

**CITY OF MILL VALLEY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2021**

Commissioners present: Vice Chair Max Perrey, Commissioners Christie Coleman, Victoria Lim, Brian Jolda and Ashley Raveche.

Staff attending: Deputy Chief Tom Welch and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Maggie Lang.

Absent: Commissioner Zachary Papale, Chair Michelle Terrell.

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

Public: Leah Curtis attended but did not comment during Public Open Time.

Approval of minutes from August meeting proposed by Commissioner Raveche and seconded by Commissioner Lim. Minutes approved as proposed.

Old Business:

- **COVID-19 Update-** Chair Terrell reported via written report:
 - In Marin County (as of 9/8), we have had a total of 14,266 COVID cases. That's over 1,000 new cases since our last meeting.
 - Four additional deaths were recorded last month as well, bringing the official count of COVID fatalities in Marin County to 190. The population being hit the hardest continues to be our younger adults, ages 19-34. Cases among children under the age of 18 have also increased substantially.
 - Currently, 11 people are hospitalized with COVID-19 in Marin County, with five individuals currently being treated in the ICU.
 - Vaccines are helping to keep the more severe cases at bay. 77% of the county's whole population is vaccinated; with almost 90 percent of those 12 and up being fully vaccinated.
 - There is additional good news, our test positivity rate which had tripled last month to 4.2% is now down to 2.3%.
 - A booster for the immunocompromised, a third shot of Pfizer, was approved by the FDA last month. Pfizer expects to submit data by the end of this month to apply for emergency use authorization for the vaccine for children ages 5-11. Moderna is aiming for youth vaccinations this late fall and early winter. Johnson & Johnson plans to start a trial in children as young as 12 this fall.
 - Also announced this week is that Moderna has produced a new COVID-Flu combo vaccine, which the company is calling mRNA-1073, that combines its current Covid vaccine with a flu shot.

- Today, President Biden announced a new federal COVID-19 plan. Some highlights:
 - > Vaccinations for all federal workers, federal contractors, and 17 million health care workers.
 - > Requiring all companies with 100 or more employees to either require vaccinations or test staff weekly. Those that don't risk cash fines.
 - > Requiring all companies with 100 or more employees to give paid time off to get the vaccinations.
 - > Requiring some federal education staff (head start programs, DOD schools, etc) to be vaccinated.
 - > The TSA is doubling fines for people who refuse to mask up on planes.
 - > Making at home tests more affordable and providing them to community health centers and food banks free of charge
 - > Expanding free testing through pharmacies
 - > Bigger push on monoclonal antibodies and therapy development
 - > More support for small businesses.
 - > Moving ahead with boosters ; the distribution plan for the "three shot series" will be announced September 20.
 - > The boosters are likely to be approved soon for those who have been fully vaccinated for 8 months. It is thought there won't be capacity issues like there was when the vaccines were first available this year ; there should be plenty of booster shots available.
- Southern Marin Disaster Council: Chief Welch reported that the next meeting will be Oct. 21st at 5:00 pm with Elizabeth Carter from Sausalito Disaster Council taking the lead and topics will be Drought (from Marin Water District) and Evacuation.
- In person meetings: According to Vice Chair Perrey and Chief Welch, we do not yet have an announcement re in-person meetings for Mill Valley's Commissions. Our meetings are recorded but not televised; the Commissioners would like to continue meeting by Zoom.

New Business:

- **Sub-Committee Reports:**
 - Finance: Chief Welch reported that the City is providing \$5000 for the Evacuation Drill on Sept. 25. The only expenses anticipated will be expansion to the social media sites used by the EPC for messaging to our residents (estimated costs ~ \$20-25/month).
 - Communication: September is Preparedness Month and Chair Terrelle via written report shared that her activity has included over 30 tweets, reaching ~9000 views (increase of 40%) and 16 posts by Facebook with 3000 views (increase of 50%). The Video projects on A child's version of Grab & Go Bag and Pets will be picked up again after the Drill.
 - NRG/CERT: Commissioner Raveche stated that NRGs have been sharing information & signage re: chipper days. More information in Preparedness Coordinator's Lang's report.

