

CITY OF MILL VALLEY  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 10, 2022

**Members Present:**

Max Perrey, Michelle Godard Terrell, Christie Coleman, Brian Jolda, Victoria Lim  
Absent: Ashley Raveche  
Staff: Chief Tubbs  
Absent: Chief Welch

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to Order @ 6:32 pm

**Public Open Time:**

Leah Curtis asked for any updates on plan tabling events, sea level rise discussion, and planned evacuation drills.

Daniel Vasquez, who will be a full voting member starting with the next meeting, said he is excited to be part of the commission.

**Approval of the January meeting Minutes:**

Motion to approve: Christie Coleman  
Second: Brian Jolda

**Old Business:**

- COVID-19 update (Terrell):
  - Into our 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the rise of the Omicron variant.
  - Over 6000 new COVID cases in Marin since the last meeting, a highest monthly count since the start of the pandemic.
  - 6 new deaths in Marin since the last meeting, for a total of 206 lives lost locally.
  - Nationwide, about 2500 people are dying of COVID-19 every day. People 75+, unvaccinated and the medically vulnerable are especially in danger.
  - Public health officials are still encouraging caution, with this variant being less virulent, although very contagious.
  - COVID-19 conditions are improving across the state, with the Omicron surge on the downward trend. Statewide drop in cases in the last few weeks has been about 65%. Marin averages 100 cases a day.
  - State safety measures, including masking indoors, and large event masking and vaccination requirements, are expiring/changing next week.
  - Beginning February 16<sup>th</sup>, masks will be optional for vaccinated individuals. Some public settings will still require masks. Bay Area counties, except for Santa Clara, are allowing the no masks/optional policy.
  - Marin County Health Department issued an order that first responders who are not vaccinated must get their first shot by April 15th, and be boosted within 15 days

- of becoming eligible. The Health Order also describes an exemption process, and there is a legal discussion going on among Marin County first responder agencies.
- Marin County has the highest vaccination rates in the country – 88% of eligible population is fully vaccinated.
  - Nationwide, hospitalization rates for children under 5 have increased more than 7 times. FDA is meeting next week about Pfizer vaccinations for children from 6 months to 4 years of age.
  - Public health and medical professionals continuing to push for vaccinations.
- Development plan/retreat for EPC strategic plan for 2023-2026 (Tubbs/Perrey)
    - Last month EPC discussed putting this off for a couple months due to Omicron, and also because of bringing new members onboard.
    - There will be two meetings, one in the spring, one in the fall, with the intent to launch in 2023.
    - Next steps – coordinate with the Chair and the EPC to get the preferred dates, and then proceed into actual planning.
    - It was proposed to add a social component, like a mixer.
    - Must maximize community engagement, involve in planning process, have focus groups, survey, possibly at community events, etc
    - Last planning process was done in 2018 to provide work plan for 2019 to 2022.
    - Issues of flooding preparedness have been brought up by the community and supervisor Moulton-Peters.

#### **New Business:**

- Planning the next large-scale evacuation drill (Perrey):
  - The drill is expected to be held later this year.
  - Mayor McCauley will be attending the March meeting of EPC, along with Police Chief Rick Navarro and Captain Lindsey Haynes.
  - A different time and/or date are needed to accommodate the additional participants. The meeting will be on zoom. After discussion, it was agreed that the meeting will be on the same day as originally scheduled (March 10<sup>th</sup>) but will start at 5:30 pm and go until 7:30 pm. Chair Perrey will let Commissioner Raveche know.
- Discuss adjustments to the March 10th meeting (time or date)  
Discussed previously, item above.
- Preparedness for flooding and sea level rise (Terrell)
  - Supervisor Moulton-Peters, as well as members of the public, were interested in this topic. Currently, the residents get notifications of events, such as king tides or atmospheric rivers, and locations where residents can obtain sand bags.
  - Need more activity, such as public messaging, in the area of sea level rise.

- Chair Perrey has recently connected with Gary Lyons, who is on the Flood Control District Board, and member of the County Disaster Council. They discussed connecting the various entities, also including the Southern Marin Disaster Council, that would be able to contribute to the discussion and the work.
- Let's not forget about mud slides, illustrated by example of Montessori School.
- This topic needs to be explored further.

Public Comment was made by Daniel Vasquez regarding his experience with responding to flooding disasters. He offered his knowledge to the group for further discussions.

Chair Perrey suggested reviewing existing Mill Valley EPC Subcommittees at the next meeting, including assignments and whether to add more, such as a Subcommittee on the sea level rise.

Commissioner Coleman, who works for the County DPW, will reach out to colleagues who are working on the plan related to this topic, and possibly get a copy of the plan. (future) Commissioner Vasquez will assist her with review. Chair Perrey requested that Commissioner Coleman present something at the next meeting. Commissioner Coleman mentioned she googled the County Flood Control resources, and there is a lot of information, maps, plans, etc.

- National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

- The date is May 7th, 2022.
- There is no specific plan at this time, but staff will share any new plans with the Commission.
- Historically, there have been a large-scale Evacuation Drill in early May. EPC will be discussing a city-wide evacuation drill at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Perry solicited for ideas. Commissioner Coleman suggested a smaller scale drill at Blithedale Canyon if the Miller Drill happens before. The drill on Miller Ave was a drill that was planned but didn't happen last year. Commissioner Coleman is to connect with Chief Welch offline.
- Commissioner Terrell would like to see what happens with the large evacuation drill first, as that could possibly occur in May. If so, we would add extra messaging around that event.

