

**CITY OF MILL VALLEY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2021**

Commissioners present: Chair Michelle Terrell, Vice Chair Max Perrey, Commissioners Christie Coleman, Victoria Lim and Ashley Raveche. Staff attending: Southern Marin Fire Deputy Chief Tom Welch and Police Lieutenant Lindsay Haynes.

Absent: Commissioner Brian Jolda and Zachary Papale and Preparedness Coordinator Maggie Lang.

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Chair Terrell.

Approval of minutes from May, June and July meetings proposed by Commissioner Raveche and seconded by Vice Chair Perrey. Minutes approved as proposed with minor revisions.

Old Business:

- **COVID-19 Update- Chair Terrell reported:**
 - Marin has had 12,000 positive COVID-19 cases with 107 new cases in the last 2 weeks and 1 death in an older resident.
 - Marin's positivity rate for COVID testing was .5% and is now 1.3%, whereas the state's positivity rate is 6%.
 - Today we have 6 cases in the hospital with 3 in the ICU.
 - In the U.S. 47% residents are vaccinated; in CA 51% and in Marin 73%.
 - Concern continues to grow about Delta variant, especially among the unvaccinated.
 - It is expected that Pfizer will approve the vaccine for 5-11 year-olds in the fall.
- **Social Media- Chair Terrell reported:**
 - In the past 3 weeks, Chair Terrell has posted messaging on fire safety and fireworks safety and was pleased to see that Marin did not have any significant fireworks-related fires. Other counties did report serious consequences of fireworks. There have been over 9000 views with 10 posts on Facebook reporting several hundred views.
- **Video Development- Commissioner Raveche reported:**
 - At the Eagle Rock evacuation drill last month, one hearing -impaired resident who attended with her interpreter asked for closed captions on the new videos. Discussion which followed included identifying Marin County staff member Laney Davidson, who works with Access & Functional Needs (AFN) populations who may be an excellent resource to help with this request. Ken Campbell, the videographer developing the emergency preparedness videos will reach out to Ms. Davidson.

New Business:

- **National Night Out-** Lt. Haynes reported that NNO will be Tuesday, Aug. 3rd, 5-7 pm at the Depot Plaza. This is a national event, which promotes relationships between law enforcement and community members. Traditionally police officers attend neighborhood get-togethers but it was decided that one big ‘party’ downtown might reach more people and the 2019 event was very successful (no 2020 event). There will be booths, food, games and giveaways. Discussion then led to the possible giveaway of flashlights and Commissioner Raveche will explore options. Lt. Haynes is available for further information at lhaynes@cityodmillvalley.org. Commissioners Perrey and Raveche will staff the EPC table.
- **In-person Outreach-** Deputy Chief Welch will reach out to Elysha Omoomy at the fire department re any calendared events coming up that we might participate in. Commissioner Raveche mentioned the chipper days coming up around town.
- **Mini-evacuation drills-** Deputy Fire Chief Welch reported that last month there were 6 evacuation drills in Southern Marin; Supervisor Moulton-Peters attended all of them and Supervisor Rodoni attended the Homestead Drill. One- hour drills were held for Blithedale, Hillside, Homestead, Tam Valley, Eagle Rock and Sausalito residents, reaching ~ 500 residents. EPC, NRG Block Captains and CERTs helped to distribute educational information on fire safety and evacuation. He has received a lot of positive feedback and we will need to decide whether to continue with this type of event or go back to larger-scale drill as in the past.
- **Sub-Committee Reports:**
 - **Finance:** no report at this time. Deputy Fire Chief stated that the Commission has \$3000; Commissioner Raveche mentioned that the nrgmillvalley.org website, has had great work with a local graphic designer, Gilda Harger, who has been generous in her support of the NRG program. In appreciation, perhaps we could consider her for work that the EPC might do.
 - **Communication:** Vice Chair Perrey reported that his work with Redwood Community Health Coalition has focused on monthly podcasts with Chief Welch being the July guest. He will send on the July podcast when completed. Commissioner Papale will be working on a library display for September.
 - **NRG/CERT:** Chair Terrell reported that the next CERT Hybrid course is later this month in Pt Reyes with Commissioner Raveche as one of the students and Commissioner Jolda graduated at the May class. CERTs had a great presence at the evacuation drills. Vice Chair Perrey is working on

putting together a meeting for his Hillside neighborhood to become an NRG. The So. Marin NRG Coordinator position will be posted soon.

- **Equity:** Commissioner Raveche reported that Southern Marin Fire District has appointed McKenna to the county DEI Committee. Hopefully we will receive ideas about best practices on being equitable in our outreach. Marin City has been in the news about desegregation issues so make sure that equity is an important issue with outreach to schools.
 - **Southern Marin Disaster Council:** the last meeting was on June 17 with the next one being October 21 at 5 pm; need a leadership group for that meeting. One idea would be to discuss evacuation drills.
 - **Evacuation Drill:** Mayor McCauley came to the EPC last month with the idea of using google data on how long it would take for residents to travel along E. Blithedale to Middle School/Bayfront Park. There have been two planning meetings about how to conduct this event safely without upsetting residents or the public coming into town. Plan is to hold it on Saturday, September 25 at 9 am. Lt. Haynes reported the discussion has focused on moving cars off Blithedale to Bayfront Park where volunteers would hand out safety information with the goal of timing ~ 150 cars from one point on E. Blithedale to Bayfront - to open up space for residents from canyons to evacuate. Would use CERTs for traffic control and EPC members at the Middle School to hand out materials.
 - **Community Partnerships:** Chair Terrell will reach out to commissioners about the evacuation drill in Sept. The event will probably not impact the businesses and she will contact the Methodist Church & Middle School with information about the event.
 - **Website Review:** Chief Welch reviewed the last meeting of this sub-committee; topics included in the fire department website were discussed with decisions made to carry over to So. Marin Fire District website or to eliminate. The same now needs to happen with the city's EPC page and sub-committee members were encouraged to look over that material with comments sent to Chief Welch.
- **Staff Reports:**
 - **Chief Welch** reported:
 - This years' drought continues to look dire with wells going dry up in north. Predictions have even stated that if conditions persist, we could be without water by August of next year. Lots of contingency plans in progress. We've had more ignition starts but less acreage burned this year, although fire season could move ahead very quickly. Fortunately, haven't seen many lightning strikes so far. Predict that we'll be at Very High Fire Danger

through August into the fall. Concerned about fireworks in Marin City area. Commissioner Raveche suggested the drought as another topic for the So. Marin Disaster Council in October.

- MWPA passed a budget and have hired another staff member to help with budget items.
 - Two positions for So. Marin NRG Coordinator and County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator hopefully will be posted soon.
 - Commissioner Raveche commented that we should think of a way to honor our first responders and how much we miss events, such as the Pancake Breakfast. Perhaps it's a good time to think about how to re-engage our public safety staff and the community.
 - 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.
- **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator reported:** no report
 - **Commissioner Reports:** no reports

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm. Next meeting August 12th at 6:30 PM, will still be by zoom with return in person in September.
