

WKNA General Meeting

May 8, 2025, 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

Thirty-eight people in attendance

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

Minutes of the April 10 meeting – Kris Adams moved approval; Art Mauer seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Report for July 2024-July 2025 \$1,200 budget -- \$202.75 (250 copies of August 2024 newsletter), \$124.80 (yard signs), \$105.98 (brochure boxes), \$141.44 (150 copies December 2024 newsletter), \$236.04 (Go Daddy website fee), \$51.99 (recognition plaque for Copper Creek), \$20 Keizer Times "Home and Garden" neighborhood association ad, \$207.20 (250 copies April 2025 newsletter) **Total spent -- \$1,090.20; balance remaining \$109.80**

WKNA Board has approved a \$1,200 budget request for 2025-26 and the five Neighborhood Associations together have asked for \$1,150 for ads in the Keizer Times and Chamber guide.

WKNA Annual Report to Council – This was presented April 21 and the association was approved by Council for another year. The report can be viewed on the WKNA website and the City website.

Special Order of Business

Rhonda welcomed retired Board member Gary Blake to be recognized for his 17 years of WKNA Board Service, beginning in 2008. He was Volunteer of the Quarter in Keizer in 2015 and among his activities are creation of the Palma Ciega neighborhood signs, which he designed, carved and painted. He was active with Neighborhood Watch, has hosted annual National Night Out events on Cummings Lane, provided a boat as platform for a West Keizer float in the Keizer Fest parade one year, was in charge of the Adopt-A-Street project WKNA led, and now spends many hours care-taking at Palma Ciega Park just down the street from his home. Rhonda presented Gary with a plaque of appreciation and the group applauded his efforts and enjoyed a cake as a thank you for and recognition of not only his volunteer efforts but those of many attendees who also volunteer time in and around Keizer.

Introductions -- Rhonda asked for introductions around the room along with any volunteer activities attendees would like to share.

Guest speakers

Keizer Community Library -- Rhonda introduced Mayra Rosales, member of the Library Board, and Maribel Monroy, the library's Bilingual Outreach Coordinator, to talk about the programs and services available in both English and Spanish. Rosales said the library has existed since 1988 and provides free access to computers, WIFI, the book collection and a variety of free events such as Saturday story time and the April 30 Children's Day celebration. There are two bilingual Learning Computers kids can use to practice reading, math, music, play games and other activities. The library has about 1,600 card holders. Activities are volunteer driven and many are collaborations with preschools, schools, authors, clinics and other outlets. Book donations are gladly accepted. The Library will hold a book sale at the Community Center on the Friday and Saturday of Keizer Fest, May 16-17. In answer to a question, Rosales said the library is still organized as a nonprofit, but is working to achieve public library status through the state.

City Manager Adam Brown re: proposed pavilion at Keizer Rapids Park -- Mr. Brown first reported City Council's recent OK for Phase II of the turf field project at KRP, which will add

bathrooms, connecting paths and an area for food trucks. It should be completed in 6 months. Phase III, which includes paving the parking lot and an equipment building, is the focus of S.B. 5531 under consideration in the current legislative session. The bill would provide \$750,000 for Phase III.

He said the idea of a pavilion was part of the original KRP master plan but then dropped. It was reintroduced about two years ago in response to Chamber of Commerce concerns about the annual \$20,000 cost to rent a 50x100 foot tent for events during Keizer Fest. Planning something permanent seemed a prudent idea. In recent years, Keizer used a \$15,000 Community Prosperity Initiative Grant from Marion Co. to build food truck pads at the amphitheater and to relocate power at KRP to serve the event tent. The county last year offered \$20,000 for 3 years through this grant. Council dedicated the funds to reopen the Master Plan for KRP and work with consultants to look into the possibility of a permanent pavilion structure in the area between the Big Toy and the walking path.

Consultants will explore whether the idea makes sense and do the people of Keizer want it. What size would be preferred – 50x150 or something larger? Consultants will be at Keizer Fest to gather input. Brown said they have developed story boards showing design possibilities – from an open-sided covered area to accommodate youth sports as well as community activities, to something closed in complete with bathrooms.

WKNA distributed a brief survey to gather feedback from the meeting, which will be shared with the City. A meeting with stakeholders, including Keizer neighborhood associations and youth sports groups, is planned for May 29. Other sessions may be planned if deemed necessary, Mr. Brown said.

In a Q&A session, Mr. Brown said the cost is estimated at anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million, depending on the design. He said backers of the idea have promised to fund-raise to pay for the project. He said it's up to the people of Keizer to decide if the project proceeds.

