



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
Thursday, May 27, 2021 3:00pm-5:00pm  
Via Zoom Teleconference

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian

Staff: Bill Hansell

Committee Members: Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, David Spath

Public: Chris Hilliard, Lin Due, Lorika G.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of April 22, 2021 (Approve)

<b>MOTION:</b> Nagel/Madugo: To adopt consent items.
<b>VOTE:</b> Unanimous
Motion passed.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Continued Items from Previous Meeting**

- i. Update on search for RFPs: EP Coordinator and Grant Proposal Writer (Bill)

-Bill Hansell reported that the RFPs have been extended. The search for an EP Coordinator yielded 69 applications but only three submitted proposals.

For the grant writer 46 individuals applied but only one submitted a proposal.

-Katie suggested that the grant writer should ensure that the local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) is up to date. Katie noted that Michael Bond wrote some grants and might be willing to help.

-Larry Nagel noted that Dave Gibson also wrote several successful grants for Truck 71 and the Hillside Recreation Area. Maybe he could be asked to help?

- ii. Refrigerator magnets project (update)

-Kevin sent around a proposal from MailStream for 3,000 magnets and stickers.

Kevin also researched the USPS to find information on mailing these magnets and stickers.

- iii. Emergency Radio Program (update)

- Kevin suggested that we should at least put a listing of emergency radios on our website with a discussion of what the radios can and cannot do. That would bring forward comments from people who might not be able to afford a radio.
- Katie noted that she is happy to hear that we are still working on the radios and that we should focus our emergency preparedness on the people who need help the most. The Police are aware of people who need frequent assistance, and they will help if we have a program.
- Danielle noted that we could compile a list of people by area groups on Nextdoor if we ask the people on these groups.

iv. Progress on next edition of the Fireplug

- Bill Hansell reported that he has background files for the Fireplug and Sasha will be working on the Fireplug. There should be a draft available by the June Board meeting.
- Katie asked if the information on the magnets will be in the Fireplug as well. We'll hold off on announcing them until we're ready to mail.
- Larry Nagel suggested that we include the articles that Paul Moss has written for the Outlook.
- Danielle Madugo suggested that the CERT areas could be listed in the *Fireplug*.

**b. Priorities for informing the public about Emergency Preparedness**

- Kevin noted that we have a document on priorities on Emergency Preparedness. Assuming that we can hire a Coordinator, we then have a list of priorities for him or her.
- Chris Hilliard asked if the document was current.
- Bill Hansell agreed to post the most current list of priorities.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discussion of plan of research into Emergency Warning Systems**

i. What should residents expect from an EWS?

- Kevin noted that we have had one presentation from Mill Valley, and their only regret was that they did not opt for the solar powered backup. Kevin noted that if we lose power for several days, many of our systems (cellphones, laptops, cordless land lines) will not work. The present systems can put out voice announcements as well as audible alarms over 72 hours of active service (and can be replenished by solar in between uses).
- Danielle noted that one of the presentations noted that the systems can be integrated with the earthquake early warning systems.
- Katie noted that with an earthquake the power will be out, so cellphones and laptops may not work for very long (also true for major fire and long PSPS).
- Peter Guerrero asked if this item was informational or whether it required a decision.
- Kevin replied it was a discussion.
- Peter noted that he attended the Berkeley Wildfire Program and noted that with Zonehaven every jurisdiction is using the same vendor. His thought is that the same thing should be true of sirens. Peter suggested that we should talk to

Berkeley on how they chose a siren system.

-Katie has been in touch with Berkeley, and they chose Genasys because another southern California town chose Genasys. The final location and number of sirens has not been finalized.

-Dave Spath noted that it is not clear how the devices will be used in concert with evacuation warning systems. Also, this system would not be terribly useful in an earthquake.

-Peter Guerrero stated that when we started this discussion, he was in favor of an EWS in Kensington. However, he has become concerned with an EWS that may or may not be issuing information that contradicts the Zonehaven alerts. Peter noted that an EWS makes more sense in Berkeley than it does in Kensington, where we are concerned only with wildfires and earthquakes.

-Danielle noted that an EWS would be useful in an earthquake because there could be fires and landslides. Also, evacuation may be necessary for an earthquake.

-Paul Moss noted that we need to check with neighboring communities about their plans and that we need to plan a public education program.

-Chris Hilliard noted that we were in communication with Zonehaven about evacuation. We need to be educating people to know several routes out of town and to plan for an evacuation. Chris noted that Zonehaven has fire modeling in place and the fire model would affect the evacuation routes. Chris also noticed that for high-risk people, an evacuation warning should be considered an evacuation order.

-Dave Spath stated that he thinks we need to educate the public on what it means to evacuate.

-Paul Moss noted that in the Lafayette evacuation plan that each resident is responsible for knowing a way out of town for their zone.

- ii. How can first responders expect to use an EWS?
- iii. How will an EWS be controlled?
- iv. How will residents be educated about responding to EWS signals?
- v. Are there potential problems or inefficiencies with these systems?
- vi. What would they cost and how could they be financed?
- vii. Workplan and assignments for further research

**b. Can a comprehensive regional plan be developed for EBRPD fuel reduction?**

Discussion of prior report sent to EBRPD and presented during public comment two years ago by President Larry Nagel and Cortis Cooper.

-Kevin stated that we need to try to come up with ideas to get EBRPD to accelerate the fuel reduction process in the park district.

-Larry noted that he would like to update and resubmit the letter he and Cortis Cooper wrote to the EBRPD about a year ago. This letter would be cleared by the KFPD Board, sent to the Directors of the EBRPD, and presented at the next EBRPD board meeting.

-Kevin asked if we should approach Chief Theile of EBRPD and ask her what Kensington can do about this that would be most useful to her in getting more resources. Perhaps a coalition of WUI communities could achieve more success.

-Peter stated that he thinks the most productive approach would be to approach our state legislators and urge them to make money available to the EBRPD for fuel reduction.

-David Spath asked where the EBRPD budget money comes from and how they can

use it. Dave noted that we should partner with the EBRPD to look for grants for fuel reduction.

-Peter Guerrero showed a screenshot of EBRPD budget and discussed the budget.

-Paul Moss stated that contacting state legislators is a good idea.

-Larry Nagel stated that he will contact Aileen Theile and discuss what steps we can take to help her accelerate the fuel reduction in EBRPD.

**c. Discussion of May 19, 2021 Berkeley Fire Safety Meeting**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aa6a48jzdqa88r5/AACKa4\\_f8fXU6p3uletqvVAua?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aa6a48jzdqa88r5/AACKa4_f8fXU6p3uletqvVAua?dl=0)

This discussion was postponed until the June 22, 2021 EPC meeting.

**d. Reports from Committee Members**

-Danielle gave an update on the school evacuation plan. The principal is retiring at the end of the school year, so the evacuation plan is on hold temporarily. Kevin suggested that, to the contrary, the plans should go full speed ahead. Fire season is coming, the students will be back in school, and we don't know how long it will take to find a permanent replacement for the principal.

**6. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on June 22, 2021 at 3:00 PM via Zoom Teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM by Kevin Padian.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on June 24, 2021.

Attest:

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Emergency Preparedness Committee Member