

**Town of Fairfax
Citizens Disaster Council**

**Friday, July 10, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Youth Center
16 Park Road**

Minutes

In attendance: David Weinsoff, Mayor; Michael Rock, Town Manager; Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator; Sgt. Stuart Baker, Police Department; Bob Wheeler, Red Cross; Jon Marchant, At Large

Mayor Weinsoff convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The April 3rd minutes were approved.

1. **Board Member Reports-** no updates at this time.
2. **CERT Update and Get Ready Program-**via phone conversation, Craig Carroll gave an update that the June “Get Ready” class was cancelled, and the next CERT training is scheduled for July 16th.
3. **County of Marin Disaster Council activities-** On behalf of Bruce Stahley, Maria shared information from the most recent Southern Marin Emergency Response Planning Group of an evacuation exercise held on May 9th in Mill Valley. The Cascade Canyon neighborhood had an evacuation drill to the Old Mill. There was some discussion on whether a similar exercise should be held in Fairfax, to prepare the public for a real life evacuation scenario. Sgt. Stuart Baker announced he will be attending a meeting next week in Santa Barbara to deal with wildfires and public evacuations. At the next meeting, the Disaster Council will invite Vice-Mayor Lew Tremaine, and prepare a plan that will ultimately be brought before the Town Council for approval prior to any disaster exercise. The logistics will be reviewed, then the public notified before a trial run is made. Emergency personnel must figure out the best route, order of evacuation, access for emergency vehicles, etc. Cal-Fire has maintained their goal of no more than 20 minutes response time in the State of California for aerial fire suppression tankers.
4. **Update of April 26th chipper day in Scenic & Tamalpais neighborhood/grant notification-**Maria read the following report submitted by Yvonne Roberts, Management Analyst for the Town: The Town of Fairfax’s 2009 grant for hazardous fuel reduction is

being funded in the amount of \$187,590. The USDA Forest Service is contributing \$168, 831, while the Town, Fire Department, and Volunteers are contributing \$18,759 in in-kind services. The Scope of Work that is proposed in the grant application is as follows:

- **Roadside vegetation clearing**-clearing flammable brush and trees on five feet of either side of the hillside roads in three target areas (Manor Hill, the Cascades, and Deer Park).
- **Chipper days**-at no cost to residents to reduce flammable vegetation adjacent to homes.
- **Removal of 50 of the most fire prone trees**-our community has experienced the spread of Sudden Oak Death resulting in hundreds of standing dead trees.
- **Mowing, weed eating and pulling of flammable vegetation**-in selected downtown areas of high risk.

Town staff will be attending a workshop on August 4 to clarify the grant administration details and funding timing. After the workshop, the Public Works Director, who will act as project manager, will organize a meeting with the fire department to devise a plan of action.

5. **Update of May 2nd Public Meeting for Siren in the Cascades**-Sgt. Stuart Baker announced there have been some delays in the process. The County needs engineered plans for the siren to be installed on the telephone poll. The siren should arrive any day now. There is a lease agreement with the Marin Municipal Water District. The goal is to have the siren in place by August 6th.
6. **MERA/Cell phone coverage throughout Fairfax**- Mayor Weinsoff announced the Marin Council of Mayors has a JPA with various towns. There is an oversight committee that reviews JPAs. Michael Rock is on the MERA Executive Committee. MERA does not reach every city in the County. The towns that do not have coverage include Tiburon and Stinson Beach. Fairfax has comprehensive MERA coverage, but not cell phone coverage. It was discussed that AT&T had desired to install a cell phone tower in Town in 2006, but the residents opposed it. Verizon Wireless may be installing a tower in the San Geronimo Valley. At the present time, the cell phone providers are no longer interested in installing cell phone towers because it is not lucrative for them. Mayor Weinsoff suggested they be approached from a public safety standpoint. The cellular phone providers are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission. The Disaster Council may contact Assemblyman's Jared Huffman's Office to stress the importance of residents having access to receive cell phone notification in the event of an emergency. It was suggested

the Pavilion could be used as a potential site for a cell phone tower, if there was interest from the cellular phone carriers/providers.

7. **Creek clean-up- July 25th**-Maria Baird announced the creek clean-up is happening once again in conjunction with the Town of San Anselmo this year. Volunteers will meet at the Youth Center at 9:00 a.m., and then disperse to the creek. Refreshments will be provided. Approximately 30 residents are notified via an e-mail list. In addition, Maria will distribute flyers to the downtown businesses to advertise the event.

8. **Disaster preparedness fair-discuss partnering with Chamber of Commerce-Health Fair on Sept. 26th**-Maria announced that the Parks & Recreation Commission was sponsoring Hannah Duress, an events organizer, to put on a "Body & Soul" fair in Fairfax. This health fair will be held in the Women's Club and Peri Park on Saturday, 9/26, from 12 noon – 7:00 p.m. Maria suggested it was a good forum for the Disaster Council to staff a table at the event, since it's been several years since a disaster fair was held in Town. Additionally, since there will be a large group already in attendance, there will be a captive audience to receive information. She coordinated with the Red Cross and Ross Valley Fire Service to have trailers/fire trucks available for the public and young children to tour. She will ask Fire Chief Meagor if the fire department can provide some CERT training demonstrations and refreshments as well.

9. **Next meeting-scheduled for Friday, October 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center.**