

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2019
997 Cedar Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

Present: Paul Degenkolb, Gradiva Couzin, Bob Flasher, Shirley Dean, Ruth Grimes, Toby Simmons

Absent: Annie Bailey (Excused), Toni Stein (Excused)

Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May, Jocelyn Nip, Jennifer Lazo, Amber Davis, David Brannigan

Public: David Peattie, Sarah Jones, Alina Constantinescu, Rafael Grillo Avila

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

G. Couzin called meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to Move Item 4 ahead of Item 3: Degenkolb

Second: Flasher

Vote: 6 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0 Noes; 2

Absent: Stein, Bailey; 0 Abstain:

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

5/4 radio exercise will include the “hub” concept that has been discussed in the Commission. 5/30 Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network may have a wildfire evacuation forum. In October there will be a Community Based Emergency Prep Demo Fair.

T. Simmons arrived at 7:07pm

Robert Flasher said that The “Alliance” community groups will practice evacuation on May 4 with a check in at the Rose Garden. Shirley Dean said that there is confusion on the many communications about the upcoming drill.

Gradiva Couzin said that she obtained a grant to fund weather radios and is looking to award 25 radios.

1. Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services Staff Report

On 4/2, Garbage truck fire that was followed by a City response for the presence of firefighting foam in Codornices Creek on 4/3.

On 4/18, Malcolm X School had a hazardous materials response due to multiple children feeling dizzy. The cause has not been identified.

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Safety Element has been submitted to the Board of Forestry.

Jocelyn Nip and Fire Chief David Brannigan, provided the Measure GG Budget Update.

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of March 27, 2018*

Motion approve minutes as revised: S. Dean

Second: P. Degenkolb

Vote: 6 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0 Noes; 2

Absent: Stein, Bailey; 0 Abstain:

Action Items

3. City Manager Referral to Improve Fire Safety Standards for Rebuilt Fire Damaged Structure*

Motion to communicate to City Council that the Commission concurs with staff recommendation; however, the commission is examining options the City may have toward incentivizing and/or requiring fire-hardening of homes and vegetation removal to improve fire safety in Fire Zones 2 and 3, and will follow up within six months.: G. Couzin

Second: Flasher

Vote: 6 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0 Noes; 2

Absent: Stein, Bailey; 0 Abstain:

Discussion Items

4. Measure GG Preparedness Outreach Report

5. Safe Passages Project
6. Commission Workplan
S. Dean left the meeting at 858p
S. Dean returned to the meeting at 900p
7. Cal Fire Fuel Reduction Priorities Report
8. Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Degenkolb

Second: Flasher

Vote: 6 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0 Noes; 2

Absent: Stein, Bailey; 0 Abstain:

Adjourned at 914pm