

**CITY OF MILL VALLEY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2021**

Commissioners present: Chair Michelle Terrell, Vice Chair Max Perrey, Commissioners Christie Coleman, Brian Jolda, Richard Marshall, Zach Papale and Ashley Raveche. Staff attending: Southern Marin Fire Deputy Chief Tom Welch, Fire Chief Chris Tubbs, Linn Walsh, Police Chief Rick Navarro, City Council Liaison Tricia Ossa and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Maggie Lang. Our newest Commissioner Victoria Lim was introduced and welcomed.

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm by Chair Terrell. **Public Open Time:** None as no public was present.

Approval of minutes from February 11, 2021, 2020: Motion to approve was made by Vice Chair Perrey and seconded by Commissioner Papale. Passed with one abstention from Commissioner Lim, who was not present at the meeting.

Old Business:

- **COVID-19 Update:** We are now one year into the COVID pandemic with vaccinations increasing but still limited to dosage supply. President Biden wants vaccinations opened to all adults over 16 by May 1. Over 27% of Marin residents have been vaccinated with at least one dose: 13% fully vaccinated with 82% over 75 with at least one vaccine.
 - Vaccine studies for those under 16 have begun. For those in the 12-15 age cohort, vaccines may be available as soon as late summer.
 - Marin is expecting over 1000 doses of J&J vaccine in the next 3 weeks; these largely will be provided for at-risk residents via mobile units.
 - An important message is that “the best vaccine is the one that you can get!”
 - All 3 available vaccines are nearly 100% effective in preventing hospitalizations and death.
 - In 94941, we have had 523 cases in the last year with 27 in the last month.
 - Expect to remain in the red zone, although could advance to the orange tier as early as the next few weeks.
 - Fully vaccinated people will not need to quarantine or be tested for COVID-19 if they’re exposed, unless they’re showing symptoms.
 - Have given a plug for CERTs to help in vaccine delivery.

- **Schools Re-Opening:**
 - 97% of Marin schools are now open in some fashion; K-5 on a hybrid schedule; 10% are still learning from home; K-8 schools expect a full return by mid-April.
 - Tam High started March 1 with 3 cohorts.

- There have been 198 students and 48 staff members who have tested positive for the coronavirus with 11 known school-based transmissions. All schools have experienced COVID cases. Most of the cases have been student to student or adult to student.
- Recently, a MV Middle School student committed suicide. The MV School District has held several meetings with parents about mental health issues.
- **Video Development:** scripts will be developed for several videos for evacuation preparation/education; working with Ken Campbell, community videographer. Filming for the first video (Chief Navarro explaining the evacuation process) is expected to be completed by late April.
- **Community Evacuation Planning:** see sub-committee report.

New Business:

- **Sub-Committee Reports:**
 - **Finance:** Commissioner Papale reported there are templates available to use for keeping track of EPC finances and the sub-committee will look into which program to recommend.
 - **Communications:** Chair Terrell reported that 16 Facebook postings and 24 tweets have been created since the last EPC meeting. To take advantage of these messaging tools, she is committed to making at least 12 Facebook posts and 12 tweets every month. Nearly 4,000 people (mostly in the Southern Marin area) have been reached with Facebook messages and over 5,700 with Twitter messages. MV EPC social media posts include COVID19 safety and vaccine information, earthquake safety, lightning and rainy weather safety, beach and cliff safety, preparing for fire season as well as retweeting posts made by SMFD and other local partners.
 - **NRG/CERT:** Chair Terrell reported that Southern Marin Fire Department has approved an NRG Coordinator position for Southern Marin; the position description is being worked on with the goal of a start date in early-mid July. The CERT Hybrid course likely will begin this Spring with students taking a 10–12 hour online course, followed by a one day in-person Skills Day on May 15. Chair Terrell will be working with the Tam EPC for ways to support current Tam teen CERTs (27 teens trained in 2019) and to recruit more youth for Southern Marin CERT. The NRG Time Change Drill is March 14th at 10:00 am.
 - **Equity:** the sub-committee plans to reach out to Marin City leaders to coordinate CERT training opportunities there.
 - **Southern Marin Disaster Council:** Chair Terrell reported that the EPC is hosting the next Southern Marin Disaster Council meeting, which is March 18. Mark Brown, Executive Officer for the Marin Wildfire

Protection Authority (MWPA), will be the guest speaker and will talk about the new Zone Haven program.

