

Minutes of the
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Friday September 30, 2011
Council Chambers

Present: Chair William Brehm; Vice-Chair Molly Edison; Committee Members, Les Wierson, Robert Mushen, Don Hull and Fire Chief Cleve Rooper

Excused: None

Staff: Police Chief Gene Halliburton, City Manager Rich Mays and Administrative Specialist Alisha Smith

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair William Brehm called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

Motion: Wierson moved to approve the agenda as presented; Edison seconded the motion.

Vote: Brehm, Edison, Rooper, Wierson, Mushen and Hull voted AYE; the vote was 6/0 in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

(1) Consideration of the Minutes of the Emergency Preparedness (EPREP) Committee Meeting of August 26, 2011.

Motion: Rooper moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2011 EPREP Committee meeting as presented; Wierson seconded the motion.

Vote: Brehm, Edison, Rooper, Wierson, Mushen and Hull voted AYE; the vote was 6/0 in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION

(2) Introduction of New Committee Member Doug Wood

Brehm introduced new EPREP Committee member Doug Wood.

Wood stated he moved to Cannon Beach in 2001, is a retired mechanical engineer and is active with the Cannon Beach Conference Center and Cannon Beach Presbyterian Church.

Wierson commented that Wood is on the review board for the evacuation route mapping.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

(3) ICS Training Report

Vandenberg reviewed the ICS (Incident Command System) 100/200 Training given to City staff and volunteers. He thanked everyone who participated and County Emergency Services Coordinator Tom Manning for also leading the training. He noted that 28 persons participated in the training.

He noted the importance of exercising the ICS throughout the year on days with a high volume of people in town, such as 4th of July, Sandcastle Day, etc.

He reviewed the next step, setting up table top exercises to activate the Incident Management Team and insure it operates as best it can.

In response to a question from Brehm regarding power outages, Vandenberg reviewed that wind storms were discussed in the ICS training and that the Incident Management Team will go through table top

exercises that will review how they will interact with the Shelter Committee, etc. during such an event.

Vanderberg discussed the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) with the Committee. He noted that he made several recommendations to the City, one of them being the need for volunteer groups to assist with providing information. One example being tsunami evacuation mapping, which is not currently in the EOP. In response to a question from Wierson, Vanderberg noted that additions to the EOP should be presented to the Emergency Manager (City Manager Rich Mays) for possible inclusion.

In response to Committee discussion, Wood noted that the ICS is modular and can expand or contract based on the size of the event as well as the type of disaster.

Vandenberg reviewed the importance of planning in advance.

(3) Public Forum Discussion (September 22, 2011)

The Committee discussed the public forum. Mushen noted concerns that not enough attention is being paid to the fact that people are being accounted for reaching the base of a Tsunami Evacuation Building (TEB) but not in the building itself and that, at this time, a good plan to get people from the base of the tower to the top does not exist.

Mays reviewed that approximately 50 people were in attendance and that he has received 12 comment cards from the forum. Mushen noted that feedback he has received by attendees has been the desire to not spend money and that the emergency preparedness alternatives presented at the forum offer false security.

Wood noted that perhaps the Committee should have set the tone for the forum by playing footage from a recently broadcasted NOVA program, pertaining to the Cascadia zone. The Committee discussed the NOVA program and agreed that it should be played at the next public forum.

Audience member Bill Morgan made comment on the emergency preparedness alternatives presented. In response to Morgan's concerns regarding Public Works equipment availability post disaster, Wierson noted that the City has a contract with Mike McEwan to furnish equipment for City use post disaster. In response to Committee discussion, Mays noted that he will check with Public Works Director Mark See about parking equipment downtown as previously allowed by the City.

The Committee discussed the two OBEC bridge proposals. In response to a question from Brehm, See noted that there is not a big cost difference to make the bridge earthquake proof.

Hull noted that cost data was not present for the emergency preparedness alternative to modify the fire station to serve as an evacuation site, and in some events, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He also noted that in order to compare "apples to apples" this information is necessary.

