

Group willing to help at Palma Ciega Park

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Gary Blake is still pushing for improvements at Palma Ciega Park.

Blake, president of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association, spoke about proposed improvements at the May 10 Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

"We are all concerned about Palma Ciega Park," Blake said. "We have had a number of get-togethers to talk about it. WKNA came up with a proposal, which I am submitting. There have been a number of suggestions, from this board and the WKNA board and from different individuals in the area as to what could be done to improve the look of Palma Ciega Park."

Blake emphasized there has been interest on behalf of park neighbors.

"Some neighbors have volunteered time and money to do work around the park," he said. "We want to do a picnic table, in the center by the sign area. We want a picnic table or a bench. A number of others are willing to donate funds to help build a walkway down to the river. WKNA is committed to do whatever we can to put the park together. We're making this proposal tonight so we can move forward and help to improve the park."

Parks Board member Matt Lawyer liked what he saw.

"It's a good starting point to see what kind of man hours are being used," Lawyer said. "I would encourage you to put

together how many hours you have put in. Some other organizations like Claggett Creek Watershed and Men of Action in Keizer could be willing to help out as well."

Part of Blake's proposal was for city staff to come out annually to spray ivy in the park.

"I do have a question about spraying the ivy," Parks supervisor Robert Johnson told Blake. "Are you talking about prior to you going in or after?"

Blake deferred to Johnson's knowledge and experience on the topic.

"Whatever you feel is appropriate," Blake said.

Johnson said killing ivy could require multiple sprays.

"It could take three years," Johnson said. "The problem with ivy killing is some chemicals used for it shouldn't be sprayed by water. There are some chemicals to use for other invasives, with ivy being the hardest to kill. We'll need to work together and see what we can come up with."

Blake figured it would be better for city staff to spray due to liability concerns.

"If we all run out there with Round-up, it might not work right," he said.

Johnson noted he attended a class last month focused on ivy.

"It's a horrible, horrible thing," Johnson said.

Board member Richard Walsh had a question about volunteers limbing trees, as mentioned in Blake's proposal. "Work with the city," Walsh



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Gary Blake talks with members of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on May 10 about Palma Ciega Park.

said. "To limb the trees, work with the city as closely as possible. If you're an official volunteer, you could get workman's comp."

In response to a question from Walsh, Blake said WKNA won't be asking for money to buy a bench.

"Two gentlemen volunteered to bring a bench in," Blake said. "They are donating the bench. We have some Boy Scouts who are willing to do the concrete slab for it."

Walsh also had a concern about the frequency of spraying.

"I understand we should, but we should at a lot of parks," Walsh said. "I don't want to say this should take priority over the other parks. We do have limited resources. Maybe if we sprayed every other year."

Blake was understanding and indicated the WKNA

board would be as well.

"We're just trying to make it a more attractive place to look at river," Blake said. "I understand some of the ivy will kill the trees if it's left there."

Walsh noted work by the neighbors could be a pilot project of sorts, if the end product is ecologically friendly as well as nice looking.

"It's not our intention to change the overall park program," Blake said. "We're just interested in helping. We will help bring people together."

"Well, we're very grateful for you taking this on," Walsh said.

Blake said it was his pleasure.

"We're happy to participate," Blake said.

Board member JT Hager noted he and some neighbors had a big ivy issue at Hidden Creek Park a few years ago.

"If you leave a good gap, you will kill the amount up in the trees," Blake said. "You get a maximum kill if you cut them all the way down in the fall. It's also true with blackberries. Spray them and you can have success. But individuals at random should not and cannot just spray. You could hire someone who is licensed and coordinate that with Robert."



KEIZERTIMES file/Craig Murphy
According to Gary Blake, neighbors are willing to help with the cleaning up of Palma Ciega Park, which currently has an obstructed view of the Willamette River.

obituaries

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Patricia Ann Napier (Ackerman)

May 29, 1930 - May 14, 2016

Pat Napier passed away peacefully on Saturday at Avamere Court in Keizer. She was preceded in death by her husband Ralph Napier in 1995.

She is survived by her sons, Mark and Joe Napier, both of Keizer, their wives, Roa and Debbie and granddaughter Jessica Hutchison and her husband, Roy, of Dallas.

Pat was an avid fan of the Portland Trailblazers and enjoyed attending the games and watching them on TV. Everyone who knew her knew who her favorites were. She loved the music of Neal McCoy and her many cats, especially the antics of her "Twinnies" who would steal stuffed animals from nearby garage sales.

She was born on a family

homestead outside of Concrete, Wash. which is now Rasar State Park. She started school in Birdsville, Wash. and graduated from High School at Sacred Heart Academy in Salem. Besides being a homemaker who loved crocheting and cooking, she

also worked at Newberry's in Salem. She was happiest putting around in her garden and raising her wonderful raspberries.

She loved the Iris Festival and watched the parade every year. She also loved going to the State Fair to see the flowers and people watching.

A Celebration of Life is to be held at Keizer Funeral Chapel on Friday, May 27 at 2 p.m. Trailblazer apparel would be appropriate.



P. Napier

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