

WKNA General Meeting

Oct. 10, 2024 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

About 20 people attending, including guest speaker Anne Marie Storms.

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

Approval of Sept. 12 2024 minutes – Robb Witters 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.

Speaker Anne Marie Storms, Deputy Fire Marshal, Keizer Fire District – She noted that Assistant Fire Chief Hector Blanco, who was scheduled to speak but had a conflict, is working on a “bigger picture project” involving a range of community issues such as housing instability, mental health issues, adequate food and others, on top of basic fire safety for households. When KFD personnel are called out, it often doesn’t involve a fire, but a health issue and that doesn’t always involve the need to go to the hospital. The district is trying to fill in some gaps to prevent the need for a call. Examples include a diabetic who is not eating properly or a fall issue in the home of an elderly resident. The district wants to connect people with resources that can address these issues that have impacted KFD’s call out load. She distributed “refrigerator cards” on which people can list the names, ages of people in the home, medications being taken, any health issues, etc. The information is a big help when KFD personnel respond. She said names may seem obvious but in an emergency situation, people in the home may not be able to respond.

Her main topic for the evening was kitchen safety, noting that cooking fires are the No. 1 cause of fires in the U.S. As a member of the State Fire Marshal’s Education Committee, she has been doing presentations on how to prevent a kitchen fire. A main problem is distractions: Kids, grandkids, pets, television, phone call, your phone (apps, email, etc.), fatigue and inattention. Good advice included staying in kitchen while cooking and stay close to stove. If you leave, turn stove off. Set a timer. And don’t store things on top of the stove or in the oven. Oven mitts = flammable. Using the correct size burner, especially on a gas stove, is more efficient and less of a fire hazard. And keep a lid handy. That is the best way to kill a fire if one starts in the pan you’re using. Popping on a lid deprives the fire of oxygen and you don’t have to move the pan. Moving a burning pan risks spreading the fire and putting water on an oil fire causes it to splatter and spread. Once the lid is on, turn off the burner and leave the pan to cool before you move it.

Other options to douse a fire were mentioned: flour (no, it burns too); baking soda (it makes a mess); one of the new advertised “fire blankets.” She said the blankets work, but why spend money when other things you have will work and you have to store the blanket where it’s handy. A fire extinguisher is great to have but not good on a grease fire. And if a fire has gone past the stove or oven to the cabinets, it’s best to get out and call for help.

It’s easy to blame kids for kitchen fires but data shows that most cooking fires occur at dinner time with adults in charge of meal prep. “Our brains are not meant for multitasking,” she said.

Given the recent devastation caused by hurricanes in the Southeastern U.S., Anne Marie was asked to share some of her hints on disaster/emergency preparation. She said she will be holding another five-week emergency preparedness class starting in January. It will cover everything from a power

outage to full evacuation lasting a week, 30 days, etc. Details will be available online later in the year.

Given the severity of recent weather and fire emergencies, being prepared for longer periods is essential. Oregon's fire season alone has grown from about 6 weeks (July into August) to 6 months or more (May to October). California has had fires that burned down entire towns the size of Keizer, she said. People need the basics in an emergency preparedness kit and it's also helpful to have photos of everything in your house for insurance purposes. Once you lose property to a fire or other event, you will not be able to remember everything in your house. She urged people to update the photos once a year.

Another thing to think about: medical equipment issues. You may need battery backup, such as a Jackery unit. Some power companies have grant programs to help low-income households access emergency resources like backup batteries. She noted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and American Red Cross both have resources people can access to help them prepare.

Given Keizer's population growth, she ended by noting that Keizer Fire needs a second station. The current station on Chemawa was built in 1995 and they would like to get a second location further north, perhaps in cooperation with Marion Co. Fire, to spread the call load.