- **Equity:** Preparedness Coordinator Lang reported Sara Robinson, Marin County staff working with seniors, is working with Juanita Edwards, a community leader from Marin City re: identifying CERTs in Marin City who can help with reaching out to the more vulnerable members of this community.
- **Community Partnerships:** Chair Terrell participated in a 2-hour meeting about Disaster Preparedness with Marin VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) on 9/8. Local organizational leaders shared emergency preparedness information for individuals and communities.

Several businesses have reached out and asked about extra masks but we do not have any left. Should we consider another run as masks will clearly be part of our landscape for many more months to come? The Chamber has been a great partner in disseminating emergency information provided by the EPC.

Preparedness Coordinator Lang, with Chief Welch assisting with screen share, reported a movement for county websites to post certain navigation bars, directing residents to other sites for specific information, e.g. evacuation to Firesafe Marin, preparedness information to ReadyMarin, , receive emergency information to AlertMarin, etc. This can be seen on the home page for www.readymarin.org and www.nrgmarin.org.

- **Website Update:** Chief Welch shared that the new website for Southern Marin Fire and City of Mill Valley are almost completed and the two sites compliment each other in not repeating information. The EPC page on the City website still needs to be updated.

Staff Reports:

- **Chief Welch:** The drought has encouraged a focus on water, including desalinization efforts, conservation recommendations and outside water sources.

An update on MWPA (Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority) was provided by Chief Welch.

Southern Marin has two strike teams out with engines at the Caldor, Dixie and Monument Fires, including others. Fire personnel is working hard “at home” to cover local needs in Marin.

- **Preparedness Coordinator Lang: September is Preparedness Month** and Commissioners are encouraged to send on preparedness information to their associates and neighbors.
 - **Neighborhood Response Group (NRG) Coordinator posting** ended and interviews start next week. We are working on a Transition Plan, which will include meeting the EPC members.
 - **Block Captain Orientations** will start again 9/16 at 5:00 pm; will be monthly thereafter.

- **Living Room Chats** will start again on 9/30 with Chief Welch & will be monthly thereafter. Let Maggie know if you would like to focus on your neighborhood.
- **Radio drills** are being held in several NRGs: Cascade/Summit on 1st Sat. of the month, with the last one held last Saturday; Scott Valley/ Alto-Sutton and now Mill Valley Meadows have started having radio drills also on the first Saturday of the month. This allows block captains to practice correct guidelines for radio messaging.
- Working on **NRG/CERT Command Posts supplies**; Southern Marin CERT Steering Committee just provided \$1000 for supplies for two Command Posts in Cascade Canyon/Summit and Alto/Scott Valley.
- **CERT:** CERTs will be helping at the Evacuation Drill on 9/25 at traffic management and handing out materials at Mill Valley Middle School. In preparation, Traffic Management training was held on 8/21 with 16 CERTs and again this Saturday, September 11.
- **Southern Marin CERT will start monthly meetings** in October, which will include a one hour refresher/training with the following topics: working in a Cooling /Warming /PSPS Center; Red Cross Shelter training; Missing Person Training and Emergency Volunteer Center (EVC) training.

Marin County CERT Steering Committee meeting is next week; two Hybrid courses were held in the county in May & July, graduating 42 new CERTs, 11 in So. Marin. We are looking for a venue in Marin for a fall &/or winter class.

CERTs are working in Marin County Emergency Operations Center at the front desk 3 days/ week through October.

CERTs worked at Vaccine PODS for immunocompromised and discussion is underway to help with mobile clinics & pediatric cohort.

- **Commissioner Reports:** Chief Welch shared Response Analytics that are now available on the Southern Marin Fire Protection District's website: <https://www.smfd.org/our-district/response-analytics> that describes monthly incident reports and demographics.

Vice Chair Perrey noted that he has met the new City Council member, Stephen Burke, appointed to take Tricia Ossa's place on the Council. Stephen is interested in learning about the Community Refuge Areas (CRAs) and meeting the members of the EPC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Next meeting October 14th at 6:30 PM, via Zoom.

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