

WKNA General Meeting

Feb. 8, 2024 7 p.m.

At Keizer Civic Center

Submitted by Carolyn Homan, WKNA Secretary

Twenty people in attendance.

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

Minutes from Jan. 11, 2024 – Mary Jo Emmet moved approval; Carol Phipps seconded. Motion carried.

Budget Report, Rhonda – She reported no change from January, with \$804.84 spent and a balance of \$395.15. WKNA will have the website fee to pay yet this year and probably will purchase some more signs from the balance.

Planning for 2024 -- Rhonda noted the blank notes cards on the table and asked attendees for any ideas they might have for the coming year in terms of events, activities, speakers, etc., that WKNA might undertake.

Guest speakers -- Rhonda introduced presenters from **Liberty House**, Max Gutfreund, Prevention Education Project Coordinator, and Adrienne Christian, Prevention Outreach Coordinator. The outlined Liberty House programs designed to help prevent child abuse, to advocate for the welfare of children and help children who are victims of child abuse. Adrienne said this is the 25th year for their Child Abuse Assessments program. Liberty House is one of 24 Child Advocacy Centers throughout Oregon. Liberty serves Marion and Polk counties. Before the centers, a child abuse victim might have to tell their story multiple times – to police, medical workers, court workers, etc., facing retraumatization each time. The centers now triage the experience, partnering with the District Attorney's office, Department of Human Services, law enforcement, etc. Marion County sees 125 cases a week, and those are just the ones that have made it through screening to the investigation level. "It's all about keeping kids safe," she said. Mental health support is recommended for 75% of the kids they see.

Max talked about Liberty's Prevention programs, including the iRespect and Protect campaign that was launched in recent years. In 2018 law enforcement approached Liberty House about the trend being seen of kids sending explicit photos or themselves, of cyber bullying, etc. Sexting and sextortion were becoming major issues. They began a way to address those issues and the anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicide and other negative ramifications. iRespect and Protect includes online trainings and other efforts to counteract these issues. They also have Digital Dangers trainings for kids and adults about the addictive qualities of phones and the issues that can arise.

All their resources are free. They urge people to become educated because they can make a difference. Liberty House offers tours every 1st Tuesday.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Liberty House will be opening its Woodburn facility in April.

Simonka Place -- Rhonda then introduced speakers from **Simonka Place**, the women's shelter on River Road in Keizer that is affiliated with Union Gospel Mission. Kathy Smith is Director of Women's Ministries and Brenda Newey is Resource and Volunteer Coordinator.

The shelter is currently serving 76 women and children with three meals a day and opportunities to learn about the impact traumas have had on their lives. She said they seek to end homelessness but also to heal the individual.

As a program-based shelter, people need to agree to work with them in a program, Kathy said. They offer 2 to 4 weeks of emergency service but some individuals stay for one night and some up to 2 years.

She and Brenda answered a variety of questions. Donations, which are taken and large items, like furniture, are sent to the Mission Store in Salem. Other items encouraged include food, toiletries (including the small hotel samples), laundry soap, diapers, Volunteers are welcome. Ways to help include serving meals, tutoring, child care, front desk duty, etc. Tours are given every Friday at 10 a.m. but visitors are urged to call before they come.

REPORTS

City Council Liaison -- Councilor Laura Reid reported that the city's budget planning is beginning, with the first Long-Range Planning Task Force meeting set for Feb. 12. In March, a joint Council/Community Diversity Engagement Committee meeting will be held to revisit that committee's mission. The annual City Center cleanup will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 16. And on April 8, the Council will hold a joint session with all the Neighborhood Association boards to go over the bylaws, what's going well, what needs improvement, etc. And the City's Strategic Plan is open for comment through the end of February.

Food barrels, Dennis/Carol Phipps – Food donations are always needed in support of Keizer Community Food Bank. A recent suggestion to be explored is to post a QR code on the barrels so people can make cash donations to Keizer Community Food Bank directly. January collections totals were 83 pounds at Bi Mart; 181 pounds and \$80 cash at Copper Creek; and 65 pounds at Keizer Fire District.

Parks – Willamette Manor: Carol P reported that the hillside planting WKNA did last fall is looking good. The Parks Department's 3-5-year Priority Plan will be the topic at the Parks Board meeting Feb. 13. Copies were available and attendees were urged to email Robert Johnson, Parks manager at johnsonr@keizer.org with any concerns.
Wallace House and Sunset: Things look good.

KRP soccer fields – Carolyn reported no change to the March start of construction. The City is working to secure letters of support from state and local legislative leaders as well as user groups, such as Capital Football, to use in support of grant request that will be made in support of project amenities like the bathrooms, bleachers, etc.

Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Committee -- Carolyn said the Council's joint work session with the Committee on Jan. 18 included discussion of how best to obtain buy-in for any traffic mitigation effort. Securing signatures on a petition – and the percentage of affected homeowners needed – has been an ongoing issue. It was decided to continue discussions at another work session.

Planning Commission – The February meeting was moved from the second Wednesday to Feb. 21 (conflict with Valentine's Day.) Rhonda said WKNA's March speaker will be Shane Witham, Keizer's Planning Director, to talk about the numerous code updates that have been made.

Little Library – Carol Doerfler said the library has been remounted on a sturdy metal stand after the recent hit-and-run accident that demolished the previous stand. The police responded quickly but were unable to find the driver.

Cummings School – Carol P. said she has removed the planter pots, to be replanted once the weather warms. There probably will be a cleanup work day the last week of March for those interested in helping weed, rake, spread bark dust, etc.

Keizer Community Library, Kris Adams -- She said things are going well with lots of events and displays. Recent activities include scavenger hunts and English and Spanish preschool readings. The Facebook page lists upcoming events and donations are accepted. Library leaders are considering another ballot measure in 2025 to become a public library.

ROUNDTABLE

Community Garden – Mary Jo Emmett, coordinator of the community garden at John Knox Presbyterian Church, said she has three plots available for this season. There are no fees. More information is available on the church website or at Marion Polk Food Share's site.

Legislative session – Kimberly Castro Monroy, aide to Rep. Kevin Mannix, shared information on the short session under way at the Capitol. Rep. Mannix's priority bills are modernizing Oregon's anti-stalking legislation and increasing the waiting period from 90 days to one year for instructors who want to pursue a relationship with a student who just graduated high school. Revising Measure 110 also is a major issue, along with a victim rights measure, internet crimes against children, She said Rep. Mannix plans a budget ask for the turf fields at Keizer Rapids Park.

City Committee Meetings

Feb. 12, noon, City Hall, Keizer United

Feb. 13, 6 p.m., Parks Board

Feb. 13, 6 p.m., Cummings, PTA

Feb. 15, 6 p.m., Traffic Safety Bikeways Pedestrian Comm.

Feb. 20, 7 p.m., City Council meeting -- Presentation of WKNA's annual report

Feb. 21, 6 p.m., Planning Commission (not change from regular second Wednesday date)

All committees meet at City Hall

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West Keizer Neighborhood Meetings

Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m. WKNA Board Meeting, location TBA

Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m. WKNA General Meeting, City Hall – Speaker Share Witham, City Planning Director

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

March 14 – Shane Witham, Community Development Director

March 20 – State of the City address – Joint NA meeting hosted by Northwest Keizer NA

April 11 – Joint NA Candidate Forum hosted by WKNA

May 9 – Neighborhood Watch Program/Police Chief Copeland

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.