



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, September 22, 2022 3:00pm-5:00pm
Via Zoom Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Directors: Larry Nagel

Public Members: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, 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.

Paul Moss asked whether Larry Nagel was able to contact Aileen Theile, Chief, EBRPD. Larry replied that he had not yet connected with Chief Theile.

Bill Hansell gave the report on the construction

- The modular will be arriving on Monday, and the carport will arrive the next Monday.

The moving will occur on October 10 and switchover will be on October 14.

- The KPD will be moving to their modular on San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito during the same timeframe.

- Work will begin on the new Station 65 on October 17, 2022.

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 Meeting of July 28, 2022 (Approve)

A motion was made by Dave Spath and seconded by Paul Moss to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2022 Meeting. Motion passed 5-0 with Lisa Caronna abstaining.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of August 25, 2022 (Approve)

A motion was made by Dave Spath and seconded by Paul Moss to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2022 Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Planned priorities for EPC during the coming year

This item was postponed from the August meeting so that more EPC members could participate. We need to review and prioritize the projects we've taken on or at least discussed this year. To quote EPC member Paul Moss, "I think it would be very helpful if we just concentrate on establishing and listing the priorities and assigning tasks/actions with timelines to designated committee members. Personally, I think one of the top priorities for the next 2 months should be emphasizing the importance of heightened evacuation readiness for Kensington residents."

1. Attending and organizing block parties and community events to raise awareness of the hazards of wildfires and earthquakes.
2. Evacuation route planning and evacuation drills and awareness
3. Preplanning parking on red flag days and during extreme fire weather events
4. Design and installation of an LRAD (Long Range Audio Device) to provide another form of communication in an emergency.
5. Pathkeepers
6. Grant writer

Paul Moss noted that committee members have to take responsibility for projects or the projects will never get done.

One example is the sirens. Katie worked on this for three years and then it suddenly died. We need people to stay on the project until a decision is made to install a LRAD system or not.

Bill Hansell noted that Chief Saylor is very interested in Emergency Preparedness and suggested that Chief Saylor should be involved earlier on. B/C Chase Beckman also has a lot of experience in Emergency Preparedness.

David Spath noted that there are items that require the attention of the Chiefs. One example is a grant writer.

Johnny noted that committee involvement in block parties is very important. Also on communicating on NextDoor and organizing Firesafe communities.

Paul Moss noted that he would like to work on the committee to raise involvement in evacuation preparedness. He gives high priority to item 2. Paul suggested door hangers to raise awareness of the need to evacuate.

Johnny noted that door hangers were extremely effective.

Danielle Madugo asked if it made sense to put evacuation routes on a door hanger.

Lisa Caronna noted that we should have an evacuation drill at least once a year.

Katie Gluck noted that we also have to work on pre-evacuation. Katie noted that we have to do something about the traffic light at Colusa and Fairmount.

Dave Spath noted that we need to concentrate on one simple message, and that is how to evacuate if the need arises. Dave said that we need to work on this now.

A motion was made by Dave Spath and seconded by Lisa Caronna to task a committee of Paul Moss, Dave Spath, and Danielle Madugo to work with Johnny Valenzuela to come up with a door hanger on evacuation and to report back at the next meeting. The motion passed 6-0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of the Status of an RFQ for an LRAD System

To quote EPC member Katie Gluck, "There have been times when we seem to be moving along well in the direction of having an EWS system in Kensington and being in stride with our neighbors who have left us in the dust on emergency preparedness, and then everything seems to shrivel up and EWS is treated as if it is a dirty word. To ignore the importance of having an up and operational EWS is to be in direct violation of the trust our citizens have bestowed upon us."

Action: Discussion

Bill Hansell noted he has nothing new to report on the RFQ for an LRAD system. He has been completely subsumed by the PSB project.

Katie repeated her pleas to move forward on an LRAD system. Katie noted that we just dropped the ball on the LRAD system and we have to move forward.

Dave suggested that we approach El Cerrito to see if they would be interested in partnering with us. Dave suggested that we invite Chief Saylor to pursue a joint project to install an LRAD system.

b. Discuss the next steps grants and a grant writer

To quote EPC member Lisa Caronna, "Based on the chief's enthusiasm and knowledge of grants expressed at the last meeting I would like to know the status of the grant writer and Kensington priority projects for grant writer - if there is one." To quote EPC member David Spath, "Following on Lisa's agenda item, I would like to have a discussion about possible collaboration between the district's grant writing efforts with that of El Cerrito on common emergency preparedness and wildfire prevention issues such as vegetation management and even early warning systems. At the last EPC meeting the chief appeared to be receptive to such collaboration and he recently shared the report on grant opportunities produced by the firm with whom El Cerrito has contracted to provide grant writing services. I don't think that we should be competing with El Cerrito for potential grants that would benefit both the City and the district."

Action: Discussion

Bill noted that the Board already has approved a Grant Writer so we can move forward with a grant writer without bringing it to the Board.

6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Johnny noted that we have a Pancake Breakfast on October 9, a Community Picnic on October 23, and a Shred and Meds on October 28. There also will be a CalFire Zoom webinar on October 11 to discuss Firewise communities.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Danielle Madugo gave an update on the school. Staff is focusing on single point of entry. School parents are forming a committee to determine how to close off the open areas of the school. The parents also are working on the evacuation plan for the school.

Danielle noted that Sandy Stevens is in charge of PG&E Emergency Preparedness Group, and that perhaps she would be interested in meeting with our committee.

Lisa mentioned the committee with Danielle and Dave regarding taking over the pathways. Their group is working with John Gioia.

8. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Lisa commented on priorities. She said that people should be looking at the list, and she suggested that we add grants and paths to the list, as well as evacuation routes and awareness and organizing block parties

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on October 27, 2022 at 3:00pm via Zoom Conference, unless noticed otherwise per the Brown Act.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on October 27, 2022.

Attest:

Emergency Preparedness Committee Member