

WKNA General Meeting

Oct. 14, 2021 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road NE, Keizer, OR

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

Call to Order: Carol Doerfler called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and welcomed about 18 people. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of minutes – Rhonda Rich moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 9 meeting as submitted; Tom Homan seconded. Motion carried.

2020-21 Budget, Rhonda – Rhonda reported that \$115.35 has been spent on more brochure boxes and related expenses, leaving a balance of \$434.65 of the \$550 2021-22 budget OK'd by the City.

Guest speaker: Carol D. introduced the guest speaker, Marion County Assessor Tom Rohlfing, who said tax statements should be ready to mail by Friday. His office has been adjusting to a new computer system. Taxpayers will see a 4.15% increase in levy taxes this year. Property taxes are limited by several ballot measures passed by voters to keep the increase to a maximum of 3 percent, which will happen this year. He also said the maximum assessed value can change more than 3 percent if there has been a physical change to the property. He went through various information that is searchable on the county website, including property records, tax statements, etc. In answer to a question, he said although property values have increased rapidly this year, the assessor's office bases assessed valuations on the Jan. 1 figure.

The market valuations have no limit. He said the real market value is what can be appealed but he said they don't see that often because of the 3% limitation. He encouraged people to request a review by an appraiser if they have questions.

He said home sales are considered every year in the assessment calculations. Records of sales are also on the website but he reiterated that the assessor's office employees are "historians" – looking at the picture as of Jan. 1. There are some 130,000 property tax accounts in the county and they don't look at them all but they do look at permits that have been issued for home improvements, etc. Every 7 years, they look at each property type. He said the more accurate they are, the more fair and equitable taxes will be.

He was asked if there is any move to cap taxes for older home owners who might be taxed out of their home as property values rise. He said there is a special assessment program for seniors and a "hardship" process in certain cases, plus some other efforts.

He also talked about special taxing districts, like fire and also lighting districts. Keizer has 203 lighting district that have to be calculated. One area of Marion County had 126 and recently combined them into one in order to simplify recordkeeping.

REPORTS

City Council Liaison – Councilor Roland Herrera was a guest and gave a brief report on council activities. He said citizens will have a chance for input on selection of a new City Manager once finalist candidates are selected. He said the council's Diversity/Equity/Inclusivity subgroup is now the Community Engagement Committee, which will serve as an advisory group on inclusivity. Roland is proposing recognition of an outstanding youth as part of the city's annual First Citizen banquet.

Probation and Parole officer report – Carol introduced Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole and Probation officer stationed at Keizer Police Department. He said his case load is still in the 50s but the sex offender unit is handling 70-80 cases per officer because the department has lost several P.O.s recently. He said new hires are going through background checks and they should be back to normal staffing soon. He directed people to the sheriff's website for information on the 2021-23 plan. In answer to a question, he said people on probation get off that status by meeting all their obligations for good behavior, etc. Those on parole are released on the expiration date set when they were designated for parole.

Parks Board, Carol D. – The city's Parks Master Plan consultant group reported on progress so far on the update of the 10-year plan. The MIG representative went through each park and proposals for each. Sports courts and/or sports fields seem to be in the works for almost all parks. At Keizer Rapids, there's a proposal for soccer fields, as well as more sand volleyball courts, pickle ball and an obstacle course that can be used by cadets from McNary High as well as the general public. A big issue for WKNA is the suggestion by the consultant that the city divest itself of Palma Ciega Park. That park offers access to the river and the potential for bird watching and other nature-access activities so WKNA will lobby to keep that park, even if developments remain limited.

There is a packet of information online about the Master Plan – go to the city website under the Parks Board link. Carol said WKNA will keep tabs on progress and keep neighbors posted.

RFP for operation of the KRP Amphitheater, Clint Holland – He explained the recent RFP process conducted by the city to renew the contract to manage summer concerts at the amphitheater. Clint has handled this for 9 years but was not selected as a finalist this year. The matter has to go to the Council for final approval. He believes new operators will opt for bands that appeal to a younger audience, which will mean more noise and that could affect nearby neighbors. He is hoping for public comment when the matter goes to the Council.

Cummings School – Carol commended the work being done by Carol Phipps to care for plantings at the Reader Board and pots in front of the main entrance. It all looks really nice.

Food donation barrels – Food donations have dropped off at the collection barrels located at Bi Mart and Copper Creek. The donations benefit Keizer Community Food Bank. Carol asked everyone to put out a plea to friends and neighbors to help out. She also will post information on the WKNA Facebook page and on Nextdoor.

Traffic blitz – WKNA has been complaining about speeding and other traffic issues for at least 2 years. There are big concerns about traffic on 5th St. in front of the swimming pool at Willamette Manor. But speeding on streets throughout West Keizer and other neighborhoods is rampant. We have brought forward the idea of red-light cameras and speed tables but so far nothing has stuck. WKNA will continue to attend Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian committee meetings to bring concerns forward. The WKNA Board has also decided to have a traffic-focused meeting in January to invite neighbors to share their concerns with the Police Chief. Carol emphasized that the Board is passionate about this safety issue. We will take up the issue in November and share plans for the January "blitz" meeting. Please join us!

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meetings: WKNA Board, 6 p.m. Nov. 2 WKNA General, 7 p.m. Nov. 9 at City Hall.