

WKNA General Meeting

April 10, 2025, 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

About 25 people in attendance

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

Minutes of the Jan. 9 meeting – These were not approved earlier because the February General meeting was cancelled by an ice storm and March was a joint State of the City meeting with all neighborhood associations. Kris Adams moved approval; Greda VanVeen Seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of March 13 meeting -- Carol Phipps moved approval; Kris Adams seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Report for July 22024-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**

Remaining expenses planned are a certificate of appreciation and some office supplies.

WKNA Board has approved a \$1,200 budget request for 2025-26

Guest speakers

Keizer Fire District -- Rhonda introduced Chief Hector Blanco and Deputy Fire Marshall Anne-Marie Storms to speak about KFD's Community Risk Reduction Plan and upcoming preparedness course on Wildfire Safety

Chief Blanco said that as KFD personnel respond to calls, they often encounter issues beyond the immediate emergency. An elderly couple may face mobility issues, other health issues, problems accessing needed resources, etc. If an ancillary issue is identified, personnel can follow up via the Community Risk Reduction effort to help connect people with resources. They've attended various Resource Fairs to connect people to needed assistance and are connecting with high schools as well if there are students in need. To further their efforts, KFD is hiring a Community Engagement coordinator to help strengthen neighborhood relationships and identify more issues that need to be addressed and resource connections that need to be made.

Anne-Marie addressed the changing fire situation society is facing. It's not just "wild fire" season any more. Fire departments are looking at "urban conflagration" now as evidenced not only by the recent Palisades fires in Southern California but the destruction of Paradise in Northern Calif., several years ago. The wind-driven fires in Santiam Canyon in 2020 could easily have sparked urban blazes in Salem- Keizer, she said. It's hotter in the summer months, things are drier and a structure fire can produce embers that easily spread to spot grass fires in a neighborhood and without immediate attention, can quickly get out of control.

She talked about what "red flag warnings" mean. These alerts are issued by the National Weather Service when a combination of low humidity, high heat and wind is predicted. During these periods, people should avoid things like mowing (can create sparks), fireworks, improper cigarette disposal, etc. – anything that can spark a small fire that will be easily spread.

In preparation, people are asked to prepare at three levels – Ready, Set and Go. Get ready by gathering items you'll need should you be evacuated (medications, some food and water, clothing,

toiletries, pet items, etc.). Be set by having those items ready to load (or even have a bag in your car's trunk" and then Go when the evacuation order comes.

Homeowners can prep their property as well. Clean gutters of combustible leaves and needles that can be sparked by flying embers. A composite roof is the best defense against fire, she said, and homeowners should keep landscaping trimmed back from the house.

KFD will be sponsoring a Wild Fire Preparedness course May 6, along with Salem and Marion Co. Fire Districts. It will be held from 5-7 p.m. both days at Keizer Fire Station, 661 Chemawa Road NE. There are apps available for information on fires throughout Oregon and elsewhere. One app is Watch Duty. Marion Co. Emergency Management alerts are available through Everbridge and Pulse Point is good for local incident information, not just fire information.

Fire Board candidates

Rhonda introduced Corri Johnson and Colleen Busch, who are both running unopposed in the May 20 election for seats on the KFD Board. They gave short presentations on their background. Colleen is running for a second term. Keizerites were invited to KFD's pancake breakfast the Sunday of Keizer Fest, May 18. The event was moved from Mother's Day so moms can be home with their families.

Chemeketa Community College bond issue – Rhonda introduced Francisco Saldivar, Dean of Career Technical Education at CCC, to present information on renewal of this capital bond issue to be voted on in the May 20 election. The capital bond was passed in 2008 and will expire in 2026. Voters are being asked to renew it this year, he said. There will be no increase in property tax. The rate remains 27 cents per \$1,000 in valuation should the renewal pass.