He also said fill dirt is to be moved into the "swale" area where the pavilion would be sited. Bids are being opened soon to move dirt from city property by Volcanoes Stadium to KRP. The fill dirt, which was created by construction of Keizer Station, has to be moved to make that city property saleable.

REPORTS

City Council Liaison report -- Councilor Kyle Juran said a recent Council work session with Keizer's 5 neighborhood associations was very productive and resulted in ways the Council and associations can work more effectively together. He noted listening sessions Council and staff have arranged to get community feedback on whether or not to expand the Urban Growth Boundary. The town halls will be recorded so those unable to attend can listen to the presentation and provide feedback.

A limited-attendance event to benefit the Gold Star Family Memorial at Ryan J. Hill Park was mentioned. The project also received an \$84,000 Oregon Parks and Recreation grant. Total cost is estimated to be about \$150,000.

The Ziply franchise agreement has drawn citizen complaints. Adam Brown said anyone dissatisfied with their work can call him or Public Works Director Bill Lawyer.

Food Barrels, Carol Phipps – April totals for WKNA-sponsored barrels: BiMart 187 lbs.; Copper Creek 66 lbs and \$60. WKNA is also sponsoring a barrel now at The Rec, in cooperation with Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Association. Dennis Phipps collects the donations and delivers them to Keizer Community Food Bank. Meeting guest Judy Liechty, assistant manager of Keizer Community Food Bank, said they are serving an average of 175 families and the April 30 total of 211

families was the highest number ever that wasn't at Thanksgiving. She said the current biggest need is tuna and other canned meats. Service days are Monday, 5-7 p.m. and Thursday, 9-11 a.m. The food bank is located at the back of Crossroads Church, 4505 River Road N.

Cummings School

Neighborhood Family Council, Kris Adams – Kris is NFC chair and said the Council is planning a joint Resource Fair July 25 at St. Edward Catholic Church, in cooperation with the Kennedy NFC. The 5 family councils in Salem and Keizer have been organized to support nurturing, safe environments in which families and children can thrive.

School grounds plantings -- Carol Phipps said the Reader Board and front door pots have been planted and she asked for help keeping everything watered this summer. She'll be gone for a month and there is no hose connection at the school so water has to be hauled over.

Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian committee -- WKNA Board member and TSBP Committee member Brenda Lamb displayed the pedestrian flags and containers that will be used for the pilot program to be put in place at the crosswalk on Chemawa Road to the turf fields at KRP. The city has financed the pilot and a second crossing in West Keizer is being sought. It has to be on a 35 mph or less street at a designated crossing that has no stop sign.

A QR code on the flag containers can be used to provide feedback. The pilot will run from June to December to see if use of the flags can improve pedestrian visibility and safety.

Planning Commission -- No meeting in April and May was delayed until May 21 because of the annual city budget meetings.

WKNA Little Library, Kris -- She is working with Tammy Kunz from Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association to build 5 new Little Libraries and fix up 5 others. Willamette Manor Park, by the west entrance north of the pool, is a potential site for a new library. The project has grant funding. She said book donations will be sought.

Open Discussion

Claggett Creek Watershed Council -- Jeff Anderson said the council is now a 501(c)(3) and is trying to raise \$1,500 for Soggy Day at the Park activities May 24. He said the Council has planted a lot of native shrubs and other plants along Claggett Creek and hopes to plant more in cooperation with local landowners.

Manbrin traffic -- Three residents complained of speeding from River Road west through their neighborhood. Rhonda said WKNA would work with them to bring their concerns forward via the Traffic Safety committee and City Council.

Upcoming meetings

May 10, 9-11 a.m. – Learn to Fish program, boat ramp at KRP

May 10 9-11 a.m. – UGB Town Hall, City Hall

May 12-13 – City Budget meetings – these also will be televised

May 13 – Parks Board cancelled

May 16-18 – Keizer Fest events, including Riverwalk Art Fair. Parade will close River Road from Lockhaven to Glynbrook on Saturday a.m.

May 18 – Mother's Day Breakfast at Keizer Fire District

May 21, 6 p.m. – Planning Commission

May 22, 6 p.m. – Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee

May 24 – Soggy Day at the Park, KRP

May 27, 6-8 p.m. – UGB Town Hall, City Hall

June 21 – Big Toy Cleanup at KRP

Upcoming WKNA Meetings, Speakers and Topics

Rhonda distributed cards for attendees to make suggestions for 2025-26 meeting speakers

WKNA Board meeting, 7 p.m. June 5

Next General Meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11. NO MEETINGS JUNE, JULY, AUGUST