Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association

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Feedback for having a pavilion at Keizer Rapids Park and for Urban Growth Boundaries.

I would like to start with KRP;

The first thing here is what we heard from our community. As I am out and talking with folks, I ask questions and share information.

Weather Protection:  Unlike pergolas, pavilions offer full shade, making them ideal for sunny areas. They provide shelter from rain, allowing for outdoor activities regardless of the weather. We would like to see it open like a picnic area and not to lose our green spaces. This we heard from several folks.

Enhanced Outdoor Living: Versatile Space: Pavilions can be used for dining, lounging, entertaining, or even as an outdoor kitchen or living room.  But also allows for Comfort and Relaxation: They offer a comfortable and inviting atmosphere for relaxation and enjoyment of the outdoors.

But again, we heard we don’t want to lose any of our green spaces as we are losing more and more each year. It needs to be open and no walls so families can use it. (70 plus families)

It can provide more cover for gatherings, as well as more event space, while enhancing the park experience, more seating space, more ADA space, more tourist spending, more gathering space in bad weather.

I understand from people saying this is to be used for Keizer fest, I am okay with that but still don’t think we need to spend this kind of money for an event that happens once a year! I understand we have the new sports fields and I was against that, because of the cost and Keizer is already in the red with Keizer Station being built. I just don’t think we need to invest in this right now.

* Higher Cost: Pavilions are generally more expensive to build due to the complexity of construction and materials required. (135 families)
* Heavier Appearance: The solid roof of a pavilion makes the structure feel bigger and heavier, potentially dominating the space or overwhelming smaller yards. (150 plus families)

My sister has a home in the West Keizer Community and she says traffic is hard enough to get through and we have bigger problems to face. I live in the Greater Northeast Keizer Community and we go to the park for family events and need to keep green spaces for our children and for my grandkids.

Can we not look at improvements to the amperthere for events of this size. You can have concerts there and have a better roof system for covering this should weather become a problem.

Moving the dog park to a section near the homes is another idea we heard, to use that side of the park for larger events. It helps keep the noise down, lighting won’t factor in as much. Traffic impact is still a problem, plus we have no sidewalks from parking lot to parking lot for our families to use. (115 people)

Adds Value: A high-quality, well-designed pavilion will increase your property value, I have looked and my taxes will rise for my home and surrounding communities. We heard this from about 52 families.

Keizer needs Sidewalks and this should be higher on the list. We heard this from around (140 families.)

Increased Maintenance Costs: Pavilions require ongoing maintenance, which can place a strain on park budgets and potentially lead to increased taxes or reduced funding for other park amenities.  Which according to the last budget meeting our budget committee and City Council is against, as We listen online to this meeting. (56 People)

Potential for Unwanted Behavior: If not properly managed, pavilions can attract crowds that engage in activities like excessive noise, littering, or vandalism, negatively impacting the park's atmosphere and other users. This is already an ongoing problem plaguing our communities. (175 families)

The cost to build the pavilion, and potential of overcrowding, the maintenance could be high and our public works staff is busy already. We need more parking, and this will take away from the beauty of the park. It may take away from the amphitheater as well as more maintenance for public works. The city council and Budget committee does not want to give public works Money for upkeep now and this just adds more stress on the public works and Staff, more expense for equipment, more vandalism opportunities.

 I have used teams to help share this information with our community, this has allowed for people who work nights and just can’t make it out to meetings to hear from you hosting the meetings and those who attend their points of view. I must say some of the feedback helped this group understand the larger vision of uses this could provide. I heard different items of concerns as well from why do we need to go into more debt since the Sports fields are not even a year old to why close in a shelter built for the community to not have access. Then we have heard from the community that green space is vital for families and they just don’t want to lose that.

After sharing the last meeting people asked why push the community who are happy with things as they are to lose more green space, add more buildings, and yet not share the plan with the community. I say that because Keizer fest is yearly but families don’t have the money to attend. Families work hard to provide for their needs, while you say we are not paying for this Taxes will go up. 22 families said taxes would go up by $50.00 to $150.00 depending on the property value assessed after this was done.

Other families have shared that yes, a covered place for a picnic on a cloudy day would be nice. People would like family reunions and have a covered space to enjoy. The size matters, they are still not interested in losing green spaces. Our City Staff has enough on their plates, let's not add to this unless you are willing to hire more people, but wait families say you're not willing to cover police fees or park fees, and care more about items that are not important to them.

While I may not agree with everything shared, I represent our community and I must help be their voice! Empowerment matters and our voices carry Power!

Now let's Talk UBG

Urban Growth Boundaries questions

Restrictions in areas outside of a UGB protect farm and forest resource land and prohibit urban development. Generally speaking, it's where the city ends and the farms and forests begin. So, how are you going to grow and still provide services since our budget committee did not want to add fees for parks and or police? (165 families responded)

 Why focus on growing when we have community needs that are not being met now? For example, no one asked if we wanted the pavilion and you are now looking at these additional fees and funds? How is this going to care for my family as well as Keizer as a whole? Why are we looking at our UBG when we have the Keizer Rapids projects still needing funds? (165 families responded)

Urban development can magnify the risk of environmental hazards such as flash flooding. Pollution and physical barriers to root growth promote loss of urban tree cover. Animal populations are inhibited by toxic substances, vehicles, and the loss of habitat and food sources. Do you see this as a problem? If not, why? (155 Families)

I have a question on Population increases that will cause housing problems such as

* Overcrowding.
* Unemployment.
* Development of Slums or uncared areas in cities and towns
* Water and Sanitation Problems.
* Poor Health and Spread of Diseases.
* Traffic Congestion.
* Urban Crime.

How are you going to help fund this growth and look at these problems as they arise when your Council is not in agreement on funding our police. I listened to the budget meeting online and was amazed by how little people care about safety! The police funding is huge and you should look at this from our point of view! (185 families)

No one wants more Housing Apartments and are concerned with mixed use but let me tell you I love mixed use and it works for families and provides homes at lower cost than building new homes. While providing places for business to grow in Keizer. How is this for the UBG conversation? Are you looking at these things as well? (75 families)

Are cottage clusters making a comeback and how do you see this for Keizer?

Tammy has shared with us on how important it is to provide honest feedback and I am at work and Tammy has allowed herself to be my voice for a moment. Parks and Mr. Lawyer are looking for some things they need to keep parks looking great, as well as water line maintenance for the city yet your council is not on board with this and Council wants funding for Arts and heritage center but water line care is higher on my list of needs for Kiezer. How can we use funding for Arts and not the care for our city? For example, sidewalks, speeding, traffic control for families to ride bikes safer with buffer lanes. All this saves’ lives. (225 families)

Yes, we want a say in how our money is being used, but safety and water lines that allow our city to function are key areas we need to be taking care of. Funding for this seems more important for safety of property values, (25 families who have property or family impacted; 165 families in total)

How urban growth has created opportunities? social: access to services – health and education; access to resources – water supply, energy. economic: how urban industrial areas can be a stimulus for economic development.

How urban growth has created opportunities: social: access to services – health and education; access to resources – water supply, energy. economic: how urban industrial areas can be a stimulus for economic development. How are we going to keep these times in mind with growing our UBG? (165 families)

In closing, we are still doing outreach and will be sharing this information through Zoom and teams to include our whole community who has a voice and that what matters. Everyone has a right to hear what is said and done as this affects us all.

While I may not agree, I lend my voice to our community. I personally do not want our UBG to change, I think we have enough debt and other items to address 1st.

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Tammy Kunz

GNEKNA President