- Subcommittee Reports:

Chair Perrey commented that at the next meeting, the Committee assignments can be updated, added to, or otherwise modified.

- Finance (Jolda):
  - Nothing to report.
  - Per Commissioner Lim - need to remove Zachary Papale's name.
  - Commissioner Lim offering to help on Finance committee, and it was suggested she connect with Chief Welch.

- Chair Perrey would like each meeting to have an update on account balance. This will assist with financial planning, such as minimizing retroactive requests for funds. We should utilize funds that are provided each FY, otherwise it could affect future budget.
- Communications (Terrell/Lim):
  - Report on social media (Terrell) – Tweeted about emergency preparedness over 40 times, including original content and re-tweets from fire department partners. Topics include fire safety, fire smart landscapes, defensible space, LRAD, COVID-19 safety info, earthquake safety, storm tips, and how to make sure to get emergency alerts, when a phone is on “do not disturb” setting.
  - Facebook, approximately 18 posts with 2500 views.
  - Commissioner Terrell is now the one contributor to the communications efforts, so we may need to add someone to this subcommittee. Should have 3 people.
  - Commissioner Terrell would like to share new ideas, such as flyers and handouts, with any additional Committee members.

Mr. Vasquez suggested involving younger constituents, such as Tam High students.

- NRG/CERT (Terrell/Perrey):
  - Southern Marin CERT has been meeting regularly in the past month.
  - Restructured leadership committee
  - Determine/update mission and goals.
  - How to move forward now that we expanded past Mill Valley borders.
  - Looking at more training and focus on teen CERTs, and promoting engagement in less active areas.
  - Had first call-out for the year, to help with traffic management during the Little League parade.
  - For NRGs, Elaine Wilkinson, the NRG coordinator, is in this meeting tonight to provide an update, see below.
  - Chair Perrey asked about geographic boundaries of Southern Marin CERT. Ms. Wilkinson responded that it contains SMFD and MVFD territory, plus Sausalito Floating Homes and Marin City. In total, those include about 42,000 residents.
- Equity (Perrey):
  - Last month Commissioners Perrey and Raveche conducted outreach with regard to spreading information about the COVID-19 test distribution provided by the Biden administration. The outreach particularly focused on Marin city.
- Southern Marin Disaster Council (Terrell/Perrey):
  - Great meeting last month. Water District gave an update on drought.
  - Update from Commissioner Raveche on the Good Neighbor Guide.
  - Presentation from Ms. Wilkinson on the NRG program.

- Next Southern Marin Disaster Council meeting is on April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
- Evacuation Drill Planning (Coleman/Jolda/Terrell):
  - This was covered earlier in the meeting.
- Community Partnerships (Terrell/Raveche/Lim):
  - Finally have someone at MV School District to take charge of emergency preparedness in schools.
  - Members across 6 school sites will meet next month. Agenda items will include prioritizing staff training, and standardizing equipment and supplies in all emergency containers.
  - Omicron caused cancellation of the large-scale Tam High drill that was planned for this winter. We plan to do it this spring.
  - Ready Marin Business materials need to be updated this year, Commissioner Lim is working on this, and would like assistance, if anyone is interested.
- Website Update (Coleman/Lim):
  - Project complete.
  - This subcommittee can be removed for next month.

### **City Staff Reports (Tubbs)**

- Finished interview process for the Marin County Emergency Coordinator Position. We have a solid candidate, entering into the next hiring phase, including background.
- Finishing up job description for the Mill Valley Community Engagement and Preparedness Coordinator. Plan to open recruitment next week.
- MWPA Update
  - Beginning preparations for the next fiscal year and project schedule.
  - Technical Advisory Committee reviews the work that was done, as well as CWPP and other relevant documents and makes project proposals, which are forwarded to Operations Committee.
  - Proposals are subsequently sent to the Finance Committee, and then the Governing Board.
  - MWPA has been working on putting their documentation on the web for the public. They plan to deploy this tool this year.
- Commissioner Terrell asked to provide an update on the CERT planning retreat. She referred to the CERT report that she had previously presented in this meeting. There is no in person retreat yet, but the plan is to get one set up this spring.
- NRG Coordinator Elaine Wilkinson update.
  - Have been working on expanding outreach.
  - Communication with residents in Enchanted Knolls. They currently have a Community Safety Team (CST), and starting to organize into an NRG.

- In Edgewood, same situation as Enchanted Knolls. Large territory to cover.
- Ms. Wilkinson is working with her counterpart in San Rafael with regard to improving and standardizing NRG websites.
- Next week Ms. Wilkinson is attending a training session on DEI.
- Received approval from the Homeland Security Grant. Funds will be available in 12 months.
- County grant application is due next week.
- Chief Tubbs commented on Ms. Wilkinson's great work.

Commissioners Reports

- Coleman: nothing to report. Comment: plans to reach out to DPW flood control and check their website, and also connect with Chief Welch.
- Jolda: he will no longer able to serve on EPC due to moving overseas in the May to July time frame. Chief Welch and Mr. Piombo have asked Commissioner Jolda to resign after this meeting so they could bring the next person on in the right time frame, in March. Commissioner Jolda thanked everyone and expressed how great the opportunity to participate in the EPC has been.
- Terrell: nothing to add.
- Lim: nothing further.

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**Meeting closed 7:39 PM by Chair Perrey.**