

WKNA General meeting
May 12, 2022 7 p.m., Keizer Civic Center
Submitted by Carolyn Homan, Secretary

Call to Order: 7:05 p.m., President Rhonda Rich

Welcome – Rhonda welcomed 21 attendees, including guest speaker Jenny Ammon and City Council liaison Laura Reid. Introductions were made around the room

Minutes from April 14, 2022 – Art moved approval as submitted; Gary Blake seconded. Motion carried.

Budget – Rhonda reported expenditures of \$543.07 from the \$550 budget. The 2022-23 budget cycle begins July 1 and the City has approved WKNA's request for \$800, which was increased because of the need to print more brochures at a cost of about \$300. Other projected expenses include about \$200 for the website, and \$150 each for printing and signs. Rhonda thanked Councilor Reid for advocating for the increase and on behalf of support for all the neighborhood associations.

Speakers

City Councilor Reid – She said the biggest argument for increasing the WKNA budget was that WKNA is the city's best-functioning neighborhood association and she hopes we can help mentor the two new associations (Northwest Keizer and Northeast Keizer) that have been approved. She said she appreciates the work WKNA does.

She also reported on the Council's Library Work Group decision to recommend to Council it put to a public vote the matter of a \$1 fee, to be added to the water bills, to support the Keizer Community Library's move to become a Public Library. The library proposal would use \$395,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the first three years and allow the hiring of a full-time and a part-time librarian. The fee would then provide long-term library funding and allow Keizer to expand service as part of the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service. She was part of the Work Group along with Councilors Dan Kohler and Shaney Starr. Councilor Reid said she respects the decision but she was not in favor of putting the matter to a vote because the duly elected City Council represents everyone and all library users may not be voters. The matter goes to Council on Monday, May 15.

Councilor Reid also reported that a second Council Work Group comprised of Mayor Cathy Clark, Councilors Roland Herrera and Kyle Juran and City Manager Adam Brown met today to consider the idea of installing two new turf fields at Keizer Rapids Park. Marion County has offered \$2 million in ARPA funds if the city could provide a matching amount. Councilor Reid said opportunity for public comment would be available in the future.

Eric Bandonis, Marion County Parole and Probation Officer -- He reported on the Criminal Justice Commission website and provided a handout with links and contact information, The site has a wealth of information on recidivism rates, the commission budget, various reports on trends and public safety issues and other matters.

He shared two alerts from Keizer Police (his office is located within Keizer Police Dept.) – 1) Keizer Fest will be held at Keizer Rapids Park the second weekend in August so be prepared for traffic and extra noise. 2) Car shows have been gathering at Keizer Station on Friday nights in the Target/In and Out Burger area. Be prepared for traffic congestion in that area.

Jenny Ammon, Keizer Environmental Education Coordinator – She has been on the job for about 5 months and works in Environment and Technical Division of the Public Works Department. She works to educate the public about city water sources, water quality and the standards and procedures in place to ensure a safe public water supply. She had been conducting an Outdoor School that day with 5th graders to help them understand where their water comes from and steps everyone can take to keep our water supply

safe. Only 2 of 60 students knew that Keizer's water comes from wells.

She shared a Power Point presentation on the laws in place to protect water, the standards that have been set and how those are maintained, the various elements involved in protecting our water supply and other issues. Trees and shade are important to keep water temperatures in our lakes and rivers low. That's why more trees are being planted at Claggett Creek Park – to replace trees lost in recent ice storms. The Santiam Canyon area will probably experience problems because of the huge loss of trees there from the forest fires.

She discussed "green infrastructure" such as bioswales and vegetated stormwater facilities that have been put in place (such as those on Chemawa Road) to provide water filtration. Clay soils also provide good filtration.

Kids and adults need to understand their connection to the Willamette River, she said. Keizer's a "river town" and what we do affects the quality of that river as well as the various creeks that flow through Keizer and end up flowing into the river. The quality of water in the river affects wildlife such as salmon, fish and other aquatic mammals, eventually affecting the ocean environment as well. Kids need to know why stormwater is important. That oil on your driveway? If it washes into the storm drains, it ends up in the Willamette.

The city prepares a water quality report (Consumer Confidence Report) every two years, for which she provided pollution prevention content in this year's publication. She noted an important survey at the back of the report, which was mailed out this spring. She asked everyone to take that survey. The report and survey can be accessed at the city's website under the Public Works/Water Division menu. Scan the QR code on the next to last page and you'll be directed to a three-question survey. She also asked everyone to say something if they see a pollution issue. The city wants to know.

