

Keizer City Council
Written Public Comments
May 5th thru May 16th, 2022

- Caitlyn Loranger – residence not listed – Pride Fair
- Shawn Palmer – Keizer – Library Vote
- Daniel M. Potter – Keizer – Yes for a Keizer Public Library
- John Robinson – Keizer - Library

Davis, Tracy

From: Administrator
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 9:18 AM
To: Davis, Tracy
Subject: FW: Pride fair

fyi

Bill Hopkins
Information Technology
City Of Keizer
503-856-3435

From: Caitlyn Loranger <caitlyn.loranger@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 9:13 AM
To: Wood, Tim <WoodT@keizer.org>; Administrator <Administrator@keizer.org>
Subject: Pride fair

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Hello!

I saw this last night in the news and my heart hurts!

We can not let the bigots of this city win. We need to be able to show the lgbtq+ community that we have their backs and can protect them.

This is not the story we tell our children that they need to hide to stay protected. As a community we need to protect our neighbors from this threat. Not bow down to the aggressors.

There NEEDS to be a plan in place to make this fair a safe and open event.

Point me in the direction of what I can do next to make sure our pride community feels welcome and protected.

<https://www.koin.com/local/marion-county/keizer-pride-fair-canceled-due-to-safety-concerns/>

Best,
Caitlyn

Davis, Tracy

From: shawn palmer <palmer.shawn@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2022 9:44 AM
To: Davis, Tracy
Subject: Library Vote

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Dear Council,

Please vote yes on the current proposal to make the Keizer library a part of the public library system. As a recent move to Keizer, my greatest disappointment in the city was its disconnect from the public library system. I loved the Washington County Library system and my family used it weekly. It was a major part of our life. We checked out thousands of titles, attended events, and participated in summer reading programs. As a public school teacher, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to provide Keizer students equal access to library content. They will be at a disadvantage when compared to their peers in the majority of local cities with access. A public library system puts thousands of titles, events, and research opportunities in the hands of our people. I see it as one of the most significant investments a city can make in its citizens and its students.

-Shawn Palmer

Brunner Ct. Keizer

Davis, Tracy

From: Cathy Clark
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 8:18 AM
To: Davis, Tracy; Brown, Adam
Subject: Fw: Yes for a Keizer Public Library!

Cathy Clark, Mayor
clarkc@keizer.org
503-856-3403

From: Daniel M. Potter <danielmpotter77@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 8:17 AM
To: Cathy Clark; Daniel Kohler; Laura Reid; Shaney Starr; Kyle Juran; Roland Herrera; Elizabeth Smith
Subject: Yes for a Keizer Public Library!

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Keizer Community Library becoming a fully public library and a part of CCRLS. I also strongly urge the council to ensure funding and continuing operations after the ARPA funds run out in three years. This can easily be done with an additional small fee of a dollar or two on city water/sewer bills. The council should pass this, and not "punt" it to the voters. You as a council are elected to make decisions, so please vote yes on approving funding and fees for a public library here in Keizer.

While it's nice to have the community library, it's quite frankly embarrassing that Keizer doesn't have a full fledged public library. Many of the cities in Marion county do have public libraries, and they are of a huge benefit to those cities. Public libraries help build healthy communities, they help narrow the digital gap, they provide a learning hub for all ages within a community, they preserve history and the truth, and they do so much more.

Please vote yes on creating a Keizer Public Library with ARPA and city utility bill fees. Public libraries are an essential service, and Keizer needs to provide this.

Thank you,

Daniel M. Potter

Keizer, Oregon

Davis, Tracy

From: Cathy Clark
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 12:26 PM
To: Davis, Tracy
Subject: Fwd: Library

Hi Tracy,
Please see email below with the follow up identifying himself as a Keizer resident
Thanks
Cathy

Cathy Clark
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Robinson <jrobertrobinson@gmail.com>
Date: May 16, 2022 at 11:39:14 AM PDT
To: Cathy Clark <ClarkC@keizer.org>
Subject: Re: Library

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I am a Keizer resident and homeowner.

On Mon, May 16, 2022 at 9:45 AM Cathy Clark <ClarkC@keizer.org> wrote:

Good morning,

I have forwarded your email to be included in written comment for this issues on the agenda tonight. If you would like to clarify for the record that you are a Keizer resident, that would be appreciated.

Otherwise it will be published as no residence listed.

Best regards,

Cathy

Cathy Clark
Sent from my iPhone

On May 16, 2022, at 9:35 AM, John Robinson <jrobertrobinson@gmail.com> wrote:

Make the library happen. It's embarrassing that it hasn't happened already. Typical of Keizer. But embarrassing.

vine Herb
5/16/22

Good evening Mayor Clark and City Council Members. Thank you for letting me speak tonight about a topic that is my life-long passion. As you know, I can talk about this for hours, so I hope I can keep it within my 5 minutes.

I'll start by reading a short story; this is from a man named Bill:

When I was an unhappy little boy, going to the library changed my life. It may even have saved it. Amazing as it sounds, literature can do that for you. Books are your ticket to the whole world.

With my aunt making my life hell and Big Rosie beating me on a daily basis, I lived in a dark and forbidding world as a kid. But I only had to leave our home and walk over to the Library and a whole new world opened to me. Reading books showed me that there was something better, something other, out there.

It made me realize that, despite the constant misery of my day-to-day existence, the world might actually be a good place, and an exciting one.

In a School Board meeting a couple of years ago, I heard Colt Gill, head of Oregon's education department, say that Oregon kids arrive in kindergarten knowing 8 letters and letter sounds—in Salem-Keizer Schools, that number is only 5. This was prior to the pandemic, and I imagine that number now is likely worse. These are the statistics of 3rd-graders in Oregon who are not reading at grade level:

66% of kids experiencing poverty

70%+ of Black, Indigenous and other kids of color

78% of kids with disabilities

92% of kids who are non-native English speakers

Low literacy rates strain social and health services, impede our economic growth, and weaken our workforce.

