

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, August 7, 2019  
997 Cedar Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

Present: Ruth Grimes, Gradiva Couzin, Bob Flasher, Jose Luis Bedolla, Annie Bailey, Toby Simmons, Shirley Dean, Paul Degenkolb

Absent: Toni Stein (Excused)

Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May

Public: Sarah Jones, Susan St. George, Chris Cullander

**Preliminary Matters**

Call to Order

G. Couzin called meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Approval of the Agenda

Move item 5 ahead of Item 3. Approved by Acclimation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Susan St. George said BDPNN is hosting a disaster preparedness Demo fair in October 2012.

Chris Cullander said McGee Baptist Church National Night Out went very well and was well attended.

Robert Flasher read an excerpt from the SF Chronicle article “8 fires prompt shelter in place order by Clayton”

1. Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services Staff Report

6/9 Grass fire on Olympus and Wilson. Area burned was contained to 100’x15’ area. Cause was the discharging of fireworks. Questions were asked as to whether a citation was issued. Staff will report back.

6/27 tree fire next to the train tracks at the end of Dwight. Homeless area about no physical signs that camp is occupied.

7/4 BFD responded for a fire on the 1200 block of Josephine (not caused by fireworks). Fire contained to a shed in the backyard, a car and fence.

7/5 & 8/1 small homeless encampment fires.

8/4 BFD responded for an alarm sounding at 1501 Blake (senior living facility). A small fire in an apartment was extinguished by the sprinkler system, but caused a lot of smoke in the building. Cause determined to be discarded cigarette ashes in an unattended paper bag next to the couch. Commissioners indicated that newspaper articles indicated residents were concerned about whether a citation should be issued because the fire was started in a “no smoking” area. Staff will report back regarding any further action by the Fire Department.

7/25 BFD responded to a woman who was in the water for nearly an hour holding onto a support column. BFD deployed swimmers and Rescue Boat 456. Patient suffered from hypothermia but survived.

Interviews for the Emergency Services Coordinator position were held in July. Khin Chin has accepted one of the positions and we have submitted a name to HR for the other position.

Falck Northern California is the new 911 provider and the City of Berkeley contracted ambulance provider for 5150 non-emergency calls

The wildfire evacuation drill was conducted on August 4 with two more scheduled for August 11 and August 25. Approximately 70 community members participated.

## **Consent Items**

### 2. Approval of Draft Minutes for Meeting of June

26, 2019\* Motion approve minutes as revised:

R. Grimes

Second: J. Bedolla

Vote: 8 Ayes: Grimes, Flasher, Bailey, Couzin, Degenkolb, Simmons, Dean, Bedolla; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Stein; Abstain:

A letter motion to approve revised minutes of June 26, 2019 was made by Flasher, seconded by Degenkolb

Vote: 8 ayes: Grimes, Flasher, Bailey, Couzin, Degenkolb, Simmons, Dean, Bedolla. 0 Noes: 1 absent; 0 Abstain.

## **Action Items**

### 3. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

Memo from Chairperson Couzin: August 7, 2019, Outdoor Public Warning System is Made More Crucial by P.G.& Planned Power Outages, Notes and Possible Action

Additional information: City Council Agenda Item, July 18, 2019: P.G.& E Presentation

Motion to submit a memorandum to City Council that Outdoor Public Warning Siren System is made more crucial by PG&E planned power outages: Flasher

Second: Couzin

Vote: 8 Ayes: Grimes, Flasher, Bailey, Couzin, Degenkolb, Simmons, Dean, Bedolla; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Stein; 0 Abstain

### 4. Memo on Coordination of Vegetation Management\*

Memo from Chairperson Couzin: August 8, 2019, Immediate Coordination of City Departments for Vegetation Management on Wildfire Evacuation Routes and Footpaths.

Additional information: Commissioner Dean memo, Attachments to July 29, 2019 memo, Wildfire Priority Items-Parking and Prevention Attachments regarding vegetation management from City of Mill Valley, City of Orinda and East bay Regional Park District.

Discussion was held and continued.

### 5. Recommendation for City Council Action on Ensuring Fire Equipment Access\*

Item for Action from Commissioner Dean: July 29, 2019, Wildfire Priority Issues – Parking and Prevention;

Discussion: No action. Item will be re-submitted in proper form at next meeting.

## **Discussion Items:**

### 6. Public Outreach on Emergency Preparedness

7. Future Agenda Items.

## **Adjournment**

Adjourn

Motion adjourn: R. Flashers

Second: P. Degenkolb

Vote: 8 Ayes: Grimes, Flasher, Bailey, Couzin, Degenkolb, Simmons, Dean, Bedolla;  
0 Noes; 1 Absent: Stein; Abstain:

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.