



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, April 28, 2022 3:00pm-5:00pm  
Via Zoom Teleconference

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

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian

Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Liddell, Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, 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**

Items listed below are consent items, which are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. Reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent item designations to the various items have been received and considered. Copies of the reports are on file in the Fire Protection District Administrative Office at 217 Arlington Avenue and are available to the public. The disposition of the item is indicated. There will be no separate discussion of consent items. If discussion is requested for an item, that item will be removed from the list of consent items and considered separately on the agenda. (Supporting material)

**a. Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of March 17, 2022 (Approve)

**MOTION:** Spath/Moss to accept the minutes.

Motion adopted by consensus.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Modifications of “Hazardous Plant Removal” reboot proposal** (Approve; material attached)

Kevin introduced the proposal. Kevin stated that both General Manager Bill Hansell and Chief Pigoni both preferred to have the Fire Department do the grant selection process. Also, the proposal would be submitted ahead of time and then submit receipts for reimbursement.

Larry Nagel noted that this grant originally was intended to replace plantings that were removed with a Diablo Fire Safe Council grant, which was limited to fuel reduction.

Dave Spath recommended that the Fire Marshall simply judge the merits of the proposal and not attempt to evaluate the cost of the project.

General Manager Bill Hansell agreed to amend the proposal to make it easier from an administrative point of view.

**b. Report on KFPD Board Discussion of EPA Survey proposal (information)**

Kevin noted that we will be taking the survey to the Board for review and amendment if necessary. General Manager Bill Hansell will be coordinating changes and additions to the survey.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Easements for possible structures supporting outdoor EPAs (discussion; possible advising of staff; material attached)**

The committee reviewed the letter from Robert Rogers in John Gioia's office.

Danielle Madugo asked who owned the median on Arlington Avenue. Lisa Caronna said that the median is owned by the County. Dave Spath asked if the vendors will identify how many devices are needed and where they should be placed.

Bill Hansell noted that these questions are normally answered by vendors and he feels we should be engaging vendors to design a system and answer these systems.

Larry Nagel stated that he still was not convinced that people would be able to hear these devices in a high wind event and he wanted to hear from the vendors.

Katie Gluck stated that when she spoke with Mike Shanks he said that Genasys would come out and size the system. However, Genasys has not yet pursued this.

Bill Hansell noted that there are two ways to pursue this. First is to hire a consultant to develop a very specific RFP for our town and go out for bids. The second approach is to develop a more generic RFP and then have vendors design their individual systems. Bill feels that we should pursue the RFPs first and then go for a survey for the residents of Kensington.

The committee asked General Manager Bill Hansell to pursue a RFP for a LRAD warning system and bring it back to the May Board meeting.

**b. Needed replacement for Paul Moss on monthly Outlook "Safety Reminder" squibs (discussion, possible recommendation)**

Kevin noted that Paul Moss has asked to be relieved from the duty of writing blurbs for the Kensington Outlook. It was agreed that Johnny Valenzuela would take over this task and that committee members were encouraged to submit their ideas and drafts.

**c. Discussion of Evacuation Drill and lessons learned (Johnny Valenzuela)**

Johnny presented the data from survey that was taken by each participant in the drill. The results are attached to these minutes.

Lisa Caronna thanked all those who worked on the drill and brought it to fruition.

Dave Spath echoed Lisa's comments. One thing that disturbed Dave was that people have not programmed their phones to be sure that the call is not identified as spam. Dave also noted that some of the zone boundaries run down the middle of the street.

Johnny noted that the drill was complicated by the fact that only two zones were included.

**d. Recommendation to the Board to extend EPC Coordinator Position for one year at 100%, with COLA adjustment** (discussion; possible motion)

**MOTION:** Caronna/Spath to extend the contract for Johnny Valenzuela as EPC Coordinator.

Motion adopted by consensus.

**e. Report on webinar "2022 Preparing Your City for Wildfire"** (Larry Nagel; information)

Postponed until next meeting

**f. Updates from Peter Guerrero on (1) JPA discussions; (2) CA Insurance Commissioner's proposed regulation on underwriting wildfire risks** (material attached); **(3) Kensington as a FireWise community** (material attached) (discussion)

Peter reviewed FireWise and Cal Fire Defensible Space requirements. This comparison is attached to these minutes. Peter noted that there is some progress in establishing criteria for home hardening.

Peter noted that there are a lot of houses in Kensington that do not adhere to FireWise standards. Peter is recommending that we encourage the community to pursue FireWise designation.

Bill Hansell noted that he has been speaking with Berkeley Fire Department for a fuel mitigation project in Cerrito Canyon. We are actively pursuing FireWise designation for Cerrito Canyon. Berkeley now has a staff of 4 or 5 retirees that are working on fuel reduction.

Dave Spath asked whether all houses within a Very High Fire Zone Area fall under FireWise criteria.

Danielle Madugo likes the idea of having a template for residents. Block parties would be an excellent vehicle for pushing out information on FireWise.

Peter Guerrero noted that the FireWise website has numerous templates and information about setting up FireWise communities.

Peter Guerrero reported that there is no news to report on the JPA committee. Bill Hansell noted that the committee postponed their meeting in May so that the Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) could weigh in on JPA formation.

**6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Johnny Valenzuela reviewed the programs that are upcoming in the next few months. The slides are attached these minutes.

**7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None

**8. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS; request to move May and June EPC meetings one week earlier (action)**

It was decided to move the June EPC meeting to June 16 at 1 PM.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on May 26, 2022 at 3:00pm via Zoom Conference, unless noticed per the Brown Act as an in-person meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 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 May 26, 2022.

Attest:

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**Emergency Preparedness Committee Member**