Reading is a crucial gateway skill that paves the pathway for successful futures. Without it, kids are less likely to graduate from high school or find gainful

employment as adults, leading to a host of additional hardships. Building a strong foundation of literacy can change a child's life trajectory and can help prevent and alleviate issues of poverty, homelessness, hunger, and injustice.

According to the National Institute for Literacy, 43% of adults with very low literacy skills live in poverty, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have lower-level literacy skills.

Adults with limited literacy are more likely to leave school early, face incarceration, and have a higher mortality rate than people with adequate reading skills.

If people must decide between paying their rent and buying food OR buying books, they are not going to buy books. The library fills that gap.

Today's modern libraries support digital, health, financial, informational, and media literacy.

Being able to get online is the tool that supports education, access to needed benefits, employment opportunities, entertainment, entrepreneurship, and personal enrichment. Providing a means for community members to participate in these benefits of technology is when true digital equity can be achieved.

My family and I moved back to Oregon 9 years ago, to make our home in Keizer, and we started to use our Community Library. Then I started questioning—why in the world doesn't Keizer have a Public Library? And, why isn't it connected to Salem Public and all the other libraries in the consortium? That began my journey to try to figure this out.

Our city has explored this in the past, but it has never been possible given our limited city budget. I came to find out we operate on about 25% of the tax revenue that many other cities have.

As a student of history and imagining that our Founding Fathers are rolling in their graves for what has become of our massive Federal government—not so here in Keizer. Our low tax base keeps us lean and treasuring every dollar. We've had to make hard decisions to add fees to support our police and parks. There is accountability for these dedicated funds; it's not just some slush fund that could

be used anywhere. Were some people unhappy? Yes. But unquestionably, these fees have been incredibly successful in serving the people of Keizer.

In cities everywhere, the library is the most beloved institution. Often, however well intentioned, government services add to a problem, rather than solve it—once people are in poverty or incarcerated, the cost to society is high, and the bureaucracy often makes accessing the services difficult for those who need them. I believe in government services that offer tools for people—to help them before the path becomes difficult and bleak. Libraries offer a hand up, not a hand out.

Our City Staff is small, and all of you work for us for free, often long hours on top of full-time jobs. You inspire the people of Keizer to step in and volunteer. This is how our country was meant to be—we don't simply tax ourselves so that we can pay others to do the work—we all chip in to do what needs done. And, this is how our library has operated for 30 years—on volunteers and donations—though the City does already support the library with an arrangement to cover the rent.

Today, we have an amazing opportunity. Keizer has been given \$8.8 million dollars in federal funds that is a gift we will likely never see again. The Board has a well-thought-out, detailed, proposal on the table. With \$395,000—point 04% of the total ARPA funds—the Board could hire a librarian for 3 years. This is the one last requirement for our Library to become a Public Library. With Public status, we can join the CCRLS consortium of 17 libraries and be able to access a million items—with courier service that brings them to us. For people who can't easily get to another city to get the books and materials they need, this is a huge leap forward. We will also have access to additional sources of funds and equipment. We will leverage our tax dollars already going to CCRLS so we can experience the full benefit of our money spent. This proposal is an incredibly low cost for the value we'll receive.

We have elected each of you as our representatives, and you have proven again and again that you are excellent stewards of our resources. You know money is tight for many of us, and you take that into consideration with every decision. A representative government is meant to consider all voices—especially those in

the minority. Keizer cares about serving all of our residents, and a library is the most equitable institution we have.

I respectfully ask that the Mayor and Council consider adopting this proposal, not putting it on the ballot. Can you imagine a worse time to send this to people? Gas prices have doubled, and our food prices are skyrocketing; this could lead voters to simply say NO to any new fee. People might mistakenly think the fee will start right away. This fee won't even kick in until the ARPA funds are exhausted after 3 years, and then it would be less than \$25 a year. If the voters reject it, we will likely lose even our community library.

If you're uncomfortable with moving forward on our behalf, how about a compromise? Approve the ARPA funds now and the fee to begin in 2025, but make the fee contingent on a ballot measure passing in 2024 instead of this year. This will move the question to voters closer to when the fee would actually start, give us 2 ½ years of a trial run to see how the library impacts the community, and by then hopefully the current economic crisis will be behind us so that people will be more willing to entertain a new fee.

This is a rare moment in time where the City has the incredible opportunity to make the library a reality for Keizer, and I hope that you will move forward and say YES.

I will leave you with one more thought:

Frederick Douglass, former slave, abolitionist, and suffragist, is famously quoted as saying, "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Janet Herb
Keizer

I Irma Dash, represent the opinion of at least 50 individuals who could not attend.

I repeat who & how would the residents who cannot vote & could be asked to opine but is Keizer council willing to ask in the languages spoken. Again they live here & leave money here.

Please decide if these residents are valuable and have rights within the city.

The council could investigate through school student statistics the percent of these residents. It may be as high as 20% or more.

Public outreach to all, or only those that live here, leave money here but cannot vote.

Therefore the ones that vote will make decision for all.

Irma Fernandez Dash
Keizer resident

Many citizens in Keizer unable
to vote.

If voters decide, these
residents of Keizer would
not have a voice

These residents pay Fees &
Taxes - but not counted.

The library is for every one who
lives in Keizer.

Please give the residents who pay
to use a public library.

Is it that this council
wants its residents ignorant?
uneducated and powerless
to participate on a level of
equality?