherwise announced. General meetings are the second Thursday of those months at 7 p.m. The Board welcomes ideas for issues to cover or speakers to feature.

REPORTS

Food barrels, Dennis and Carol Phipps – The 2024 totals collected via the WKNA-sponsored barrels at Bi Mart, Copper Creek and Keizer Fire District were 3,160 lbs., \$414 cash, both down from 2023 (\$3,250 lbs. and \$580 cash). Need is up. The Keizer Community Food Bank (recipient of all food collected) served 244 families at Thanksgiving.

Cummings PTA, Neighborhood Family Council, Kris – No PTA report, but the Neighborhood Family Council, formed in October, working with Cummings families on wellness, attendance and other issues to help build resilience and connection to needed resources. A Wellness Resource Fair is planned Jan. 28 at the school. There will be prize drawings (bikes and helmets, gift cards etc.) and resource tables from a variety of organizations, from Keizer Library to state agencies. WKNA will have a table.

Cummings school plantings – Carol said she will plan to replant the Reader Board this spring, probably during spring break weather permitting if anyone is interested in helping. The school organized a grounds clean-up last year. Carol will check with Principal Kronser on any plans for this year. WKNA may organize something if need be. Having the grounds look good benefits the neighborhood, she said.

Parks – Carol said the last Parks Board meeting drew a group of skate-park users to talk about improvements they would like to see, including covering an area so kids can skate in inclement weather and adding lighting. They were encouraged to pursue plans and funding.

Cameras are being added to parks as a security issue. And the Parks Master Plan will be reconsidered in order to add a covered pavilion to accommodate Keizer Fest, among other potential changes. Rhonda noted that the city received a grant from Marion Co. to hire a consultant to work on this issue. WKNA will be providing input.

Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee – Committee member Brenda Lamb reported that Chairperson Tammy Saldivar resigned, so the group will be electing a new chair. There is an online application for residents wanting to request a traffic calming project or report other issues via the revamped Neighborhood Management Program.

Planning Commission, Robb – The commission is looking at changes to its rules, including membership terms and eligibility. Previously, members had to be Keizer residents. That was changed so that a member can be a property or business owner in Keizer, if not a resident. Terms were limited to two 3-year terms. Because of the complex issues dealt with, that wasn't seen as enough time. It was extended to four consecutive 3-year terms. The proposal will go to Council. The commission will look at a variety of issues in the coming year, including high-density, mixed-use areas, walkable areas, changes to middle housing and parking code,

accessory building code and expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary. Several topics are because of rules coming down from the state.

Keizer Library, Kris – She said volunteers are always needed. They would like to add more hours of operation but that depends on volunteer staffing. The library has expanded from 400 patrons in November 2023 to 900 in Nov. 2024. Resources have been added, including computers, and there are more children's programs in both Spanish and English. A new offering is an adult coloring book club.

Little Library, Kris -- She is always accepting book donations for the WKNA library at Rafael and Shoreline, as well as the library at The Big Toy and another neighborhood library on Rivercrest.

Open Discussion

Attendance – Rhonda asked for suggestions on how to build attendance.

Ziply Fiber work – A neighbor asked what to do if installation of the fiberoptic system damaged property. Anyone with problems can call Keizer Public Works for information.

Meetings and Events

Jan. 13, noon – Keizer United (second Monday) at City Hall

Jan. 14, 6 p.m. – Parks Board (second Tuesday)

Jan. 16, 6 p.m. -- TSBP meeting, City Hall

Jan. 21, 6 p.m. – City Council (on Tuesday because of Monday holiday) **NOTE NEW STARTING TIME FOR COUNCIL**

Emergency Preparedness classes presented by Keizer Fire District

First Tuesday February, March, April at 6:30 p.m. (First session was Jan. 7). Go to keizerfire.com to register.

Feb. 4 – Part 2: 3-30 days, How to prepare for longer

March 4 – Part 3: Kids, Pets and other considerations

April 1 – Part 4: First Aid

West Keizer Neighborhood Meetings

Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. WKNA Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. WKNA General Meeting, City Hall – Speakers from Keizer Community Library/Keizer Heritage Museum; Keizer Art

March 6 – WKNA Board Meeting

March 13 -- State of the City address, Mayor Clark. Joint NA meeting hosted by WKNA

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.