

WKNA General Meeting

Jan. 8, 2026 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

About 25 people in attendance, including speaker Maddie Aslum, Keizer Fire District Community Engagement Coordinator. Introductions were made around the room.

Minutes from Nov.13, 2025 – Kris moved approval; Judi Lichty seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Report, Rhonda – She reported no change from November; balance is \$898.97.

Guest speaker – Rhonda introduced Maddie Alsum, KFD, to talk about emergency preparedness. She described how to create a 72-hour kit – one for your home and one for your car – to provide necessities for your family for 72-hours should you lose power, suffer a fire, flood or other unexpected disaster. Plan ahead for the needs of the entire family, including pets: food, water, medications (at least 3-day supply), portable chargers for electronics, extra clothes and blankets, a way to heat foods (camp stove, etc.), utensils, multi-use tool, tape, pans, plates, utensils, personal care items, first aid kit (and know how to use it), hand-crank or solar powered radio. Those who need to power medical equipment such as a CPAP machine might consider a generator. Keizer has had neighborhoods that lost power for multiple weeks after ice storms.

For longer periods following a disaster, families also need to consider access to important documents such as insurance cards, medical records, emergency contacts, extra cash, etc. If there are younger children, games, toys, diapers, etc., have to be considered. And pet food and maybe even a first aid kit for dogs/cats might be a plus.

Have a way to organize your kit, she said, (a backpack or tote for short-term, a special cabinet or even a designated trash can with secure lid for a longer stint.) Label containers with a list of contents and any expiration dates.

Think about travel safety too. Keep your gas tank half full and keep a disaster kit in the trunk: blankets, coats, water, some food. Even a trip to Bend in winter can turn into an emergency if bad weather sets in while you're on the road. Other car-related items: fire extinguisher, jumper cables, paper towels, hand sanitizer, wipes, etc. The motto is: failure to prepare equals prepare to fail. There are more resources at Federal Emergency Management Agency and American Red Cross has a booklet with critical lists and resource information. As climate swings intensify, the chances of an extended power outage increase. She said the chance of a blackout or brownout have increased from 3 % to 30% in just the past few years.

Election of Officers -- Vice President Robb Witters conducted the annual Board elections, noting that if none of the 7 Board positions was contested, the slate could be approved in one vote. Rhonda Rich was nominated as President again; Rhonda nominated Mandi Hansen as vice president; Carolyn Homan was nominated as secretary. For the four at-large positions, Carol Phipps, Kris Adams, Brenda Lamb and Art Mauer were nominated. Betty Hart moved nominations be closed and the slate be elected by acclamation. Motion was seconded and passed, electing all those nominated.

REPORTS

City Council, Shaney Starr – Monday's Council meeting was long but the contract for Keizer Little League management was approved. The coming Monday work session was to be on the UBG but now will be on priorities for Little League under that contract.

The second topic was the 4th Ave. N barricade (4th Ave to Sandi section) that prevents drive-through traffic. It's been in place since 1993, but now conflicts with fire code and must be removed. Staff is to bring back options to facilitate fire truck access while limiting traffic pressure on the neighborhood (electronic gate or other possibilities.)

A meeting highlight was retirement of Keizer Police Dog Max. The city will be getting a replacement.

Food barrels, Carol Phipps – The 2025 totals collected via the WKNA-sponsored barrels at Bi Mart and Copper Creek were 3,518 lbs. and \$1,010 cash. WKNA has an extra barrel and is seeking suggestions of where to place it.

Cummings Neighborhood Family Council, Kris – No recent meetings but NFC is working with the Principal to set a date for a Winter Fest event.

Cummings PTA -- Mandi Hansen is WKNA liaison.

Parks – Rhonda said there are copies of an informational flyer on the back table alerting people how to sign up for alerts about “unusual” events to be held at Keizer Rapids. Council decided in December that the proposed pavilion at KRP is to be the subject of a town hall meeting or meetings. Issues include the size, placement and potential uses. It's to be discussed at the Parks Board meeting Jan. 13.

Multi-Modal Safety Committee – Committee member Brenda Lamb said the pedestrian flag program pilot on Chemawa Road by KRP has gone well and people are using the flags as aid to improve visibility of those attempting to cross the street. The program may graduate from pilot to permanent this spring.

Rhonda shared a list of intersections that the committee and City are wanting feedback from the community on regarding where pedestrian crossings should be added. She asked attendees to mark their choices. She and Brenda will take the information to the next MMS meeting.

Little Library, Community Library – The Little Library will soon be in need of children's books. The new Community Library manager is working out really well. The new Friends of the Library group is working on fundraising to help the Community Library achieve public status.

Open Discussion

Ben Crosby – The City's Code Officer, now within the Police Department, stopped by and gave an update on code enforcement operations. The city hired another enforcement officer who will be working on outreach and private property issues. Ben hopes to interface with all city departments in his role but as part of KPD he'll be dealing with transient issues, parking and other cases where there are no suspects, like porch package thefts, etc.

Jeff Kelder -- He shared information with his neighbors that he's researched about the proposed drawdown of Detroit Reservoir and the potential effects on downriver water systems (Stayton, Salem) and what those might mean for Keizer's water supply, since Salem has purchased Keizer water in the past when turbidity issues have arisen. Salem's system can't process turbid water.

Meetings and Events

Jan. 12, noon – Keizer United (second Monday) at City Hall

Jan. 13, 6 p.m. – Parks Board (second Tuesday)

Jan. 13 – Cummings School PTA, 6 p.m.

Jan. 14 – Planning Commission, 6 p.m.

Jan. 15, 6 p.m. – Multi-Modal Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall

West Keizer Neighborhood Meetings

Thursday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m. WKNA Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. WKNA General Meeting, City Hall – Speaker: Chief Copeland

March 12 – Joint Neighborhood Association meeting, State of the City address, Mayor Clark

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.