Another public involvement campaign starting up again this summer is "Trashy Tuesdays," to be held from 5:30-6:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from June - September. Locations will vary and will be shared with participants one week prior to the event. Volunteers can sign up at the City of Keizer/Departments/Public Works/Environmental and Technical/Environmental Volunteer Opportunities. She also said that Adopt-A-Street locations also are available should a group want to sign up for regular trash pickups along a city street.

Clint Holland, Keizer Rapids Amphitheater Summer Concert Series – He has bands scheduled July 1 through Aug. 27, with the exception of Aug.6 and 13, which are reserved for Keizer Fest. Bands planned include Abbey Road Live, Bridge City Blues Band, Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts, Edge, Rhythm and Business, Brady Gross, Patrick Lamb and JFK. Concerts start at 6:30. Food and drinks (beer, wine and cocktails) will be available. Admission is free. He said He had hoped that Keizer Home Grown Theater would be back with a production this year but they have no place to store equipment and props as yet. Rhonda thanked Clint for the hours of upkeep he provides for the amphitheater and surrounding park areas.

Mary Jo Emmett, John Knox Presbyterian Community Garden Coordinator -- She and her husband have helped coordinate the garden on Cummings Lane for years. There currently are 20 in-ground plots and 7 raised bed boxes but only one still available this year. . There are five community gardens in Keizer but this is the only one in West Keizer. Gardeners don't have to be Keizer residents however. She said the garden started as an extension of the church's outreach to the community, which also included a food pantry. The garden is part of the Marion-Polk Food Share network and is part of the effort to help people learn how to raise some of their own food. A grant from Keizer United helped get the project started. MPFS provided technical assistance along the way. About 20% of the food produced goes to the food bank to help with food insecurity and there also is a "nibbling" area where the public is welcome to share in the bounty and extra produce is put out in "free" boxes throughout the growing season. There are blueberry bushes and also an herb garden.

REPORTS

Community Library, Kris Adams liaison – Kris said the Library Board is very excited about the possibility of Public library status and the kinds of services that would become available to library patrons as a result of the connection to the Chemeketa Consolidated Regional Library Service.

John Knox Barbecue – Mary Jo also reported that this event, which had been held annually the second weekend in August until the Covid pandemic, will not happen this year unless another group would like to take sponsorship. The church congregation is older and smaller and with August heat and Covid uncertainties they don't feel they have the manpower to organize the event. The church does have tables and chairs to lend should another group step up.

Bike Skills Day -- Sponsored by the city's Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee and members of the Keizer Police Traffic Safety and Community Response Units, this event will be held from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at City Hall parking lot. WKNA is helping with the event, which will also include a helmet program and fitting. Safe Routes to School, Salem-Keizer Transit and Keizer United also will have representatives and information available.

Food barrels, Carol Phipps—Donations are way down at the two collection barrels sponsored by WKNA at Copper Creek and Bi Mart. Higher food prices may be a factor. The need is as great as ever, however.

Cummings School, Carol Phipps – Carol said a McNary High group is holding a grounds cleanup work day Saturday. The school district is providing bark dust.

Parks – The Palma Ciega cleanup May 7 drew 5 WKNA volunteers along with Councilor Reid and Matt Lawyer, who brought city equipment (rakes, etc.) and a trailer to haul away debris. The group got a lot done in two hours. Another work day will be planned this fall.

Traffic -- Rhonda shared copies of a memo sent to Public Works Director Bill Lawyer to initiate studies needed if the city is to proceed with traffic slowing measure on Shoreline Drive and Cummings Lane. Bill has planned a speed study on Shoreline to see if a four-way stop at Shoreline and Dearborn is warranted. Another study will be initiated on Cummings in order to justify a speed table at the school crossing at Delight and Cummings. WKNA will continue to pursue these matters.

Keizer Library, Kris Adams – Kris could not attend but shared information on current events at the library. A book sale is set for May 20 and 21, to be held in the lobby of the Keizer Community Center. This summer, they plan events for kids as well as an adult literacy program.

After discussion of the Council's Library Work Group proposal, the group did a show of hands on the issue and nearly unanimous support was shown for Council action to put a \$1 fee on water bills. Residents were urged to share their position with Council either by testifying or sending an email.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Upcoming meetings;

WKNA on hiatus until the next General Meeting, 7 p.m. Sept. 8

June 21 – Trashy Tuesday event, 5:30-6:30, site TBA – See City of Keizer website for details.

July 1 – First Summer Concert, Keizer Rapids Amphitheater, 6:30 p.m., featuring Abbey Road Live (Beatles Tribute band)

Aug. 12-14 – Keizer Fest, Keizer Rapids Park