



Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council

General Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2023, at 6:30 PM

McConnel Public Safety Transportation Operations Center

4890 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

Call to order

Startex: 6:35PM by James Sobecke

Approval of May 2023 Meeting Minutes

Approval was passed

Introductions of new members

Round Robin of introductions.

New Faces:

Nick Anderson: Mt. Vernon Rep

Lt. Deanna: Outreach and Vol Coordinator

New Business

- Hawaii Wildfire Response
 - Discussion of sirens within Fairfax County
 - Statement read that was written by Seamus Mooney, DEMS Coordinator:

Let me start with I have only been with the county for 8 years so not exactly sure when sirens were discontinued. I did come from a jurisdiction that had them so I am familiar with how they work. Below is some information on the challenges for the county to use sirens and how we send emergency alerts.

Outdoor warning sirens can be extremely useful but they have a limited range. The model that I am most familiar with is a Voice/Tone siren. This model produces a loud noise and can also have pre-recorded messages played. These have a very limited range, around a half mile to be able to hear the voice and about a mile on the siren, depending on conditions. They are mostly used in areas with pockets of populations and then open space. They are also used to notify people that are outside in some coastal communities for Tsunamis. Since the county is so densely populated and with a range of about a mile the county would need a significant number of them. Also the sirens have problems with building penetration especially in large commercial structures.

Fairfax county uses an alert system called Fairfax alerts. In this system a user can register for weather alerts, community messages and will also be automatically registered for emergency messages. In this system the user has the ability to register to receive alerts via phone call, text message, and email. The weather notifications come directly from the national weather service and the user has the ability to select which types of weather alerts they want to be notified about like tornados and severe thunderstorms. In the county we can also send emergency alerts using all the landlines and via the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)/Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) system that allow us to send alerts to a given area based

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on the type of incident. It can also send a message using the Emergency Alert Network (EAN) which is the crawl and loud noise you see on your TV and radio. Arroyo: October 4th is test of WEA, social media toolkit will be shared on the subject

- Federal level test through FEMA and FCC
- Similar to presidential alerts sent for COVID
- Kirkpatrick: The test on October 4th will go off on every phone no matter your phone service provider.

Membership Update

Jim Kirkpatrick

- Kirkpatrick: Since we are going to quarterly meetings, it is important to go over who hasn't attended in a while. Will monitor from minutes on who has attended tonight. We were hoping to have a business organization rep, boy scout rep, girl scout rep.

District Updates

- At-Large Zach Smith
 - Absent
- Braddock James Sobecke
 - Nothing to report
- Dranesville Eric Marx
 - Nothing to report
- Hunter Mill Eileen Kragie
 - Nothing to report
- Franconia Linda Waller
 - Nothing to report
- Mason Marco Johnson
 - Election Officers Needed for the General Election November 7, 2023
- Mt. Vernon Nicholas Anderson
 - Meet the Commander event on the 30th at Sherwood Library
 - Senior Safety event on September 13th at Lorton Community Center
- Providence Sue Gainor
 - Nothing to report
- Springfield Jim Kirkpatrick
 - VDOT is repaving areas of Springfield, there are areas that do not have paint on the pavement, resulting in drivers not pulling up to the underground light sensors.
- Sully Richard Cramond
 - Nothing to report

