

**CITY OF MILL VALLEY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2021**

Commissioners present: Chair Michelle Terrell, Vice Chair Max Perrey, Commissioners Christie Coleman, Brian Jolda, Richard Marshall, Zach Papale. Absent: Commissioner Ashley Raveche. Staff attending: Southern Marin Fire Deputy Chief Tom Welch and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Maggie Lang

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Terrell

Public Open Time: Jodie Timms and Pam Meigs from Fairfax attending with interest in the disaster council process as their town is considering creating a disaster council with civilian participation.

Approval of minutes from December 10, 2020: Motion made by Commissioner Jolda and seconded by Commissioner Coleman. Passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- **School re-opening:** Chair Terrell reported that all Mill Valley K-8 grades have returned to in-person classes with 11% of students still utilizing EDL (Extended Distance Learning).
 - Tam District will not reconvene until Marin is in the red tier for COVID for at least two weeks.
 - A survey has found that 80% of families would like students to be in class.
 - There have been 6 school-site transmissions in the county.
 - Vaccinations will be available for educators next week.
- **Annual Report:** Chief Welch reported that a draft of the EPC Annual Report has been prepared and is almost ready to distribute to the Commission for feedback. Chair Terrell reviewed the Goals from the 2019-22 Strategic Plan:
 - Increase the number of households with an emergency plan.
 - Increase community mitigation efforts.
 - Increase the number of residents with formal preparedness training (CERT members).
 - Establish a NHN (Neighbor Helping Neighbor) program in Mill Valley.

The report will be presented to the City Council on Feb. 1st at 6:30 pm.

- **Make an Emergency Plan trifold:** Commissioner Papale reported that one final draft will be checked and then he is able to print copies for us to

distribute. A PDF will be available to post on the www.cityofmillvalley.org & www.nrgmillvalley.org websites.

- **COVID-19 Update:** Chair Terrell reported that Marin is in its 3rd surge with a renewed increase in essential workers, especially 19–34-year-olds.
 - Marin is now in the purple tier with just over 120 deaths, which does not include San Quentin data.
 - Longterm Health Facility sites account for 83% of the deaths.
 - There were 115 new cases identified just today.
 - 94941 zip code has 386 cases; 38% in the last month.
 - There are two vaccines available now with 4 more in various phases of development. We are still in the 1A phase with frontline healthcare workers and longterm care facilities as priority.
 - CA now has opened vaccine availability to 65 years of age and older but most sites not set up yet for additional recipients. Supervisor Rodoni has sent a letter to Gov. Newsom asking for more vaccines as Marin is one of the counties with oldest populations with 28% over 65.
 - Phase 1B will include essential workers and older workers; residents are asked to bring evidence of work status.
 - President-Elect Biden has released an “American Rescue” plan that includes \$1400 additional stimulus check; hiring additional 100,000 public health care workers to support & encourage vaccine delivery as well as conduct contact tracing.
 - Reportedly there are ~ 30 % of healthcare workers who are declining vaccinations.
 - Firefighters & EMS staff are now helping provide vaccinations in delivery sites and skilled nursing facilities.
 - Marin Medical Reserve Corp & Search & Rescue volunteers are also helping.
- **Social Media Presence for EPC:**

Chair Terrell reported that we have received authorization from City Administration to set up a Facebook page for the EPC, which can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/MillValleyEPC>. Since starting on December 14th, there have been 26 posts on various topics, including weather events, flooding, earthquake safety, and local services. There have been over 3500 interactions with over 300 followers/like responses. Chair Terrell would like to set up a twitter account for the EPC. Links to webinars are also possible and commissioners suggested topics, including COVID, Firesafe Marin, PG&E and getting back to basics, such as “How to Pack a Grab & Go Bag”.

New Business:

- **Evacuation Drill:** Chair Terrell reminded commissioners that at a previous meeting Acting Police Chief Lindsay Haynes discussed an evacuation option for Mill Valley. This option focused on temporary sites for residents to evacuate to. Such as Bayfront Park. Commissioners

expressed concern that some of the sites identified were not set up for a large number of cars and might create more chaos and confusion. The lack of available volunteers or city staff to monitor traffic was also a concern. Recommendations from the EPC included locating well known areas to accommodate larger number of cars, such as the Community Center and to promote CRAs (Community Reuse Areas) more.

- The possibility of hosting neighborhood-based evacuation drills was discussed for a time when pandemic guidelines will be relaxed to allow for small community gatherings. Commissioner Coleman volunteered to work with Chair Terrell and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lang on a template for a drill.
- A recent drill for Upper Summit neighborhoods involved ~ 30 residents, required no expense and provided an opportunity for Chief Welch to discuss basic evacuation principles.
- **Video Development:** In the absence of in-person events, EPC members have discussed the option of utilizing a series of videos to communicate preparedness ideas. Chair Terrell has been in contact with videographer Ken Campbell about creating videos on topics such as “Know Your CRA”, “Preparing Your Family”, with a child packing a Grab & Go Bag, and “Include Your Pet in Your Emergency Plan”. Vice Chair Perrey made motion to proceed with the video project, Commissioner Jolda seconded; the proposal passed unanimously.
- **EPC 2021 Activities:** Since we are all still constrained by COVID restrictions, the commissioners discussed what options there are to convey preparedness information to Mill Valley residents. The previously discussed videos are an excellent option, as well as supporting the NRG program (Neighborhood Response Group). Creating blogs for Facebook and possibly Twitter with a “Monthly Tip from the EPC” was suggested. --
 - Chair Terrell and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lang also recounted an organizational format brought up at the recent VOAD meeting (Volunteers Active in Disaster). This format divided the year into quarters, reflecting the phases of Emergency Management: Preparedness, Mitigation/Prevention, Response and Recovery. A task force was suggested to look further into this with the Preparedness topic covered first, possibly with “Communications in a Disaster” as a first topic. Chair Terrell, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lang and Commissioner Coleman will report back at the next meeting.

City Staff Reports:

- **Chief Tom Welch** reported that Commissioner Marshall will end his tenure on the Commission after February. There are two applicants for that position that will be interviewed next week. It appeared from the city website that the application period is still open.

- The consolidation process for Mill Valley Fire Department and Southern Marin Fire Protection District continues with workshops and meetings to discuss requirements for the two agencies to combine.
- **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lang:** due to the late hour, this report was condensed.
 - Work continues on developing the NRGs in Mill Valley with West Blithedale neighborhoods being the next area to approach.
 - Following the lead of the fire departments the CERT program has also consolidated with the steering committee now known as Southern Marin CERT Steering Committee. There are no in-person basic CERT trainings going on now with continued interest in the Hybrid course, part online and a shorter in-person for skills practice. That program out of University of Utah has now been adopted by California and will be offered through CSTI (CA Specialized Training Institute).
 - The Southern Marin Disaster Council's next meeting is Jan. 21 at 4:00 pm with key speaker addressing vaccination distribution. All commissioners are invited to attend. The EPC agreed to host the March meeting and will develop an agenda.
- **Commissioner Reports:**
Vice Chair Perrey has been appointed to the Citizens Review Board for the MWPA (Municipal Wildfire Protection Authority).

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next meeting February 11th at 6:30 PM