

Town of Fairfax
Citizens Disaster Council

Friday, April 3, 2009

10:00 a.m.

Youth Center

16 Park Road

Minutes

In attendance: David Weinsoff, Mayor; Michael Rock, Town Manager; Maria Barred, Community Resources Coordinator; Sgt. Stuart Baker, Police Department; Captain Craig Carroll, Ross Valley Fire Service, Red Cross; Bruce Stahley, OES, Jon Marchant

Mayor Weinsoff convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The January 9th minutes were approved with the following corrections by Bruce Stahley: Change Matt Daniels to Matt Davis, and SWAZE is actually Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). Mayor Weinsoff motioned to approve the minutes with changes; Sgt. Stuart Baker seconded the motion.

1. **Board Member Reports-** no updates at this time.

2. **CERT Update and Get Ready Program-** Craig Carroll presented a brochure with CERT training dates for 2009. There were 23 attendees at the October class. CERT has been advertised in the local newspapers. The goal is to have 30 enrolled at the next class. There will be a CERT booth at the Fairfax Farmer's Market on Wednesday beginning in May, from 4-8 p.m. Craig announced there is an unofficial group using CERT affiliation. He is concerned about what information they are distributing. The next "Get Ready" classes are set for: April 16, May 19 and July 31st. The will be held at the VISTA room, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in San Anselmo, next to the Recreation Department. Last week, Craig had 9 people sign up, but only 3 made it to the class. He added that holding community group meetings in the neighborhoods, often times in a private residence work better. He mentioned that the Scenic/ Tamalpais neighborhood is interested in a private class, in conjunction with a chipper day that will be held in April. Mayor David Weinsoff clarified that the neighborhoods should be organized according to fire zones, not just street addresses.

3. **Vial of Life Program-** presented by Craig Carroll. The Vial of Life is a collaborative effort supported by Marin General Hospital, Novato Community Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, the County of Marin, the Marin Fire Chiefs Association and the Marin County Fire Department. The program provides community members with a method to store individual medical information in the home. The Vial of Life kit, (a large prescription bottle with individualized vital information inside) enables emergency responders to obtain critical information regarding a patient's medical history when entering a home during a 911 call. This is especially important if the patient is unconscious or unable to speak. The kits include a sticker for the front door, a magnet for the refrigerator, and a medical information form found inside the prescription bottle which should be stored in the refrigerator. A free Vial of Life kit can be picked up at any fire station in Marin County. There have been 200 distributed to the Fairfax Station.

Mayor Weinssoff inquired as to whether they could be distributed door-to-door. Due to limited resources and needs (Vial of Life is targeted at the elderly and people with specific medical conditions), it was suggested a pamphlet be made available to residents, informing them of the program. Volunteers could not distribute a postcard size information card to residents. Mayor Weinssoff added it could be distributed along with the Fire Safe Marin DVDs.

4. **County of Marin Disaster Council activities-** Bruce Stahley announce that the March 12th meeting was headed by Supervisor Judy Arnold, Deputy Emergency Services Director of the County of Marin Disaster Council. The main focus of the meeting was the 2009-2010 Strategic Plan for Council, organized by the County group. Approximately 10-20 member of the public were in attendance. The three areas of focus that were agreed upon by the Council included:

- Disaster Preparedness Program Survey;
- Public Disaster Education & Awareness Committee
- Special Needs Committee (the County would like to improve supporting special needs population in the event of a disaster)

The areas that will not be given special attention this year include Peak Oil/Climate Change Planning and the Medical Health Committee. The next meeting will be held on Thursday June 11th.

5. **Discussion of installation of siren(s) in the Cascades-** Sgt. Stuart Baker announced the Police Department has identified a suitable location for Cascade siren on Bolinas Fairfax Ridge. The property belongs to the Marin Municipal Water District. The tower will be located on the left side. There is good accessibility, and the preliminary approval has been granted. The police Department has met with County Planning on the issue. The Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory will be consulted. Councilmember Larry Bragman will be involved in the public meeting when the siren is discussed. Most likely this will occur in May 2009. MMWD has strict guidelines in regards to the impact of wildlife habitat. A 176 page document regarding federal guidelines on the decibel reading exists in regards to the noise of the siren. A level of 70 decibels can be heard all the way to the end of Canyon and Cascade. Mayor Weinssoff requested that the Police and Fire Chiefs be presented at the public meeting when the siren is discussed.

The issue of extending the 1610 radio signal to increase it was brought up. Sgt. Baker stated that he had been in contact with FCC, and the regulations are very restrictive. The topography of the Ross Valley prevents it from elevating the signal. Some discussion followed on streamlining, connecting to a radio station to a computer. A more viable option may be conducting a webcast.

6. **Cell phone coverage-** Town Manager Rock stated that the Chief Hughes sent a letter to all the cell phone providers seeking interest in installing a tower in Town. So far there has been no response. There will be some discussion of a Verizon tower being built near White Hill, but this could not be confirmed. At&T Wireless offers coverage at the San Geronimo Gold Course, but coverage is intermittent through the rest of the Valley. Mayor Weinssoff inquired if there was an obligation under the FCC to install cell phone towers, but apparently there is not, since they are private entities. Mayor Weinssoff requested a pitch be made to the companies once again in the interest of the public safety. Town Manager Rock will follow up with phone calls.

7. **Brush clearing program-** Maria Barid announced that a brush clearing/debris chipping event has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 25 & 26th in the Scenic/ Tamalpais district. Residents will be asked to clear their brush on Saturday, 4/25. Then on Sunday, 4/26, a chipper will sweep through the neighborhood, collecting yard waste. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Craig will forward grant funding information via Fire

Safe Marin to Maria. Maria distributed a flyer on the event. This is the first of a pilot program to help remove overgrown vegetation that can be a fire hazard. It was noted the Wall property has overgrown dead trees that need attention. The Fire Department will follow up.

- 8. Next meeting- scheduled for Friday, July 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center.**