



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Thursday, May 25, 2023 3:00pm-5:00pm
Kensington Community Center-Meeting Room 3,
59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707 (and hybrid)

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Directors: Larry Nagel, Don Dommer

Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Danielle Madugo, David Spath

Staff: KFPD Interim General Manager Mary Morris-Mayorga

Consultant: KFPD EPC Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

Guest: EC/K FD Fire Prevention Officer Traviss Crumpacker

Co-chair Larry Nagel called the meeting to order and announced that he would have to leave the meeting at 4:30 PM, at which point Co-chair Don Dommer would take over the meeting.

Danielle Madugo announced that she was ill and wanted to attend the meeting remotely, as allowed by the Brown Act.

Peter Liddell announced that he would be attending the meeting as a member of the public

Roll call then could be taken by Co-chair Larry Nagel

A motion was made by Dave Spath and seconded by Lisa Caronna to approve allowing Danielle Madugo to attend the May 25, 2022 meeting remotely, as allowed by the Brown Act. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Katie Gluck noted that she attended the annual Berkeley wildfire preparedness meeting. At that meeting, Berkeley officials recommended pre-evacuation as an action plan if there are any doubts as to safety. Johnny Valenzuela noted that we are following Berkeley in their recommendation to pre-evacuate if there is any question as to personal safety.

3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS

None

Lisa Caronna recommended that we go to action minutes to clear the logjam on EPC meeting minutes.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Update by EC/K Fire Prevention Officer Traviss Crumpacker

Traviss appreciated the opportunity to meet with the EPC. He has been a firefighter for 19 years and a captain for five years and just was appointed Fire Prevention Officer.

Traviss first reported on CERT. The CERT held a sale of water barrels and fire extinguishers and it was very successful. The Kensington/El Cerrito CERT program will be modeled after the Lamorinda CERT program where citizen volunteers handle most of the organization work, leaving fire staff to deal with instruction. Chris Hilliard is organizing the CERT program for EC/K FD.

Katie Gluck asked about the possibility of having a boot camp that required less time and might attract more volunteers. Traviss said that he would speak with Chief Jose Castrejon about this possibility. Johnny Valenzuela noted that a boot camp would be a great recruitment tool.

Traviss then reported on Fire Prevention. He has driven every street in Kensington and the high-hazard areas in El Cerrito. The citations have been mailed out and there are no more than a few dozen violations. Traviss noted that most departments have a third of the department working on fire prevention, and yet EC/K FD has only one sworn officer.

Traviss spoke about the new Zone 0, which mandates that there can be no flammable material within five feet of a structure. At this point, Zone 0 is a recommendation but violations are not being cited.

b. Develop a Plan to Create a Proposal for Board Approval to Move Forward on Procurement of and Emergency Warning System (LRAD) (Katie Gluck, Danielle Madugo, David Spath) (Supporting material)

Larry Nagel stated that the EPC needs to give a presentation to the KFPD Board along with a recommendation of a plan of how to proceed in the future. Larry expressed some frustration that we are moving very slowly on this issue. Larry asked if we can be ready with a presentation by the June or July KFPD Board meeting.

Dave Spath noted that Paradise just installed a system with 21 LRAD devices and will be testing it soon. The cost was about \$150,000 per pole including installation for a total of about \$3,000,000. Dave said that he sent around

information on the specifications for the system. Dave thinks this is a good start for the presentation.

Katie Haun is the vendor for CWS and works with American Blackberry Ad Hoc. They work with American Signal to provide sirens. CWS is using SolarSim for their warning system of sirens. She would like to submit a bid for installing and maintaining a siren system for Kensington. Katie Haun stated that sirens may be preferable because of the topography of Kensington.

Dave Spath suggested that we go before the board to request resources to produce an RFP and to use the Paradise paradigm seeking a FEMA grant to have a consultant produce the RFP. Dave thinks that a FEMA grant is quite possible. Paradise obtained two grants, one for the design of the system and one for the procurement and installation of the system. FEMA pays up to 75% of the cost of the system.

The committee discussed that idea that the LRAD system would be used not only for wildfires but also for earthquakes, landslides, windstorms, and other severe weather. Lisa Caronna suggested that we use FEMA to assist us in defining the system function and describing what the system can do.

Dave noted that to obtain a FEMA grant we have to have a current Hazard Mitigation Plan on file with FEMA. That last FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan was produced by the KFPD and the KPPCSD in 2016. Danielle Madugo added that FEMA requires that the Disaster Mitigation Plan use FEMA Risk Assessment software as part of the Mitigation Plan.

Dave stated that he thinks the subcommittee can have a rough draft of the presentation by the next EPC meeting in preparation for a KFPD Board presentation at the July KFPD Board meeting. Danielle Madugo agreed and volunteered to assist with the slides.

At this point, Larry Nagel had to leave the meeting and Co-chair Don Dommer took over leading the meeting.

c. Report by Subcommittees

The following subcommittees will report on the tasks for the subcommittee, and progress made on accomplishing these tasks (Supporting material)

Action: Discussion

- **Volunteer Recruitment Subcommittee** (Katie Gluck, Peter Liddell, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, Johnny Valenzuela)

Johnny Valenzuela reported that he sent a report to the subcommittee and then had a meeting with Chief Saylor to discuss the CERT recruitment

effort. Johnny has created a press release for Chief Saylor to use for CERT recruitment. This will allow developing a plan for reorganizing CERT to align CERT areas with Zonehaven zones.

- **Door Hangers Subcommittee** (Paul Moss, David Spath, Johnny Valenzuela)

Johnny Valenzuela reported that door hangers are in process and distribution should begin as early as June 15. Lisa Caronna asked if we could recruit some help from the various other K groups.

- **Evacuation Drill Subcommittee** (Lisa Caronna, Don Dommer, Paul Moss, Larry Nagel, Dave Spath)

No report

- **Subcommittee to Identify Community Wildfire Preparedness and Prevention Projects, particularly those that would be eligible for grant funding, possibly from Cal Fire.** (David Spath, Johnny Valenzuela)

Johnny Valenzuela reported that he is working hard on establishing Firewise communities. The first Firewise Community was established by Alan Siegel up on Kensington Court and they are having a launch party on June 4. All EPC members are encouraged to attend.

6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Johnny Valenzuela noted that the KPOA Community Meeting will be held on June 3 at 10 AM and he will be presenting on the basics of Emergency Preparedness, our survey, Red Flag notification, Firewise Communities, and CERT. The CERT recruitment campaign will start in July.

Johnny also reported that the shredding event was held at the Unitarian Church.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lisa Caronna reported on the need for vegetation management along evacuation routes. Lisa wrote to Fire Marshall Chase Beckman. Chief Beckman asked Lisa if anyone was interested in contacting residents to encourage residents to do fuel reduction work along evacuation routes.

Danielle Madugo noted that the County will assist in enforcement of fuel reduction.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on June 22, 2023 at 3:00pm in person (Committee members) at the Kensington Community Center with hybrid option for attendees (guest speakers, public), unless noticed otherwise per the Brown Act.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM by Co-chair Don Dommer.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on June 22, 2023.

Attest:



Emergency Preparedness Committee Member