Chemeketa is the second largest community college in Oregon. He said renewal of the bond will finance an expansion of the regional training facility in Brooks where firefighters, EMTs, inspectors and many others receive career training. The other big item is creation of a trade center to train construction workers, electricians, HVAC professionals and more. Saldivar was director of apprentice programs and said there are 900 students now and CCC wants the capacity to train more to meet demand. A new nursing lab is also planned to help meet demand. He said for every dollar put into CCC, the public gets \$8.50 return on investment. He said about 80% of CCC graduates stay in the area for work.

REPORTS

City Council Liaison report -- Neither Councilor Starr or Juran attended the meeting.

Food Barrels – March totals for WKNA-sponsored barrels: BiMart 114 lbs.; Copper Creek 209 lbs and \$40. 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.

Cummings School

Neighborhood Family Council and PTA, March 11 and April 8, Kris Adams – Kris is NFC chair and said the Council is one of 5 in the Salem-Keizer school district area now. The Councils are funded by the Community and Business Education Leaders group. English and Spanish classes are being offered and the councils aim to connect families with needed resources in order to build neighborhood resilience.

Cummings PTA, Kris -- She said the school book fair is coming up and the PTA is brainstorming fundraising events for next year. Funds are used for field trips.

Cookies for Conferences – Rhonda supplied cookies to the school in support of teachers during the recent parent-teacher conferences.

School grounds plantings -- Carol Phipps said she and Greda VanVeen weeded the Reader Board planter and planted geraniums during spring break. The replanted pots have been placed by the east entrance and other pots will be refreshed soon.

Parks Board -- Carol said a ground-breaking for the Gold Star Families Memorial at Ryan J. Hill Park in Keizer Station will be held April 26. A recent clean-up at Chalmers Jones park drew over 100 volunteers to help out. A clean-up of the Big Toy at Keizer Rapids Park is planned this year. Sections will be pressure washed and painted. A pickle ball clinic is planned during Keizer Fest. The boat dock launch at KRP will be replaced in May when water levels drop. Soggy Day at the Park is set for May 24. Officials are working on getting a Cherriots route down Chemawa to KRP.

Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian committee -- WKNA is sponsoring a pilot Crosswalk Pedestrian Flag program and TSBP Committee member Brenda Lamb said the crosswalk on Chemawa at KRP has been identified for the pilot. The city is paying for the flags pedestrians use in crossing the road. A QR code will be put on the flag receptacles for users to provide feedback on the effectiveness. Another location in West Keizer is being sought for a second test site. It must be a designated crosswalk but can't be on a main feeder street. The pilot will run from June to December to see if use of the flags can improve pedestrian visibility and safety.

Planning Commission -- Committee member Robb Witters said the April meeting was cancelled. In March, the committee hears a presentation on Climate Friendly mixed use areas that are being mandated by the state. The areas are designed to promote alternative methods of transportation. Keizer's zoning laws already were changing to embrace mixed-use areas so these efforts won't cause much change for the city.

Keizer United, Kris -- The March meeting speaker was Eduardo from the Family Council program. The next meeting is April 14.

Keizer Community Library and WKNA Little Library, Kris -- Both are doing well. Spanish outreach by Keizer library is increasing. Volunteers are always needed. The Library's book sale will be the Friday and Saturday of Keizer Fest, May 16 and 17. Donations are always needed for the Little Library,

Open Discussion

Child Abuse Prevention month -- Colleen Busch pointed out April is Child Abuse Prevention month and shared a website with information addressing disenfranchised grief and ambiguous loss – ParentalAlienationspeaks.com

Upcoming meetings

April 17, 6 p.m. – TSBP meeting (3rd Thursday)

April 21, 6 p.m. – City Council Meeting, WKNA annual report

May 12-12, 6 p.m., Council Chambers – Budget Committee Meetings. Open to the public and can be viewed on Channel 23.

WKNA Meetings, Speakers and Topics

Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m., WKNA Board Meeting, site TBA

Thursday May 8, 7 p.m., WKNA General Meeting with a presentation on Keizer Rapids Park Master Plan Amendment for a Pavilion – Adam Brown Keizer City Manager