



KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DATE: February 21, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
RE: Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting - 1/25/24
SUBMITTED BY: Mary A. Morris-Mayorga, General Manager

Recommended Action

For information only, no action is required.

Background

The Emergency Preparedness Committee met on January 25, 2024 and discussed the following topics:

- Determine Whether to Seek a New Public Member
 With Danielle Madugo appointed as a Board Member EPC member, her former public member appointment is vacant. Though there is not a required number of public members, the committee discussed and determined to open the EPC Member Application process. Applications will be accepted until the February EPC meeting for committee review prior to seeking Board approval. The application period can be extended if no applications are received by that time.
- Review The Emergency Preparedness Committee Policy, Goals, And Organization
 President Levine reviewed the Board Policy on the Emergency Preparedness (and Warning System) Committee:

1140.60. The Board's standing Emergency Preparedness Committee shall be concerned with (1) recommendations for allocations of effort and funding of initiatives to make Kensington safer from potential civic emergencies, using a multi-hazard approach; (2) identifying opportunities for articulation with community members and other agencies to reduce risk and enhance evacuation procedures and public safety; (3) development of public education initiatives to accomplish the first two goals; (4) articulation with the KPPCSD standing committee on Emergency Preparedness, as well as other Local, County, and State agencies, to achieve the previous goal.

He suggested creating a roadmap for the year and asked for an update on what the subcommittees are working on:

Volunteer Recruitment Subcommittee

The types of volunteering were reviewed and noted the effort is going slowly. It was suggested that a dedicated email address could be created to help facilitate this along with identifying tasks for community volunteers. Chief Saylor provided a memo on how the EPC could support the fire department (attached) and the committee discussed increasing integration along with efforts toward CERT recruitment/activities. The committee discussed CERT along with NEAT (Neighborhood Emergency Action Team) and how either may or may not work in Kensington and it was determined that a combination approach could be an option to work toward. This will be included as a goal for the year; a subcommittee established to work on with the appropriate stakeholders (Fire Chief, Police Chief, etc.).

Evacuation Preparation

The committee discussed what the goal is including the anticipated deliverable noting that many people in the community do not have an established plan. This document is nearing completion for review by the committee, Fire Chief, Police Chief prior to finalizing.

Door Hangers Subcommittee

This work has been completed.

Evacuation Drill Subcommittee

Given limited resources, this subcommittee has been working on getting the word out in the absence of a drill. The committee discussed alternatives including a tabletop drill and determined that input from the Fire and Police Chiefs is needed.

Subcommittee to Identify Community Wildfire Preparedness and Prevention Projects

Will be seeking grant opportunities including funding for Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs). This subcommittee could be taking steps to be ready to apply for grants as they arise.

The EPC will develop a workplan with established goals to submit to the Board of Directors.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact identified at this time.

Attachments:



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DATE: January 25, 2024

TO: Kensington Emergency Preparedness Committee

FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief

RE: **Goals for the KEPC**

Hello, members of the Kensington Emergency Preparedness Committee (KEPC). I apologize for missing the in-person meeting; I am teaching an Active Shooter Class for the Office of Emergency Services. Director Nagel asked me for a future direction for the KEPC.

I applaud the committee's efforts to protect the community. Concerning the members and the mission of the KEPC, the most effective future is to evolve into a formal Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). A formal CERT requires articles of incorporation, bylaws, and a board of directors.

- A formal CERT supports public safety service personnel as an additional resource in emergency and non-emergency events. CERT provide disaster training to citizens in the region.
- The Cert concept originated in Los Angeles in 1985 following several earthquakes. CERT aimed to develop a multi-functional volunteer response team that could provide basic fire suppression, light search and rescue, and first aid. Following 9/11, CERT became the foundation of nationwide citizen response groups with the goal to evolve into a fully integrated Fire Department volunteer force.
- A formal CERT team would give the KEPC a clear mission and allow it to receive funds, purchase equipment, and have members train with the fire department.

This is the natural progression of a committee addressing emergency preparedness into an organization actively preparing and training for an emergency. The El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department will support a formal CERT organization and invite its members to our drills. The community will benefit from a professional fire department supported by well-trained citizens who can respond with us during disasters.

If the KEPC is interested in such an evolution, I can set up a presentation with a current, highly functioning CERT group to guide us through the process.

Thank you
Eric Saylor
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