

**WKNA General Meeting**  
**March 14, 2024 7 p.m.**  
**At Keizer Civic Center**  
**Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary**  
Twenty-one people in attendance.

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

**Minutes from Feb. 8, 2024** – Art Mauer moved approval; Carol Doerfler seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget Report, Rhonda** – She reported \$1,038.02 spent from the \$1,200 budget. The remaining \$161.98 will pay for copies of the spring newsletter and more meeting signs.

**Planning for 2024** -- Rhonda distributed blank notes cards to solicit ideas for speakers for the coming year and any other issues that need attention.

### **Guest speakers**

**Lt. Tim Heim, Keizer Police Dept.** -- Rhonda introduced Lt. Heim, who gave a short bio, noting he came to KPD about 3 years ago from Silverton PD and was promoted to lieutenant when new Chief Andrew Copeland was selected to succeed retiring Chief John Teague. He reported that KPD has paused the Citizen Academy due to resource issues and may revisit that program in the fall. They are looking to set a date for Blast Camp this summer. The 3-day event offers a variety of activities for kids. They also will be partnering with the Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee on a May 4 bike skills and helmet fitting event at Keizer Elementary. He said graffiti continues to be an issue.

**Shane Witham, Keizer Planning Director** – Graffiti proved a segue to Shane's discussion of planning issues in Keizer. Code Enforcement is a part of the Planning Dept. and Keizer's lone Code Enforcement Officer Ben Crosby works in cooperation with KPD to tackle graffiti in parks and other public and private spaces. They have a new tool to help track incidents – an online mapping feature that's helping with cleanup and tracking outbreaks. People also can check out graffiti cleanup kits from Public Works if they are the victim of graffiti. It's a big help to city crews who are trying to respond to repeated attacks in the city's parks.

He also discussed new planning rules that have come down from the state regarding Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC), as well as "middle housing" – dwellings like condos, duplexes, cottage clusters, etc. Middle housing is popping up as some of Keizer's large lots are split off for new dwelling units. And there are concerns about some of the larger multi-family units that are being built and that change the traditional nature of some neighborhoods.

At the same time, the new CFEC rules are being implemented, addressing land use, transportation patterns, parking, etc. Thanks to the Keizer Revitalization Plan work done in recent years, he said the city was ahead of some of the changes now required under CFEC. The revitalization planning includes more mixed-used buildings (retail on the ground level and housing on upper levels) in "walkable" nodes on River Road at Lockhaven, Chemawa and Cherry Ave.

A "scenario planning" committee is to start work on March 18 for Salem/Keizer looking at land use and transportation in order to cut greenhouse gas pollution. Because Keizer has more housing than jobs (business and industry), residents must travel for work. Thus, they will need a greater focus on transit services, biking and pedestrian access. A plus for Keizer in the process is that the state is including money and consulting help to update its Transportation System Plan.

## **REPORTS**

**City Council Liaison --** Councilor Kyle Juran reported on March 11 City Council deliberation of a towing ordinance to provide consistency and a reasonable fee, particularly for apartment complexes. The Keizer Rapids Turf Field project ground-breaking will take place at 4:30 March 21. He also said the Planning Commission will be taking on a bigger role regarding some variances, giving residents a chance to testify on the issues. They are also looking at changing the size limit for Accessory Units (sheds, etc.) to match that of Accessory Dwelling Units.

He said the city's Strategic Plan draft is still open for comment until mid-April.

**Food barrels, Dennis/Carol Phipps –** February collections totals were 70 pounds at Bi Mart; 631 pounds and \$40 cash at Copper Creek. March collections so far are 374 pounds at Copper Creek and 110 pounds at Keizer Fire District. Judy Lichty, a manager at Keizer Community Food Bank, said they served 140 families at the last distribution and their number hasn't been below 100 families since before Christmas. At the same time, they are getting no more food, or less, from Marion Polk Food Share. She said she will have to buy meat next week because they are out. The need is always great.

**Keizer United, Feb. 12 and March 11 –** Carolyn reported on the March meeting, where the Chamber updated the group on the upcoming Iris Day parade (a part of Keizer Fest) on May 18. Marion Co. Health is conducting a survey of Marion and Polk Co. residents regarding possible effects of recent environmental hazards and threats such as the wild fires, ice storms, extreme heat events, etc. Keizer's Environmental Education and Outreach department is focusing on upcoming sprint events like World Water Day March 22 and an Earth Day event April 2 at Spong's Landing Park. Salem Health has "Be Smart" gun storage classes on a regular basis. The next session will be held in April. John Knox Presbyterian Community Garden still has 3 plots available.

**Cummings School –** Rhonda said WKNA had received a thank you card from Beth Schmidt, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, for participating in the Feb. 7 Winter Walk and Roll Day at Cummings, Rhonda and Carolyn attended. WKNA liaison Amber Zimbelman reported on the March 11 PTA meeting. The school has received a grant to remodel the cafeteria kitchen. There will be a spring kindergarten and a Ride the Bus program. Recent fundraisers include Papa Murphy, \$155; Willamette Pie sales, \$2,294; and Chucky Cheese, \$800. The next meeting will be April 9.

Carol Phipps said she will be refreshing school plantings during spring break.

**Parks –** Lisa Cjeka, Parks Board vice chair, said the board has \$13,000 in matching grant money left. Project work has to be completed by June 30.

Willamette Manor: Carol P reported that the hillside planting still looks good. A couple of kinnikinnick may not make it but overall, things are in good shape.

Parks has fence pickets available for the Big Toy fence. People can purchase a picket for \$50 and have it engraved with the name of someone they wish to honor.

**Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee --** Rhonda said WKNA will be providing final input to the committee regarding response to traffic calming devices on Shoreline and Cummings Lane. Response is positive to both the flashing speed signs on Shoreline and the speed table at Cummings.

**Little Library –** Carol Doerfler reported it's doing well. It has been relocated a bit east by the crosswalk in hopes that this will lessen the chance of it being hit again by an errant driver.

**Keizer Community Library, Kris Adams** -- She said a list of events can be found at [keizerlibrary.org](http://keizerlibrary.org)  
There's lots going on. Volunteers are always welcome.

**2023 WKNA Annual Report** -- Rhonda presented this at the Feb. 20 Council meeting and approval was given to the association for another year. She noted that the current Board members have a combined 80 years of volunteer service through WKNA.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Kimberly Castro Monroy – She invited everyone to a community event March 23 at the East Salem Community Center to discuss current events in Salem.

### **City Committee Meetings**

April 8, noon, City Hall, Keizer United

April 8, 6 p.m. Joint meeting of Keizer Neighborhood Associations and City Council

April 9, 6 p.m., Parks Board

April 9, 6 p.m., Cummings, PTA

April 10, 6 p.m., Planning Commission.

April 18, 6 p.m. Traffic Safety Bikeways Committee

### **West Keizer Neighborhood Meetings**

March 20, 7 p.m., City Hall, State of the City address,

April 11 – Joint NA Candidate Forum hosted by WKNA

May 9 – Neighborhood Watch Program/Police Chief Copeland

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**