

**City of Takoma Park
Emergency Preparedness Committee
Thursday, July 25, 2013
Community Center Hydrangea Room
Minutes**

Members Present: Jennifer Kurtinitis (Community Co-Chair), Patrick Kimvilakani (Resident Member), Alan Goldberg (City Co-Chair), Tom Horne (TPVFD), Jim Stoddard (WAU), Becky Zorn (OEMHS)

Absent: Andy Kelemen (Resident Member), Kathe Quinn (Resident Member)

Also Present: Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Jenny Kurtinitis called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Minutes of June 27, 2013 were approved upon motion by Tom Horne; second by Patrick Kimvilakani.

Welcome to Becky Zorn & OEMHS Briefing

Becky Zorn, Outreach Coordinator for OEMHS, will serve as the representative to the Emergency Preparedness Committee. She previously worked on the Haiti task force team for USAID, various nonprofits, and UNICEF. She started work at OEMHS at the beginning of 2013.

Becky reported on the Citizen Corps Council kickoff meeting scheduled for Sept. 20, 10-noon, at the Public Safety Building in Gaithersburg.

For Preparedness Month, her office will hold a forum for faith based organizations and will do a workshop for County employees. An open house will be held at Public Safety headquarters.

Alan Goldberg suggested following up with OEMHS on the issue of traffic signal outages during storms. He also suggested inviting the County Police emergency manager to an EPC meeting.

He noted that an upcoming temporary power outage at the Community Center may be an opportunity to test what outlets are on the generator.

Review of Senior Meeting

Jenny reported on the meeting she had attended with Wolfgang Mergner. Almost 15 people were in attendance. The meetings are held monthly to discuss issues that are being dealt with by seniors. The July issue topic was emergency preparedness. The discussion included points from the last few disasters. There were concerns expressed about dealing with medical issues during disasters.

Becky indicated that her office is working to start a senior preparedness ambassadors program. The program would involve training one or two people from every facility. The program may incorporate HHS, Police, and Fire as well.

Discussion of Prince George's Water Crisis

The Committee discussed the recent incident in Prince George's County where residents were told they would lose water service for days and advised to stock up on water. In the end, the shutoff was averted. The situation left people angry.

Becky commented that she worries about the "cry wolf" aspect of the event. When she speaks to groups, she advises that they fill up reusable water jugs rather than purchase water.

Jim noted that WAH has an MOU with a number of water companies. Additionally, there are ways to reroute water if necessary. They have done a tabletop exercise on the issue.

Tom said that the County has plans for fire services in the event of outages.

National Night Out

National Night Out is scheduled for Aug 6, 6-9 p.m. The EPC has a table reserved.

Becky indicated that the County is working on an activity book for 3rd to 5th graders and a coloring book for little kids to give out at events.

Preparedness Month

Planning for preparedness month:

- Jessie will draft a proclamation.
- Discussion with neighborhood leaders – if this is to occur, it needs a structured agenda. There is money in the budget for food.
- Work with Ace Hardware and/or Radio Shack on promotions – see if Kathe would be willing to organize this
- Trivia night.
- Table top exercise – Jim noted that more time to plan would be needed in order to do a documented exercise. He offered to assist with evaluation or facilitation of an exercise.
- Jenny will reach out to the new City Manager.
- City TV will be asked to run the emergency PSAs.
- Update the website.

There was a discussion of the evening for community leaders. It was agreed to have the session on the next EPC meeting night (September 26), 7-9 p.m. in the Azalea Room. Ideas:

- Invite the Police Community Service Officer to attend.
- The session would include a controlled roundtable to learn what are various emergency preparedness concerns and discussion of how the EPC would like to work with the various groups.
- Provide a brief explanation of emergency management, case studies and examples, who to contact at the City.

- The information can be provided on flash drives. Jim will pull together an outline with resources. Jessie will research cost of flash drives.
- Jessie will provide her list of community association leaders.

Article Quick Chat

The Committee briefly discussed the September article for the City newsletter. The article is to include where to find information, alerts, radio stations, and websites and possibly tie in with Ace Hardware promotions.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Minutes adopted September 26, 2013