



**MINUTES**  
**KEIZER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

**Robert L. Simon Council Chambers**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** CALL TO ORDER – Chair Matt Lawyer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Attendance was noted as follows:

**Present:**

Matt Lawyer, Chair  
Lisa Cejka, Vice Chair  
Tanya Hamilton  
Gwen Carr  
David Louden  
Bob Shackelford  
Jill Gust

**Youth Liaison Present:**

Liam Stitt

**Staff Present:**

Keare Blaylock, Public Works Director  
Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder

**Council Liaison Present:**

Councilor Daniel Kohler

**Absent:**

Michael Pantalone  
Clay Rushton

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. January 2026** Lisa Cejka moved for approval of the January 2026 Minutes. Gwen Carr seconded. Motion unanimously passed as follows: Cejka, Carr, Hamilton, Louden, Shackelford, Lawyer, and Gust in favor with Pantalone and Rushton absent.

- 3. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED PERSONS** David Philbrick, Keizer, lived on Lockhaven and would like to explore access near Claggett Creek Park along the road behind the apartments for a path that could eventually go to the schools. He would like to walk the area with a Parks Division staff person. Mr. Louden commented the two areas off of Verda were 10 feet wide, and the City would need to build a staircase for access. There was an access behind where Albertson's used to be. Mr. Louden offered to show Mr. Philbrick the access.

Rhonda Rich, President of West Keizer Neighborhood Association (WKNA), shared what the WKNA felt was a pavilion from an AI overview. She commented on the plan that was submitted to Marion County and compared the size to the Mount Angel Oktoberfest. She noted the five-year project and said that no one wanted a pavilion in the park was to preserve green spaces

for aesthetics and have family-friendly spaces. A facility of this nature should be located near the Chemawa Road was originally included in the Master Plan. She asked not to have a metal building in the center of Keizer Rapids Park — or define the structure as an indoor activity center or indoor multi-use center. She requested that expenses be approved and decide would manage the facility before a facility would be built.

Ms. Rich, read RuthAnn Fry's, Keizer, testimony and shared that she agreed with Ms. Rich. It was noted that families utilize green areas for games and family functions. Ms. Fry asked what other locations and options have been considered for the pavilion and locations, and if it would benefit everyone.

David Philbrick, Keizer, felt that Keizer Rapids Park (KRP) was a nice area and was opposed to having a large structure that shouldn't be built in KRP. He felt that there were other locations that would better suit a facility.

Karyl Allen, Keizer, shared that the facility was an indoor-use facility--and not a pavilion. She agreed with Ms. Rich that having this facility near Chemawa was best.

Mandi and Zach Hansen, Keizer, and Vice President of WKNA, felt that the facility should be on Site B on Chemawa because of the concern for an indoor type of warehouse building but would not have the greatest natural aesthetics of the park. Chemawa would help mitigate the building. She shared from the poll in Chapter 3 that folks commonly answered wanting nature and outdoor activities. She suggested the location of Keizer Station that would also accommodate the parking and exploring other locations.

Hersch Sangster, Keizer, shared that he was one of the original members of the River and Work Plan Committee, so he was aware that they wanted green-space then, just as folks want green-space now. He was a board member of Northwest Keizer Neighborhood Association and didn't have a park in their neighborhood and enjoyed walking over to the KRP. He was supportive of the WKNA request. He shared a concern for parking that would go into his neighborhood association area. He asked for other locations to be considered and asked not to take away the dog park.

Carolyn Homan, Keizer, shared that KRP was a gem and so many people use it. There were annual board walks involving 40 to 50 migrating birds. She felt that there's never enough green space in a park. She noted that the size of the facility was being proposed much larger than initially. She felt that other locations could be explored and asked not to have a facility in KRP.

Ellen Marsh, Keizer, concurred with the other testimonies. She shared that when looking at the cost of the KeizerFEST versus this pavilion, she would pick the KeizerFEST and felt that having a big building in KRP would ruin the ambiance. She was in support of looking at other locations, such as Keizer

Station. Overall, she felt that everyone was in agreement to not lose the green-space.

**4. PARKS  
MATCHING  
GRANT**

This item was discussed out of order.

**a. Volunteer Shed &  
Tools Project ~  
Total Project  
Value: \$13,000**

Chair Lawyer shared that he submitted the application and had no direct pecuniary interest or bias, and he would not make any money on this and would be doing a lot of the volunteer work.