- **Evacuation Drills:** Commissioner Jolda reported that this sub-committee has been looking at the possibility of hosting small evacuation drills, possibly only including several neighborhoods. Residents would walk down to a nearby “Community Refuge Area”, where fire department personnel would provide short presentations on fire season and evacuation guidelines. All COVID restrictions would be observed and no community partners would be included.

Staff Reports:

- **Fire Department Report:** Deputy Chief Welch reported that we are in a moderate drought, which may lead to a significant fire season. Chief Tubbs discussed the new Zone Haven program, supported by MWPA funding, which should be available by May and will be utilized to help determine the best evacuation routes in an evacuation. A countywide evacuation plan will be created over the next year, as Requests for Proposals will go out in April. The process will take 6-9 months.
- **Police Department Report:** Chief Navarro reported that a possible move for our local Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to Liberty Ship Administrative Offices in Sausalito is being considered. The Liberty Ship facility is a great improvement over the current location. Lots of discussion still has to happen before a decision is made.
 - A new study has just come out on “Simulation pipeline for traffic evacuation in urban areas and emergency traffic management policy improvements through case studies,” looking at Google algorithms for evacuation for cars. Councilmember McCauley has been an advocate for the study, which can be accessed at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590198220301214>.
- **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lang:**
 - **Neighborhood Response Groups (NRGs):** The next Time Change Drill is this Sunday, March 14th, at 10:00 (day after time chg.) Residents will post their OK/HELP signs and Block Captains will walk their blocks, check on signs and report their findings by radio. Four NRG Command Posts will be set up.
 - Plans are underway to hire a South Marin NRG Coordinator.
 - We started Block Captain Orientations again last month with the next orientation on March 25th at 5:00 pm. These will continue monthly as we bring in new Block Captains.
 - We will start again with Continuing Education for Block Captains with topics offered every other month.
 - Nrgmillvalley.org continues to receive positive feedback and we encourage everyone to check it out.
 - We are starting to work now in Blithedale Canyon with the first Block Captain (BC) team signed up two days ago. If you know

residents in Blithedale Canyon that might be interested in being BCs, please let me know.

- Local Steering Committee meetings are ongoing & the next NRG Advisory Council meeting is Wednesday, March 31st at 5:00 pm.
 - Fundraising at the end of 2020 provided ~\$1500, which will be used for BC supplies, unless otherwise designated.
-
- **Get Ready:** Our current version of the Get Ready effort is our “Living Room Chats,” which started last month in Cascade Canyon & Summit with 30 attendees. These are scheduled monthly, focusing on a different part of Mill Valley 94941. The fire department’s focus has been on winter storms/power outages and will shift in the spring to fire season and evacuation guidelines.
 - We met with Rich Shortall & Meg McCade at Firesafe Marin as they have created a **Get Ready 5th Grade** in collaboration with MCOE, just focused on Fire. They have developed a digital format that can be used with in-person teaching or for students to do at home. It’s well done and they are ok with us recommending additions to make it All-Hazard. Commissioners Terrell, Coleman and Lim volunteered to help with formulating any new text.
 - **Southern Marin CERT:** We still have CERTs helping with weekly food distribution, which will now be at the MV Community Center, as well as continuing calls to seniors. We also have 15 CERTs making calls at the state level to Seniors for check-in and providing emergency preparedness information (with masking and social distancing).
 - A Hybrid Task Force is working on guidelines for the course, which is 10-12 hours of online training through CSTI (California Specialized Training Institute) and will open on March 25th. A one-day Skills Training will be held under all COVID guidelines on May 15th.
 - MV CERT 94941 Steering Committee is now Southern Marin CERT Steering Committee; CERTs are able to keep their local identity (ex. MV CERT, Sausalito CERT) but planning & leadership will now include all CERTs in So. Marin with the exception of Tiburon/Belvedere.
 - The next Southern Marin CERT Steering Committee meeting is April 7 at 4:30 pm.
 - County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position: final touches on the position are being worked on now with financial support confirmed at the county level.

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