REPORTS

Council Liaison -- Councilor Kyle Juran said Council had approved the application for the Holiday Lights Parade for Dec. 14. They also approved a resolution to place a Gold Star Memorial at Keizer Station in honor of Ryan J. Hill, Keizer resident who died in the Vietnam conflict. This would be the first such memorial in Oregon. Council will hold a work session on the Urban Growth Boundary on Monday, Oct. 14. As Council liaison to the Parks Advisory Board, he said they discussed rules for the new pickleball courts built at Keizer Rapids Park. The courts will be ready for use Oct. 18. For now, there are no plans to set up a reservation system but they want a one-hour limit for use. There also were calls for a "beginners" court. As for the turf fields, they are up and running. He said Friday night is set aside for open play. The city got a \$634,000 state grant to finish Phase II of the field project (bathrooms, a paved pathway and some other amenities.) Rep. Andrea Salinas is working a \$500,000 appropriation for Phase III.

In answer to a question about whether the Parks Master Plan is to be reopened, Councilor Juran and Mayor Clark (also in attendance) said Keizer received a \$60,000 Community Prosperity Initiative grant from Marion County and that will be used to hire a consultant to examine the possibility of building a pavilion at KRP, to be used in part for Keizer Fest. It will be a public process starting with the Parks Advisory Board.

Parks

Palma Ciega -- Gary Blake, who lives near the park, has been monitoring upkeep and helping remove sticks, leaves and other debris. He said the park looks good and the pathway to the river is in good shape.

Wallace House -- A major cleanup effort was recently undertaken by a volunteer group organized by the LDS church. Workers removed underbrush, built a new path to the lower, riverside section, expanded the pollinator garden and cleared trash.

Food barrels -- Food collections are down but need is still high so WKNA will keep its collection barrels in place at BiMart, Copper Creek and Keizer Fire. Sept. totals: 27 lbs. at BiMart; 29 lbs., Keizer Fire; 75 lbs. at Copper Creek.

Cummings School – Rhonda and Kris attended the September meeting of Cummings Neighborhood Family Council and Kris was chosen to be chair. The Council gets \$1,000 a month to organize events for the school.

Kris is also WKNA's representative to PTA. Kris said the school's first musical performance is coming up in November. The school just held a successful Jogathon and PTA also has a full list of fundraising events coming up: Butter Braid sales, Willamette Pie sales and a survey project in which the school gets \$1.60 for every survey filled out. She said they are always looking for volunteers.

Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee – Robb said the group reviewed their project list and discussed parking at the Little League fields. It was thought there were ADA issues, but the site apparently is grandfathered in and also has a paved area that can accommodate disabled attendees.

A main project is painting bike lane areas green at Lockhaven/River Road and Chemawa/River Road. Because of the expense, this has been pushed to the next city budget cycle.

Planning Commission – Robb, a commission member, said that at the Oct. 9 meeting, they worked on clearing up rules written in 1998 that don't match other city rules. They also discussed whether term limits for commissioners are necessary. Some see benefit to having a background in the issues. They will look at this going forward. They also revisited climate friendly area rules from the state. Keizer has to ID'd three areas: Cherry/River, Chemawa/River and Lockhaven/River. They have discussed making Lockhaven the main focus. Some rules would have to change to allow higher density. Shane Witham, city planning director is working on the issues. Completion is needed by June.

Keizer Community Library – Betty Hart said the Library's annual fall book sale will be Oct. 18 and 19. Kris Adams said the May sale brought in \$4,000 (at just 50 cents to \$1 a book). The new library manager is on board, as well as a Spanish outreach coordinator, who has expanded programs for Spanish speakers and expanded the Spanish language section. The library always needs more volunteers and also needs large-print books.

WKNA Little Library -- Kris monitors WKNA's little library at Rafael and Shoreline and also the one at the Big Toy in KRP and a neighborhood library at Rivercrest and Hollyhock Place. She uses donations to keep all of them stocked and children's books are especially needed.

Other meetings

Oct. 14, noon -- Keizer United meeting

Oct. 17, 6 p.m. – Traffic Safety meeting

Oct. 22 – Keizer Times Candidate Forum (contested races for Mayor and one Council seat) at City Hall

Nov. 12 – Parks Board meeting cancelled

Nov. 13, 6 p.m. – Planning Commission

Nov. 21, 6 p.m. – Traffic Safety meeting (check City website)

Nov. 27 – St. Edward Community Dinner/Thanksgiving

WKNA Meetings, Speakers/Topics 2024-25

Nov. 7 -- WKNA Board meeting, site TBA

Nov. 14 – Willamette Valley Bank, Jane Lowery – Fraud Protection

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.