Keivin Dial, Keizer Rotary, shared about the project and felt that the City would have a lot of return value every year. Tools would be secure as a result of the project. Chair Lawyer commented that Keizer Rotary already purchased the tools, and estimated that the cost would be closer to \$4,500. The remaining piece would just be the shed.

Lisa Cejka moved to grant this matching Grant not to exceed \$6,000. Jill Gust seconded. Motion unanimously passed as follows: Cejka, Carr, Hamilton, Loudon, Shackelford, Lawyer, and Gust in favor with Pantalone and Rushton absent.

**b. Peggy and Jerry  
Moore Community  
Garden ~ Total  
Project Value:  
\$1,200**

Peggy Moore, Keizer, oversees the Peggy and Jerry Moore community Garden, shared the project for the request, which included pest control, barrels, hanging baskets, herbs, and flowers.

Chair Lawyer asked about having an annual matching grant automatically for both of the Community Gardens. Public Works Director Keare Blaylock offered to look into the annual budget request.

Ms. Cejka asked if the \$350 would be enough with price changes and if she would like to have \$400, so there would be room for cost increases.

Lisa Cejka moved to grant a grant to the Peggy and Jerry Moore Community Garden for a not-to-exceed grant amount of \$600. Gwen Carr seconded. Motion unanimously passed as follows: Cejka, Carr, Hamilton, Loudon, Shackelford, Lawyer, and Gust in favor with Pantalone and Rushton absent.

**5. DISCUSSION ON  
ESTABLISHING A  
POLICY FOR THE  
ATTENDANCE  
REQUIREMENT**

**a. Input Requested  
for Volunteer  
Attendance  
Policy, History,  
and Resolution**

Councilor Daniel Kohler shared that there were Committee members who didn't attend meetings to the point that sometimes there would be a lack of a quorum, so public meetings couldn't be held. He explained that a policy would help determine how attendance issues would be handled.

Ms. Cejka suggested that members give as much notice as possible if they need to miss a meeting.

Chair Lawyer commented that members shouldn't be penalized for excused absences, and as a Chair, he would call the members and ask them to attend meetings.

Chair Lawyer suggested that the VCC consider members for re-appointment if there were absence issues. He felt that asking the member to consider resigning would open up the opportunity to fill the position with someone who could attend the meetings.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended that the **Chair be involved in communications with members who have attendance issues**. Ideally, the Chair would speak directly with the member about their attendance. If the Chair is not comfortable doing so, the City Recorder's Office may handle the conversation.

**If attendance problems continue, the City Recorder's Office should coordinate with the Chair and the Council Liaison.** The Council Liaison can then bring the issue to the City Council to request removal of the member who has exceeded the attendance policy limits, allowing the position to be opened for new volunteers.

Tanya Hamilton commented on life, causing some members not to attend meetings, and that these conversations could be tough.

## 6. DISCUSSION ~ PAVILION CONCEPT FOR KEIZER RAPIDS PARK: Make Recommendation

### a. Overview by MIG Consultants

This item was discussed out of order.

Jill Gust declared a conflict of interest since she worked for the Keizer Chamber of Commerce--and stepped away from the dais.

Chair Lawyer felt that the idea of a building only being for the Chamber of Commerce was the wrong message, unfortunate, and should be a community-driven conversation. Chair Lawyer commented that there were two questions: 1) should the pavilion concept go back into the Master Plan, and 2) where should it be located? Chair Lawyer commented about the parking and how all events and activities needed to be considered for parking purposes. He felt that it was unfortunate that the consulting company provided examples of items never been discussed. He was confident that the City would have a lot of robust conversations if a pavilion concept were

added back into the Master Plan.

Bob Shackelford, who was a board member for the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, apologized for taking down the tent at KRP, but there were parking complaints. He asked that the Chamber not be blamed for the idea of a Kroc Center. The cost of a tent would be at least \$30,000 and suggested a fundraiser to buy a tent. He felt that the KeizerFEST would continue to occur in the KRP regardless of a building.

Chair Lawyer clarified that the question was not what type of facility, but rather a yes or no question. He emphasized that the pavilion concept was just a plan—and didn't mean that it would happen.

Liam Stitt asked about the Town Hall. Chair Lawyer shared that the communication included a rehash of history and about preserving green space, and the question of yes or no and where.

Ms. Cejka shared that the consultants took questions and comments from the attendees, and there were folks who were neutral and felt that the Town Hall was chaotic.

Ms. Hamilton shared that the City surveyed about access to the river and having covered spaces for kids. The idea of the pavilion wasn't helpful. She didn't care for having KeizerFEST brought into the conversation and felt that focussed on the surveys that were shared about the need to have a covered facility. She felt that option B would be a good space for it after hearing today's testimony.

