



April 27, 2023

To: Representative Kevin Mannix  
Oregon House of Representatives  
House District 21  
900 Court Street, Office 384  
Salem, Oregon 97301

From: Rhonda Rich, President of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association  
1480 Rafael St. N., Keizer, Oregon 97303  
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Re: Letter of Support for Capital Funding Request  
Keizer Rapids Park Artificial Sport Fields

The West Keizer Neighborhood Association (WKNA) encompasses a large geographical area bordering the Willamette River on the south and Keizer Rapids Park on the west. West Keizer comprises approximately 3100 households within the boundaries of Cummings Elementary School. The WKNA became active in 2006 and a board of directors strives to meet the goals of the our Mission Statement (see below).

The families in West Keizer enjoy four neighborhood parks and the large community park, Keizer Rapids Park which is immediately adjacent to single family homes on the west end. There is a bicycle/pedestrian path that connects our neighborhood to the park. Chemawa Rd. which runs along the neighborhood's northern border has been improved with sidewalks and bicycle paths to enhance the accessibility to the main entrance of Keizer Rapids Park for all citizens in Keizer.

Many of the WKNA members have been actively involved with the design of Keizer Rapids Park with the City of Keizer for the past seventeen years. The master plan was created in 2006 which included an amphitheater, dog park, sport fields, paved walking paths, a boat ramp, picnic table and a playstructure. Most of these amenities have been completed. However, sport fields are currently absent.

In September 2021, the WKNA was presented a plan for the installation of artificial turf fields at Keizer Rapids Park. Marion County Commissioner, Colm Willis, met with the WKNA board of directors and attended a general meeting to express the need for soccer fields after Oregon State University extension had cancelled their program leaving 700 kids without a location to play. Thus, a new site, Keizer Rapids Park which

contained an area for sports fields in the master plan, was seen as an excellent location for regional access to soccer fields.

We were excited to be a part of a group, the Keizer Artificial Turf Field Team, established in July 2022 by the City of Keizer, established to provide input into a project that will benefit many children and adults in our neighborhood and community. A turf field that would be able to be used year-round made sense in a region that gets a fair share of rain. The WKNA expressed not only that quality built fields be created, but also a paved parking lot to provide enough parking for park users, so that our neighborhood streets remain available for our neighborhood residents. Also, the WKNA expressed a concern about field lighting which we feel is adequately being addressed through the technology of TLC, Total Light Control, to be used in this setting. Thus, these amenities have been included in the costs to see this project come to fruition and create a recreational complex that will be an asset to our neighborhood.

**Therefore, the West Keizer Neighborhood Association would like to express our support for the capital funding request in the amount of \$1 million dollars for the Keizer Rapids Park Artificial Turf Sport Fields project. The monies will help greatly in achieving more recreational opportunities for our neighborhood and community. Thank you so much for your consideration and your efforts to support this project!**

#### West Keizer Neighborhood Association Mission Statement

The West Keizer Neighborhood Association is a neighborhood association recognized by the City of Keizer that serves the people of West Keizer. Its mission is to:

- Promote programs, services, and activities aimed at encouraging connections among neighbors in the community.
- Foster civic involvement and civic education by providing timely information about community and civic issues, by facilitating the discussion of these issues, and by helping members become more informed and responsible citizens.
- Solicit input from members and stakeholders about issues that affect them.
- Support neighborhood-friendly development practices.
- Protect public spaces and historical assets.
- Address public safety and public nuisance concerns of members.
- Act as a vehicle to communicate the concerns of members and advocate for their best interests to the Keizer City Council, to City staff, and to other government agencies; and
- Work to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in West Keizer.