

**Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council  
Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2015**

**6:48 – 8:32 PM**

The January 22, 2015 meeting of the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council was held at the Fairfax County Government Center in Conference Room 9-10. Chairperson James Sobecke called the meeting to order at 6:48 pm with 21 members, guests and staff present. Introductions of attendees were made and a listing of those in attendance is included on the final page of these minutes.

**Presentation:**

Dean Sherick, staff support from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), provided a brief overview of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as it applies to the activities of the Citizen Corps Council. The key requirement of the FOIA is that, because the Citizen Corps Council is a publicly appointed body, all actions are to be conducted in an open and transparent manner. Our meetings are required to be announced to the general public, held in a public building, and records of the meetings be made available. Meetings cannot be conducted through telephone, video or other electronic means which means that the group must be physically assembled. There are provisions available for use of electronic means if there is an emergency or personal matter so that a member may not be able to attend but there must be an actual physically assembled for that to be permitted (if notification is made a day or so prior to the meeting). It is permissible to photograph, film, record or reproduce any portion of the meetings. All email messages for the Citizen Corps Council may also be subject to a FOIA request if someone so desires. Individual email addresses are protected though. The specific code language is available online at the Board of Supervisor's web site for boards and commissions with Package B applicable to our activities.

**Business Meeting**

A quorum was present and minutes for the September and November meetings were approved as corrected.

**Old Business:**

**Ready-Set-Know Festival for 2015**

Chairperson Sobecke led discussion on conducting another Ready-Set-Know Festival which was so successful at the Burke Centre Fall Festival. In addition to the Fairfax Alerts program, there was interest for what other topics or messages should be focused on for this year's event. The ReadyNoVa.org planning program, Community Resiliency Group, September Preparedness Month and World Police and Fire Games were also mentioned as possible topics. It was suggested to check with the Office of Emergency Management for this information. Also to be considered is the possibility of having the event on more than one occasion so other venues should be examined as possibilities. Additional discussion will occur under New Business.

## World Police and Fire Games

Discussion occurred on the need for additional volunteers for the World Police and Fire Games which will be held here in June. A great deal of planning and preparation has been occurring to have the games flow smoothly. The Citizen Corps Council is encouraging all representatives and affiliated organizations to reach out to their members to support the games by “Be A Fan” and volunteer.

### Committee Updates:

- Grants:** Dean Sherick of OEM reported that the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments is going through a stringent review of the grant funding process. Fairfax County OEM will receive \$306,000.00 for various volunteer programs that are used to improve community preparedness and resiliency for the Urban Area Security Initiatives FY2014 cycle which runs from March 2015 through May 2016. Grant proposals are being submitted for this round of funding and it is hoped to have the funds awarded early in March.
- Membership:** Jim Kirkpatrick was interested in the current status of representation from several of the affiliated organizations which have not been present recently. A number of representatives from organizations named had reported that they would not be able to attend this meeting but we did have alternative representatives for several groups. Jim mentioned the possibility of including representation from the Northern Virginia Community College. Linda Waller is the new representative for the Lee District. Additional work will be done to reach out to those organizations which have not had representation at recent meetings.

### Member Updates - Board of Supervisor Representatives:

- At Large:** Andrew Levy had nothing to report.
- Braddock District:** James Sobecke reported attending the Community Resiliency Group meetings which were well attended. There were a number of homeowner associations represented and it was good for those people to interact with the public safety personnel as well as the other organizations. CERT training was also mentioned at those sessions which may generate some additional classes. CERT had advertised a protection class for women and it was filled in one day.
- Dranesville District:** Wes Callender reported that the Senior Safety Seminar is being conducted in McLean on February 6<sup>th</sup>. An email blast has been forwarded to over 3000 people advising them of the event. There is a huge interest also in having the presentations on the Community Resiliency Group in the Dranesville District.

Mason District: Brian Foley reported that he had attended the Mason District exercise for the Community Resiliency Group which had a good number of attendees. He was interested to learn how that program would be organized for the chain of command and what the avenues of communications would be.

Providence District: Al Potter is getting the word out about the upcoming Community Emergency Response Team training sessions. He also requested to talk with other District representatives about their activities at the close of the meeting.

Springfield District: Jim Kirkpatrick reported on their recent Senior Safety Summit with about 20 people attending. The information from Fire and Rescue, the Police, and Consumer Protection was well received.

#### Member Updates – Core Programs:

CERT/Fire Corps: Dana Powers reported that over 300 people had received the Community Emergency Response Team's Basic class and over 400 people had participated in the specialty training on topics such as first aid, AED/CPR, ARES radio and others. The instructors are busy and there will be additional classes coming in the spring. Classes will be offered in Burke, at George Mason University, Mount Vernon, Tysons, and the Fire Academy.

Jonathan Kiell reported that progress is being made to have teams developed in the various districts for CERT people to get to know each other and be available to assist when first responders are unavailable.

MRC: The Medical Reserve Corps has been very active recently at the Ebola call center has engaged a number of volunteers and has been quite successful. They are examining what skills they would like their volunteers to have and working on a strategic plan to cover the next several years so the needs can be met. A day of training is being scheduled in March and will also recognize those volunteers who have provided so many hours of service. The MRC is reviewing their membership rolls as some people had signed up but not completed all of the training necessary to achieve actual membership so those individuals will be reclassified as inactive. Also being examined is the composition of the MRC in an effort to better represent all of the diverse communities within Fairfax County. This process will involve reaching out to the different districts and engage in recruitment.

