



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, June 24, 2021 3:00pm-5:00pm  
Via Zoom Teleconference

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

**Called to order by Director Padian at 3:07 PM**

Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian

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

Staff: General Manager Bill Hansell, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela

Public: Michael

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This place on the agenda is reserved for comments and inquiries concerning matters that do not otherwise appear on the agenda.

No public comments

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of May 27, 2021

**MOTION:** Nagel/Madugo: To adopt consent items.

**VOTE:** 7 Yes with Caronna and Liddell abstaining because they did not attend the May 27, 2021 meeting

Motion passed.

**4. NEW BUSINESS (Out of order)**

**a. Introduction of new EP Coordinator, Johnny Valenzuela**

Johnny introduced himself and summarized his experience as a volunteer firefighter, in special district service, and in marketing and management. Johnny wants to get on board quickly with neighboring agencies and assess what is needed in Kensington to effect a viable Emergency Preparation effort.

Peter Guerrero summarized the challenges in Kensington, in particular the overgrowth and dying trees in Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Regional Park.

Kevin noted that he sees the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator as boots on the ground to increase public awareness of the problems that are faced by Kensington.

We need to start having public meetings with Kensington residents.

Bill Hansell noted that he will be working more on the building and will be relying on Johnny to take up the reins in Emergency Preparation.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Continued Items from Previous Meeting

#### i. Update on search for RFPs: Grant Proposal Writer (General Manager)

Bill Hansell noted that only one person submitted a proposal. Just recently another person has surfaced, and there is a third person living in Portland who will be moving back to California. Bill hopes to have three proposals by July so that we can start the interview process.

Bill also noted that he is looking for a financial planning consultant.

#### ii. Refrigerator magnets project (update)

Kevin has made no progress on the refrigerator magnets due to other commitments. Estimates for the work are in, and the text is approved. The need now is to design the magnets and phone stickers, get them produced, and have Mailstream assemble the mailers so that we can bring them to the post office.

#### iii. Emergency Radio Program (update)

Kevin has made no progress on the emergency radio program due to other commitments. At this point we should probably start with a webpage explaining types of radios and alert residents about their use. Raising awareness may help identify residents who need assistance in procuring and using them. He is hoping Johnny can assist in the program.

#### iv. Progress on next edition of the *Fireplug*

Bill Hansell reported that there is progress on the *FirePlug* and showed a draft that has been edited by Sasha Amiri-Nair. There was a planned article about CERT, but there was a consensus that it is more important to include an article about Zonehaven, which will replace it after being vetted by the Chiefs.

Paul Moss noted that we have to work now with what we have now. What we have now is Zonehaven and CWS and we have to educate the residents on how to use these tools. Paul just cannot understand why we have waited so long on getting this information out to the residents.

David Spath noted that we need something that explains how the system works.

Kevin suggested that we pull the CERT map from the *FirePlug*, insert a Zonehaven map, and insert a short article by Kevin explaining Zonehaven. Kevin and Larry will speak with Chief Pigoni and Battalion Chief Grupalo to establish a consistent story.

Katie Gluck asked if we should have Joe Grupalo write the *FirePlug* article.

Lisa Caronna noted that there is a lot of confusion about Zonehaven, CERT, and CWS and suggested we have to help clarify this system to the residents.

Johnny Valenzuela noted that perhaps a video would help educate the public. This could be accessed through our website or on Facebook and YouTube.

Danielle Madugo suggested that there should be some coordination between the CERT areas and the Zonehaven zones.

Peter Guerrero agreed that we should be working on a more effective communication system.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Introduction of new EP Coordinator, Johnny Valenzuela (see 4a above)**

### **b. Discussion of plan of research into Emergency Warning Systems**

Responses to and discussions of concerns by EPC members; next steps

- i. How can first responders expect to use an EWS?
- ii. How will an EWS be controlled?

Kevin noted that if the Chiefs would not support an EWS, the system could not be put into place.

- iii. How will residents be educated about responding to EWS signals?
- iv. Are there potential problems or inefficiencies with these systems?
- v. What would they cost and how could they be financed?
- vi. Work plan and assignments for further research

Kevin suggested that our next step should be to invite Chief Pigoni and Chief Gancasz as well as B/C Grupalo and Lt. Harms to the next meeting to discuss their views about an EWS. Lisa Caronna asked who else should participate in this meeting. Kevin said that just the Emergency Preparedness Committee members at this point, but of course it is an open meeting.

### **c. Discussion of May 19, 2021 Berkeley Fire Safety Meeting**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aa6a48jzdqa88r5/AACKa4\\_f8fXU6p3uletqvVAua?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aa6a48jzdqa88r5/AACKa4_f8fXU6p3uletqvVAua?dl=0)

Larry Nagel noted that he had hoped that Peter Guerrero would lead the discussion because Peter took extensive notes. Since Peter had to leave the meeting early, Larry filled in as best he could. He noted that the May 19, 2021 meeting was by Berkeley City Council members, police and fire officials, and for Berkeley residents. However, the Berkeley hills and upper Kensington are very similar. Berkeley is putting a lot of effort into evacuation routes and parking regulations because their streets are just as narrow and circuitous as ours are. Both the Berkeley hills and upper Kensington are

on the wildland urban interface (WUI) and the City is pleading with the East Bay Regional Park District for more aggressive fuel reduction. Both Berkeley and Kensington have implemented evacuation zones with Zonehaven, and both are considering emergency warning systems. Larry pointed out that Chief May stated at the meeting that the speakers were for warning people outdoors but probably couldn't be heard indoors except for residences very close to the speakers. We agreed that this statement needs further investigation.

**d. Reports from Committee Members**

Lisa Caronna noted that John Gioia is going to pursue the issue of the ownership and maintenance of the Kensington paths and asked if there was somebody from the Fire Board who would want to serve on a committee with John Gioia.

Larry discussed the RPP Stakeholder meeting that was held today and noted that some core team meetings will be scheduled in September.

**7. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Do we meet in July? Kevin noted that he will not be able to attend a July meeting, and asked if we should cancel. Larry Nagel suggested that we should have the meeting and concentrate on near-term plans for Johnny Valenzuela.

Bill Hansell noted that the Brown Act exclusion has been extended until September 30. After that, all meetings will have to be in person again. Of course, we can meet in person sooner if we wish.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on July 22, 2021 at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM by Director Padian.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on July 22, 2021.

Attest:



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Emergency Preparedness Committee Member