Ms. Cejka expressed concern about building something wonderful because of the cost to maintain it.

Councilor Daniel Kohler commented about attending a meeting with the County Commissioners regarding applying for a grant. He shared about the original discussion with the consulting firm and the building that was in the Master Plan a number of years ago. He commented that projects in the Master Plan didn't have a timeline and may never be completed. He suggested having a 10 percent maximum amount that could be developed in KRP.

Chair Lawyer suggested tabling this item to the April meeting since new information from MIG Consultants was just received and the public hasn't had a chance to see it. He asked about having an Activity Center to where nothing in the wilderness could be touched. Chair Lawyer noted that the members agreed that nothing should go into Area A.

It was noted that preserving as much as the green space as possible was important, and that there absolutely shouldn't be any major construction in

the wooded area.

Chair Lawyer asked about trying to consolidate parking as much as possible to avoid one-off parking lots, and the members agreed.

Chair Lawyer shared that the members agreed that the City should look at a theoretical appropriate "Indoor Activity Center."

Ms. Cejka asked about building more parking for the boat ramp and where it was in the plan.

As a reminder, Ms. Hamilton commented that the pavilion concept was in the original Master Plan, and the same consultant pulled it out as a technicality. Seeing all of the building options this time around has become a bigger situation.

Lisa Cejka moved that we table this discussion until April and allow our new Public Works Director, Ms. Blaylock and Robert to go and look at options and bring them back to us to make a thoughtful and informed decision. Bob Shackelford. Motion passed as follows: Cejka, Carr, Hamilton, Loudon, Shackelford, Lawyer in favor with Pantalone and Rushton absent with Gust abstained.

## 7. PARKS REPORTS

- a. **Tanya Hamilton ~ Meadows | Hidden Creek** **Tanya Hamilton** reported that *Hidden Creek* and *Northridge* looked great.
- Gwen Carr ~ Claggett Creek | Chalmers-Jones** **Gwen Carr** reported that *Claggett Creek* and *Keizer Little League* looked good.
- David Loudon ~ Ben Miller | Northridge** **David Loudon** reported that Ben Miller looked fine as usual and was well-maintained.
- Jill Gust ~ Northview | Mike Whittam** **Jill Gust** reported that *Willamette Manor* looked wet a few weeks ago, and she would contact the gardener at *Mike Whittam*.
- Lisa Cejka ~ Palma Ciea | Sunset** **Lisa Cejka** reported on *Palma Ciea* looked beautiful. Part of the straw waddle to keep the bank from eroding was still dislodged, but staff were short-handed. She also noticed that there were bible verses left around the park. *Sunset* still had the driftwood log that was semi-cut up. *Keizer Rapids Park* looked good, but there were drivers doing cookies in the fields.
- All ~ Keizer Rapids Park**

- 8. NEW/OLD BUSINESS** Chair Lawyer shared that the 16th Annual Keizer Civic Center Cleanup would be this Saturday, March 14th, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- For the first time, the garbage trucks would be on Rickman and Bailey with a bunch of green bins.
- 9. STAFF REPORT** Public Works Director Keare Blaylock shared that the Council had approved the awarding of the contract for the Bob Newton Park improvements.
- 10. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT** Councilor Daniel Kohler shared that Ryan J Hill Memorial Park had some action with the Goldstar Monument being installed, and he expressed appreciation for all the people who were involved--and for this board because of their engagement and involvement. It was noted that this was the fastest amount of time ever to have a monument installed.
- Chair Lawyer commented that there would be some green planting and sprucing up of the area. The ceremony had a great turnout of around 300 people in attendance.
- Gwen Carr thanked Chair Lawyer for pushing forward this project.
- Chair Lawyer shared about the City Council Work Session on Saturday and the excellent work of the City staff and Council.
- 11. MEMBER REPORTING TO COUNCIL: Gwen Carr on March 16th at 6pm** Chair Lawyer would report to Council on March 16th.
- 12. NEXT MEETING: April 14th** Chair Lawyer asked that the members be ready with a recommendation on the pavilion concept in April and that this was a yes or no question. He felt that the "where" was solidly identified. He asked that folks be reminded that the question was not a "what" question, which would only matter when the people of Keizer say it matters with a very robust, informed, and thoughtful set of communications.
- 13. ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at: 7:50 p.m.
- Minutes approved: \_\_\_\_\_