

WKNA General Meeting – Joint session of all Keizer Neighborhood Associations for Mayor's State of the City address

March 13, 2025 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

About 45-50 people in attendance

Call to Order: Rhonda called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the joint Neighborhood Association meeting to hear the Mayor's State of the City report

Each neighborhood president gave a short presentation on their association – Patti Tischer, President of Greater Gubser NA; Tammy Kunz, President of Greater Northwest Keizer NA; Hersch Sangster, President of Northwest Keizer NA; Colleen Busch, President of Southeast Keizer NA; and Rhonda for West Keizer NA. Various neighborhood projects were noted, including community-wide efforts to create a Memorial to Gold Star families at Ryan Hill park at Keizer Station. Patti noted that a fundraiser will be held March 31 at The Rec on River Road for this first-in-Oregon project. Northwest Keizer NA is partnering with McNary High School's Junior ROTC on a graffiti abatement project; Greater Northeast Keizer is leading a Neighborhood Family Council and other resource-connection efforts; Southeast Keizer has been working on neighborhood speeding issues and has an annual National Night Out celebration; and Rhonda noted WKNA's regular newsletters and food barrel collections on behalf of Keizer Community Food Bank. The association presented a plaque recognizing the ongoing support of Copper Creek Mercantile as sponsor of one of the barrels (the other is at Bi Mart). Accepting the award was Steve Weadick, long-time Copper Creek employee. Since 2020, 10,441 pounds of food and \$2,834 have been collected via that food barrel to benefit neighbors in need.

Guest speaker – Rhonda introduced Mayor Cathy Clark to outline goals met in the past year and projects anticipated going forward. The first goal mentioned was update of the city's Neighborhood Association resolution and planning for an annual joint session of the Council and all NAs, the set for April 14 this year. She thanked her fellow counselors and city management team and staff for progress. Thanks also went to the many area partners, including Keizer Fire District, Marion County, Salem-Keizer School District, Chemeketa Community College, OSU Extension, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, Mid-Willamette Valley, Council of Governments, State of Oregon and the many businesses and organizations helping Keizer move forward.

She described a young community – formed in 1982 as it established itself as a city, that has grown to a diverse community of nearly 40,000. She outlined some of the goals Council set and achieved in recent years. These include Urban Growth Boundary studies done on or before 2020. More conversations are planned in the near future. Security cameras of various kinds have been placed – license plate readers helping police solve crimes; body cameras for officers; more use of drones; security cameras placed in parks. There were needed updates of city systems including a simplified procurement process, the first human resources information system, a website update, updated Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (thanks to Tammy Saldivar of the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee). The number of NAs was increased from 3 to 5 during the Covid era. Road infrastructure has been prioritized. City spaces have been updated and maintained; parks improvements achieved.

Looking to the next 5 years, she listed a variety of new goals: updating the city's emergency operations plans; revising the parks master plan around possible addition of a pavilion at Keizer Rapids Park; sidewalk updates; a transportation system plan update; UGB expansion or not; a utility discount for all citizens not just seniors; a fresh look at the Willow Lake Settlement Agreement area for possible development options; an economic opportunity analysis; housing availability assessments; road maintenance; storm water improvement; consistent water system maintenance; attention to homeless population issues; and stable funding for public safety – that's "job one."

In conclusion, she took a few audience questions, including support for Keizer's Arts Commission and ways to enhance public art in Keizer, which is a historic and current strength of the community.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.