Audience member Jan Siebert-Wahrmund expressed concerns regarding building safety post earthquake and, specifically, the stability of the Cannon Beach Elementary School.

The Committee discussed the effectiveness of emergency planning completed in Japan. The Committee discussed preparing for a Cascadia zone earthquake.

The Committee discussed concerns in regard to the Cannon Beach Elementary School and whether or not the school should be closed or relocated.

Audience member Paul Knoch noted that he works at the Cannon Beach Conference Center and has a daughter that goes to Cannon Beach Elementary School. He expressed concerns with the current evacuation plans for the North End and believes emergency planning, such as a bridge, should be priority.

Wierson recommended that the Committee hold an additional public forum for input and education this winter.

(4) Evacuation Route Mapping

Wierson reviewed his email sent to the Committee on evacuation route mapping. He noted that he is expecting to have a final draft for City Council review and approval by the end of the year. He recommended that City staff draft a formal letter of agreement with the Cannon Beach Bible Church for use of their property for evacuation purposes. Mays noted that he could sign such a letter.

The Committee discussed the evacuation route and time needed for the Cannon Beach Elementary School kids to reach safety. Rooper noted that the Committee has no control over the school district and what they choose to do with the school, they can only recommend.

Wierson reviewed a draft letter to the Oregon Department of Transportation regarding placement of signage and use of assembly areas on Highway 101 right-of-ways. The Committee discussed the draft letter and who the letter should be addressed from. In response to a question from Brehm, Mays noted that he would be available at 3:00 p.m. on October 3rd to discuss further.

Rooper noted concerns with routing people up 2nd Street to Hwy 101 and not south on Spruce Street. He noted that the estuary will be one of the first locations to flood and the 2nd Street evacuation route sends people right next to it. Wierson asked that the Committee walk each route and that they discuss the routes further at the next EPREP meeting.

In response to an audience member's question, Wierson noted that the Committee has contacted the state highway department in regards to the replacement of the Hwy 101 bridge and was told no funds are available. After discussing funding for the replacement of the Hwy 101 bridge and the need for a formal letter to come from the City Council requesting funding, the Committee consensus was to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

In response to a question from Brehm, Mays stated that the next City Council work session is scheduled for October 11, 2011 and that they will be discussing the public forum.

Rooper noted that in 2008-2009 Clatsop County completed a Pre-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Plan and the bridge replacements were listed as part of the plan. He also noted that this plan is up for review next month.

(5) Safe House Program

Discussed during Good of the Order.

(6) Committee Direction

Mushen noted that he would like to see the Committee host more public events.

Mays noted that at a previous City Council meeting, concerns for the evacuation of the handicapped and elderly were mentioned. Wierson noted that part of the safe house program is to assist in the evacuation of handicapped and elderly neighbors. Wierson also noted that the Committee should work on recruiting volunteers for the Safe House Program, maintenance of assembly areas, etc.

The Committee discussed public outreach.

The Committee discussed holding work sessions to give more time to discuss items. In response to Committee discussion, Brehm, noted that he will find a day in November to schedule an EPREP work session and follow up with the Committee.

The Committee discussed additional public forums.

(7) Fall/Winter Meeting Schedule

Brehm noted that the Committee will have their October meeting at the normal scheduled time.

The Committee consensus was to cancel the November meeting and move the December meeting to the 16th.

(8) Other Goals and Projects

There was none.

(9) Good of the Order

Wierson reviewed an article titled “Totally Psyched for the Full-Rip Nine” by Bruce Barcott for Outdoor.com. Smith noted she will make copies of the article for the Committee.

Wierson led a discussion regarding the current Public Works building as a TEB site.

Wierson reviewed his display board for the Committee to use as part of it’s community outreach, along with sign up sheets for people to volunteer and request additional information regarding Committee activities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Alisha Smith, Administrative Specialist