



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 24, 2022 3:00pm-5:00pm
Via Zoom Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian

Public Members: Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Danielle Madugo, David Spath

Staff: General Manager Bill Hansell

Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

This place on the agenda is reserved for comments and inquiries concerning matters that do not otherwise appear on the agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting of January 27, 2022 (Approve)

MOTION: Spath/Caronna to accept the minutes as corrected.

Motion adopted by consensus.

4. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lisa Caronna reported that there was a kickoff meeting for the paths with John Gioia. David Spath, Danielle Madugo, and Kevin Padian also attended the meeting.

Peter Guerrero reported that he and Bill Hansell attended the JPA Formation meeting. The next meeting is on March 4, 2022.

Kevin Padian noted that it was reported in the Marin newspaper that new insurance standards have been published including 5 feet of bare ground around structures. Kevin reported that from his personal experience he had his fire insurance on his house in Glen Ellen canceled, but that his fire insurance on his house in Kensington remains intact. Because the behavior of insurance companies is uncertain, the Fire District should be raising consciousness in the community about improving fire safety and house hardening, including vegetation removal.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Initiative to organize Kensington communities

Discussion about how to raise awareness about emergency preparation, evacuation (including drills), and caring for those who will need help; details of planned neighborhood meetings to be outlined and approved for further action.

Kevin started the discussion by reporting that Brad Harms is training a new recruit and that he will then be getting back into community organization sometime in March.

Johnny Valenzuela gave a presentation on the Block Parties that he will be organizing (slides are attached).

David Spath noted that there is a lot of material to cover and suggested that the content be pared down to essentials like Red Flag days, evacuation, and parking.

This led to a discussion on how to prioritize the topics to be covered and what information to pass out at the community events. Johnny has assembled a lot of publicity materials and items that can be distributed to residents to get out the "brand" of the Fire District and raise consciousness. Having the District website address and a QR code on items will make it easier for residents to access information, so that not all of it has to be passed out in solid form or discussed in these neighborhood meetings.

Peter Liddell noted that this information gets old and having it on the website is a big advantage because it can be updated.

Danielle asked if there will be any attempt to recruit block captains for areas that do not yet have block captains.

Larry Nagel stated that the Block Party presentation needs to leave time for questions. Also, the Block Party organization should take advantage of the present CERT organization.

Peter Guerrero agreed with the idea of exploiting the CERT organization. He also agreed that Block Parties can contain many different aspects like music, pancake breakfasts, and so forth.

b. Next steps in researching Outdoor Emergency Public Address Systems

To be considered: (1) Deployment and utility of EPAs locally and regionally; (2) Questions that residents may have; (3) Technical questions for public officials; (4) Development of educational materials and a survey for residents to assess community support; (5) Potential vendors, costs, and funding subsidies (Potential

Action)

Kevin noted that radios do not appear to be appropriate for emergency warning, as we discussed last time, based on advice from outside experts; so we need to pursue emergency public address (EPA) systems.

Katie noted that the systems at Laguna Beach worked very well in the most recent wildfire. Katie asked if we could have Joe Grupalo talk to us about how Zonehaven and EPA systems would be integrated. Katie noted that EPA systems can be used for both fire and other emergencies.

Larry Nagel stated that he thought a subcommittee had been formed to study these issues. Kevin stated that the subcommittee consisted of Katie Gluck, David Spath, and himself, but that he felt it was necessary to review these issues with the entire Emergency Preparedness Committee. David and Kevin have discussed logistic questions that need to be answered, and Katie has been consulting public safety officials about their experience with EPAs.

Danielle Madugo noted that Joe Grupalo has an excellent handle on these issues since he is a former battalion chief and is now working for Zonehaven. She suggested a talk from Joe would help move this issue along.

Lisa Caronna suggested that we need to find some answers before we conduct a survey of residents.

Kevin noted that the draft survey he prepared was for discussion purposes with the committee so that it could be fine-tuned for distribution to the public. A good survey should provide background information so that residents are educated about the facts before they are simply asked to offer opinions. He distinguished between two types of questions about EPAs. One set comprises questions that members of the public are likely to have (functions, number, placement, costs, testing, etc.) and the other is more specialized, for EPC members and public safety officials (how will the devices be activated, controlled, monitored, etc.).

Paul Moss noted that no survey should go out until we have the answers to the second set of questions. Paul Moss suggested that we send these questions to Joe Grupalo and have a solid hour discussion with Joe.

Katie noted that she also thought that we should have Joe Grupalo answer our questions. Katie stressed that we need to get moving on EPA systems.

Kevin noted that the Fire Board has to approve installing EPA systems and they will not do that if the public isn't in favor of this. So it's important to inform the public about these systems and then ask for feedback before assessing whether to bring a proposal to the Board

Peter Guerrero noted that we have the obligation to get answers to the second set of questions before proceeding further.

Dave stated he has to agree with Peter Guerrero. He noted that we have to get the

answers to the questions and take it to the Board and they can determine whether to have a survey. Kevin noted that the function of the EPC is to do research on public safety issues that, once gathered and digested, can be brought to the Board. The EPC is delegated to do this work, and the GM is responsible for any RFPs, contracts, and legal arrangements that may be involved.

Bill Hansell noted that we need a vendor to make a specific proposal so that we can pursue funding options before taking this to the community. We discussed the fact that Berkeley was able to “piggyback” on Laguna Beach’s offer to Genasys Systems, because LB had previously circulated an RFP involving several companies and Genasys was awarded the contract for reasons similar to what we might expect would work in Kensington (e.g., similar system to Berkeley, whose topography and problems are much like ours).

Lisa Caronna stated that we can’t get moving on EPA systems without the approval and encouragement of the Board. The EPC can only make recommendations.

Bill noted that if we are to pursue a grant we need very thorough and very specific information on the system with engineering details, implementation plans, and cost estimates. We already have gathered much of this information, but estimates would have to be updated.

Paul proposed that we have someone like Joe Grupalo out to talk to us and answer our questions.

Kevin summarized that we will try to have Joe Grupalo speak at our next meeting or have a special meeting to address the questions we have been working on. Kevin will schedule a Special Meeting of the EPC for March 17, 2022 beginning at 1 PM to discuss this matter with Joe Grupalo.
--

c. Call for Special Meeting with the KFPD Board and the EPC

To consider a formal request to the KFPD Board of Directors to schedule a Special Meeting of the KFPD Board and the EPC to review past accomplishments and consider EPC directions going forward (Potential Action)

This item was tabled

7. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR’S REPORT

There was no further report

8. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on April 28, 2022 at 3:00pm via Zoom Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM by Chair Kevin Padian.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on March 17, 2022.

Attest:



Emergency Preparedness Committee Member