



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 16, 2022 1:00pm-3:00pm
Via Zoom Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Directors: Vice President Kevin Padian, Chair

Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, David Spath

Staff: General Manager Bill Hansell

Consultant: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes of the regular meeting of May 26, 2022

The minutes were approved with the revision of a comment by Paul Moss. The minutes approved by consensus.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Report on FireWise Communities research and communications

Paul Moss spoke with Dennis Rein at the Orinda/Moraga FD, who confirmed that their FireWise communities were built one neighborhood at a time. This would appear to counter the model of trying to organize one entire FireWise community for Kensington, but at the same time public education about this program should be pursued broadly. Dave Spath noted that the same pattern is found in Marin County communities.

There ensued a discussion about the Cerritos Canyon project, as an example. GM Hansell reported that the Hills Emergency Forum would like to help but they need the neighborhood to get FireWise status first. Assistant Chief Pinto (Berkeley FD) wants to coordinate on the project, as does Cheryl Miller (DFSC). Our B/C Chase Beckman is the contact person on the project. GM Hansell said that CalFire has not so far seemed to grant FireWise community proposals.

Paul Moss said that the north Lake Drive neighborhood, which has a block captain, could be a model for a FireWise community in Kensington. Orinda/Moraga started out with very few and they were all locally organized.

a. Report on Board Action concerning proposed letter on Measure X Funding and PG&E undergrounding

This motion from our last EPC meeting was transmitted for Board action but the Board did not reach that item in its meeting; it is continued to the Special Meeting on July 29. In the meantime GM Hansell contacted Chief Castrejon to ask how he thought it best to handle the questions, and the Chief is still looking into it.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion of the effects of the funding plans for the PSB on Emergency Preparedness Activities

GM Hansell summarized and updated his report on current District finances from the last Board meeting. In summary, the finances for the PSB renovation have been constricted as interest rates and construction costs have climbed. We are now in the 48-49% range of the 50% maximum allowed by the Alquist-Priolo Act for renovating the PSB. We have no wiggle room, and so we have to cut, at least provisionally, some planned projects including reducing funds for the Emergency Coordinator position, the planned Hazardous Vegetation Removal project, and the possibility of acquiring outdoor Emergency Warning devices. We have been advised by our attorney that we would not be able to piggyback on Berkeley's piggybacking of Laguna Beach's RFP for devices from Genasys, because the lapse of time has been too great and there may be issues about installation apart from acquisition of the devices (reasons not clear).

6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT

EPC Johnny Valenzuela has been posting on NextDoor announcements about planning block parties on National Night Out, August 2, with information about how to apply to organize a session. He has also posted notices about the Emergency Supply Sale (August 2 deadline), Illegal Fireworks and how to report them, our new Wildfire Preparation Workbook, and reports on our recent Block Parties. Thanks go to Johnny and also to Paul Moss and Dave Spath, stalwart EPC volunteers.

Lisa Caronna noted how difficult it is to get FD messages on NextDoor, echoed by others. Groups are harder to find and public service messages, if they reach readers at all, quickly fall below ads, agony posts, and cute animal photos. Johnny said that we have FaceBook and Instagram accounts but they can't be broadcast to restricted communities such as Kensington.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Guerrero reported that the JPA formed a sub-committee that advised the JPA to approach the HEF to ask about concerted approaches, but they were not interested. He and GM Hansell discussed the situation: the HEF is largely composed of Chiefs and administrators who don't really want another level of bureaucracy. The JPA may be more activist, especially locally, but the HEF entities also coordinate efforts and write joint grant proposals. Dave Spath called attention to Orinda-Moraga, which managed to bring in considerable money working with EBMUD and EBRPD on firebreaks and other mitigations: forming collaborations can make light work for many hands. On the other hand, each entity has to pull its weight and not overreach, and larger entities can swamp smaller ones. Once again Kensington is in the situation of being a small entity, with all that entails.

Danielle Madugo reported that Hilltop School will now adopt a “single entry” policy (following the Uvalde TX disaster), and that evacuation drill plans were still in play but currently in a holding pattern. GM Hansell noted that he has received considerable feedback that Kensington residents would like their neighborhoods to have evacuation drills as well.

Paul Moss reported that the goats are back in Tilden! And especially at the open areas on Los Altos Drive overlooking the park that appeared particularly susceptible to fire damage. He also said that in his Lake Drive neighborhood they have implemented a “phone tree” system to relay emergency operations to 61 phones.

8. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned Adjourned at 4:48 pm by Vice President Padian.

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on July 28, 2022 at 3:00pm via Zoom Conference, unless noticed otherwise per the Brown Act.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Kevin Padian

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on July 28, 2022.

Attest:

Emergency Preparedness Committee Member