Organization Updates

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- Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)
 - Courtney: Moriah put together packets of supplies for the BOS offices. We ask that you bring the supplies back to your BOS. We do not have mini-CERGS. Material is in multiple languages. We (DEMS) do refresh BOS supplies throughout the year, but this is a good refresher for NPM. Material is used for education and outreach by BOS offices.
 - DEMS lost funding due to the Homeland Security grant, CCC was one that would get funding from it. The grant has been gone; every new grant proposal has been submitted. We all knew this was coming one day. For the past 10 years we have had a 40,000-budget cut each year. Core programs getting cut: STEP, Burke Festival, Printing and translation. We just redid the CERG, cost \$10,000. 10,000 copies = \$15,000. We have an app that we are going to use to share handouts virtually. If DEMS says no to events, it is now due to manpower and funding. We have not had volunteer engagement back to pre-covid levels
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
 - Back to basics, teaching cert classes, NPM events with DIA. Gearing up for FRD National Fire Prevention Open House. At least 10 stations that will have information with. Will be helping FRD with smoke detectors with installation of smoke detectors for those with disabilities. We have put in for a state grant, have not heard back yet. WE do have the CERT Association that is working up ways to bump up fundraising if funds go away
 - Ross: For those who are not aware of CERT, over the last 4 years the commitment yearly has been 17,000 hours
- Fire Corps
 - Nothing to report
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
 - 1. Completed Food Safety Training (14 volunteers) and Active Shooter (15 volunteers)
 - 2. Beginner American Sign Language (ASL) training is coming up in the fall. This is a 6 sessions training done in collaboration with the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons
 - 3. American Heart Association (AHA) Heartsaver® class will be offered September 20, 2023 for MRC volunteers.
 - 4. Volunteers have supported 6 Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Child Immunization clinics at the beginning of August working as post vaccination nurses, as well as flow control. In addition, starting next week, MRC volunteers will be supporting new FCPS back to school vaccination clinics. Several dates and clinics are being planned, but we don't have yet all the details at this time.
 - 5. For National Preparedness Month in September, the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) program is hosting open house events to showcase all the new teams and faces in EPR and demonstrate the multiple types of preparedness activities for Health Department staff, families and friends, and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers. There will be three internal open houses as well as two (2) external open houses for MRC volunteers as well as family members and friends of HD staff. This will be a great learning experience, with various informational tables being set up as well as Family and Friends CPR, and Until Help Arrives classes. Vision and hearing screenings coming in the fall. In the past the highest number of schools we have hit in 3 months is 42 schools. Look forward to

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presuming this post-covid. School health aids put in the request on behalf of the school to MRC

- Neighborhood Watch
 - August 1st was National Night Out, and it was a success. Have ordered more neighborhood watch signs, sign has been slightly revamped.
- Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)
 - 148 unique registrations events for National Night Out. APO academy, 11 are set to go through the September academy. Will bump the numbers up 11%
 - Civilian Police Academy starts September 14th, 10 weeks, ask that you commit all 10 weeks. Currently taking applications for it. Courtney Arroyo has a QR code for the register link. Currently 32 people are on the waitlist.
 - If you know young adults interested in law enforcement, we have three open houses for the public safety cadet program. Annandale, Chantilly, Lorton. 14-20yrs old
- Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)
 - Head volunteer Coordinator Brendan O'Neil has resigned, Will inform of replacement
- American Red Cross
 - Has reported to multiple home fires. Home fires are still a concern, and Red Cross can give a briefing on them on request
- Child Life Disaster Relief
 - No attendance
- Fairfax County Public Schools Safety and Security
 - No attendance
- Fairfax County Older Adult Services
 - Emily Swenson reported on SHAPE Plan, was adopted by BOS on May 23rd
 - Volunteer Solutions is planning Venture to Volunteering Fair
 - To learn about volunteer opportunities, taking place at Springfield Town Center
 - 36 non-profit government agencies attending
 - Digital Inclusion Week: October 2nd to 6th. There will be a summit, encouraging Affordable Connectivity Program, which fights for lower broadband and internet prices.
- Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
 - Drill coming up early December
- Faith Communities in Action (FCIA)
 - The Interfaith Resiliency Conference will be held on September 28th. We will report out at the next meeting.
- George Mason University
 - No attendance
- Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis Response
 - Paired with an active shooter drill. Hoping to have a dog screening in September. If anyone has a location for behavior screening let them know. September 16th, reach out to if interested
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- Workshop is a half day screening if pass then a three-day screening in Montgomery County
- National Conference is in North Carolina
- INOVA Fairfax Hospital
 - Inova Loudon is looking to take on the Reality Check Program
 - October 15-21st Teen driving safety week
 - This month is National Child Passenger Safety
 - September 30th: Seat check safety Saturday
 - Seat check safety not done at Inova hospitals, but multiple agencies can guide you to a certified CPS technician in the area
 - Still providing child safety stickers and Stop the Bleed Classes by request
 - INOVAFFX1 at Twitter
- Northern Virginia Community College
 - No Attendance
- Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Saturday September 23rd Celebrate Communications at Springfield Town Center
 - Training for CERT in September
- Volunteer Fairfax
 - Working with County to finish VRCPlan, doing recruitment on Saturday. Hoping to have training for VET members next meeting. Working on a grant with WalMart to update VRCplan computers.

Next Meeting:

November 16, 2023, 6:30 PM In Person



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