

**CITY OF MILL VALLEY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2021**

Commissioners present: Chair Michelle Terrell, Vice Chair Max Perrey, Commissioners Christie Coleman, Brian Jolda, Zachary Papale and Ashley Raveche. Staff attending: Southern Marin Fire Deputy Chief Tom Welch, Police Chief Rick Navarro, Police Lieutenant Lindsay Haynes and Preparedness Coordinator Maggie Lang.

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by Chair Terrell.

Public Open Time: Guests included Mayor John McCauley, Dave Evans, a former EPC member, and Leah Curtis, CERT member and Neighborhood Response Group Block Captain in Cascade Canyon.

Dave Evans addressed the Commission about the proposed development of 40 housing units across from Hauke Park, expressing concern about the safety of the project as it may impact evacuation routes for local neighborhoods.

Approval of minutes from May 13 were postponed until the July meeting due to two abstentions from commissioners who were not present at the meeting. A quorum was not available to pass the minutes. The April minutes will also be addressed in July.

Old Business:

- **COVID-19 Update-** Chair Terrell reported:
 - On June 15, the tiered-approach to COVID status was retired due to the state's excellent progress with vaccinations.
 - Fully vaccinated residents can now be out in public without masks and social distancing, although some businesses may choose to maintain stricter guidelines.
 - The national average for vaccinations is 45%; Marin's residents are now 48% fully vaccinated.
 - The larger centers are now closed with vaccinations being offered at smaller sites/ private practitioner offices and hospitals.
 - The county is now shifting the focus to fire season and potential PSPS outages.
- **Social Media-** Chair Terrell reported:
 - She has posted 43 tweets; the EPC Twitter feed is now followed by both police and fire departments.
 - Over 40 posts through Facebook have been posted with over 6000 views in Southern Marin.
- **Video Development-** Chair Terrell reported:

- The new evacuation video will be released in 4 chapters, one each week with eventual release of the entire 11 minute video.

New Business:

- **Large-scale Evacuation Drill:** Mayor McCauley presented an overview of a proposed evacuation drill that would possibly take place this summer. The exercise would be based on an algorithm created by Google, using public traffic data; potentially several hundred cars, driven by volunteer residents, would participate in an exercise to test a traffic evacuation plan, either along Blithedale and /or Miller Avenue, as well as Hamilton. Timing would be checked within a set time frame with the destination to be determined; possibly an identified Community Refuge Area (CRA), such as the Community Center parking lot or Bayfront Park. Commissioner Raveche asked if day laborers and the increased number of residents working from home have been considered. There is much planning that will need to occur and the Commissioners decided to convene the Evacuation Sub-Committee with Lt. Haynes and Chief Welch to create a working plan for consideration at the July meeting.
- **Community Outreach:**
 - The Mill Valley Police Department will again sponsor National Night Out on August 3. A discussion of holding an event in the Plaza, similar to one two years ago with Police, Fire and EPC and CERT members providing information re: Neighborhood Response Groups, CERT and fire safety to residents.
 - Preparedness Coordinator Lang discussed our on-going Living Room Chats, which have had mostly excellent participation from residents via zoom since June 2020. Retired Battalion Chief Michael St. John has offered the majority of the presentations, assisted by CERT and EPC members. It was acknowledged that being able to offer presentations in different venues, such as the Library and again in private homes will be a priority in the future.
- **Sub-Committee Reports:**
 - **Finance:** no report at this time. Chair Terrell suggested that EPC members consider ordering new Grab & Go Bags for distribution at upcoming events.
 - **Communication:** Commissioner Papale reported that the Make an Emergency Plan trifold is ready for distribution and forwarded a compressed copy to Chair Terrell and Chief Welch.
 - **NRG/CERT:** Chair Terrell reported that Tam High would like to request a CERT training for high school students in the fall. Chief Welch reported on the status of the NRG Coordinator for Southern Marin; a benefit package is being discussed to offer candidates and So. Marin Fire Department's new Human Resources Director is working on a flyer to post the position.
 - **Equity:** No report.

- **Southern Marin Disaster Council:** the last meeting was this afternoon with the Fire Department's EPC Board hosting. There was an update on fire season and Jim Wickham from PG&E reported on possible PSPS outages.
 - **Evacuation Drill:** reported earlier.
 - **Community Partnerships:** Chair Terrell reported that the Mill Valley public schools' EPC recently met and volunteers will be conducting inventories of supplies at each school. The annual emergency drill will be in October. Commissioner Raveche reported that the Good Neighbor brochure for short-term rental guests is being reviewed by the Southern Marin Fire Department staff.
 - **Website Review:** the sub-committee members met with Chief Welch and reviewed many links that were previously on the Southern Marin Fire Department or Mill Valley city websites to determine whether which can be eliminated or kept; this work will continue.
- **Staff Reports:**
 - **Chief Welch reported:**
 - This years' drought continues to worsen with the comment that "it is as bad as the 70's". We are 2 1/2 months ahead of a typical fire season with three small fires in Mill Valley in recent weeks: Marin City (?fireworks), on Escalon and a structure fire, possible due to oily rags igniting. Great response from local fire staff prevented these fires from escalating; community meetings with neighbors will be held in all 3 areas.
 - Six small evacuation drills will be held this month, two last week in Tam Valley & Sausalito and two this Saturday in Blithedale Canyon (parking lot by Mt. Carmel Church) and the Hillside area (Golf Clubhouse).
 - Zonehaven, funded by the MWPA, will be offering internal education for public safety staff with an external roll-out for residents anticipated at a later date.
 - Chief Navarro reported on Evacuation tags that will be given to residents to post in the event that they need to leave their homes due to a wildland fire. The tags will notify fire crews that the residents have evacuated. These signs are not to be confused with the OK/HELP signs that are posted for Block Captains following a shelter-in-place situation, such as following an earthquake.
 - **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator reported:**
 - NRG (Neighborhood Response Group) members will be involved in the Evacuation Drills this month, handing out information and talking with residents interested in the program. The NRG Advisory Council will next meet in late July.
 - CERTs will also be involved with the Evacuation Drills, as well as any Cooling Centers set up, such as today at the Community Center.
 - The County CERT Steering Committee will next meet on July 19 and the Southern Marin CERT Steering Committee will meet in July.

- There is a new class for Hybrid CERT working on the online curriculum through CSTI (CA Specialized Training Institute). The next in-person class will be on July 17 in Pt. Reyes.
- An update on the Readymarin website will start next week.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Raveche reported that the state budget has been approved and did not include funding at local levels for fire-fighting. She suggested a letter of support for this additional funding be sent to the state from the EPC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. Next meeting July 8th at 6:30 PM