Neighborhood Watch: Frank Vajda advised the group that this year's National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

VIPS/APO: Jennifer Wheeler had nothing to report.

## Member Updates – Affiliated Organizations:

- Fairfax ARES: Nothing to report.
- FCIA: Faith Communities In Action is engaged in the Community Resiliency Group District Meetings and Exercise program. Sessions have been conducted in the Mason and Braddock Districts and the Sully District will finish up this round of sessions.
- LEPC: Erik Peterson of the Local Emergency Planning Committee reported that he will provide the information on CERT to his members.
- NoVa Resource: Bonnie O’Leary had nothing to report for the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- Red Cross: The Red Cross has been engaged in the distribution of smoke detectors in various areas around the National Capital Region. Over 200 houses were visited on Martin Luther King Day.
- Volunteer Fairfax: Tracy Friend reported on the most recent District Meeting and Exercise events. They have been getting good feedback and encouragement from those participating as the different groups learn how they can be involved after a disaster. Volunteer Fairfax is also revamping their VET program and conducting monthly training for interested individuals. The goal is to have those teams manage a volunteer reception center. Volunteer Fairfax is also working with MRC and CERT to be certified and be able to assist the Office of Emergency Management with their outreach program too. Tracy requested the attendees to contact their members who may live in the Sully District to get signed up for the programs there. The Sully District Meeting will be on January 27<sup>th</sup> and the Exercise is February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Sully District Government Center.

## OEM Staff Report:

- The Fairfax Alerts! emergency notification system now has over 40,000 subscribers.
- OEM Outreach staff have been engaged in a variety of events including;
  - District Seminars and Exercises at the various locations.
  - Senior Safety Seminars that will be occurring over the next couple of months.
  - Many other events at various federal facilities and local festivals.
- The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards are being conducted on April 24, 2015 and Volunteer Fairfax is seeking nominations of eligible individuals for a number of different categories. Additional information, including the nominating guidelines, can be found at the Volunteer Fairfax web site at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

## New Business:

Ready-Set-Know Festival planning needs to begin so a planning committee will need to be established. A check of various events in the County should be examined as a possible repeat event in addition to the Burke Centre Fall Festival but it should be after the World Police and Fire Games. A check will also be made to determine if grant funding might also be available for this activity.

CERT will be looking to add an active shooter portion as part of their training program. This training will also provide information on the use of tourniquets which were so valuable at the Boston Marathon bombing event. Also, there is training available to CERT volunteers for training on the Metro system. This information would have been a benefit to those on the recent incident involving the smoke-filled tunnel.

A Citizen Corps Facebook page is on the Internet which has included a number of items from Fairfax County that may not have been fully correct. The Facebook page is not affiliated with the federal government so attempts are being made to learn who actually supports it to make the corrections. If anyone has information to assist with this inquiry please let James Sobecke know.

Additional discussion on the recent Metro incident showed how some of the same issues that were the foundation for the Citizen Corps Council remain. Issues such as improved communications and the use of encrypted messages, repeater effectiveness and interoperability were mentioned.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a new push for regional voluntary agency liaison and that may be a good person to have attend a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 6:45 pm at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9/10.

# Citizen Corps Council - Meeting Attendees January 22, 2015

Name	Organization Represented	Initial
Bornmann, Al *	Mount Vernon District	
Brann, Samantha	Medical Reserve Corps	X
Braxton, Mary *	Virginia Alliance of Family Childcare	
Callender, Wes *	Dranesville District	X
Cantagallo, Mike *	American Red Cross	
Cockayne, John *	Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations	
Delaney, Karrie *	Sully District	
Drost, Peggie (*Alternate)	Faith Communities In Action	X
Ewing, Lawrence *	United Way	
Foley, Brian *	Mason District	X
Friend, Tracy (*Alternate)	Volunteer Fairfax	X
Galliere, Susan (*Alternate)	Virginia Alliance of Family Childcare	
Grapin, Mark *	Boy Scouts of America	
Hale, Judith *	Salvation Army	
Kirkpatrick, Jim *	Springfield District	X
Lambiase, Tom *	Faith Communities In Action	
Leino, Rick (*Alternate)	American Red Cross	X
Levy, Andrew *	At-Large	X
Mitchell, Marc	Volunteers In Police Service	
Moon, Mary (*Alternate)	Amateur Radio Emergency Services	X
O'Leary, Bonnie *	Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	X
Peterson, Erik (*Alternate)	Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee	X
Potter, Alan *	Providence District	X
Powers, Dana	Community Emergency Response Team & Fire Corps	X
Robinette, Amelia *	Fairfax County Council of PTAs	
Serle, Tracey *	Medical Reserve Corps	X
Sobecke, James *	Braddock District	X
Stokes, Shawn *	Fire Corps	
Tuttle-Ferrio, Missy *	Community Emergency Response Team	
Vajda, Frank *	Neighborhood Watch	X
Waller, Linda *	Lee District	
Webber, Mark *	Fairfax County Amateur Radio Emergency Service	
Wheeler, Jennifer *	Volunteers In Police Service	X
	<b>ALSO ATTENDING</b>	
Early, Beverly	Verbatim Reporting	X
Kiell, Jonathan	Community Emergency Response Team	X
Olds, Bowman	Fairfax Local Emergency Planning Committee	X
Sherick, Dean	Office of Emergency Management	X

\* Indicates voting member