

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the December 29, 2005 meeting

7:00 p.m., Vera Davis Center

Mission: *To promote neighborhoods and community groups to prepare for and handle emergency and disaster situations*

Attendance: David Moring, Dante Cacace, Cliff McClain, Dede Audet, Sydney Lovelaca, Christina Arangio

Town Hall: LAFD Captain Jeff Elder has agreed to put on a presentation on citizen preparedness at the next Town Hall meeting of GRVNC. Originally, it was contemplated that a late January meeting would take place, including the elections. However, the elections will be conducted during the January Board Meeting. So the Town Hall will be scheduled later. Dede challenged the Committee to outreach to the community and sell the presentation topic to increase participation and attendance. She is concerned that it is not enough put on the presentation without informing the community of its importance. Further, we must find a means for producing the Emergency Preparedness handout which is a free download, but may cost up to \$3 per copy to reproduce.

Identify Potential Dangers: The recent warning of high tide dangers and a newly issued report by the Seismic Safety Commission on Tsunami threats emphasize that earthquakes and terrorist attacks are not the only dangers to Venice. The Committee should be looking into all potential disasters. There are many resources at our disposal. Both the City and the County have disaster preparedness agencies. The FD and PD claim to have special units devoted to this kind of planning. The Geological Center at Cal Tech and experts at USC have issued reports. It is essential that the Committee identify what plans have already been developed. We may have to evaluate whether these plans are adequate. Dante suggested a topographical model be made up to show areas which are susceptible to flooding and where liquefaction is likely during a major earthquake.

Communicating Warnings: The high tide warning issued by the Mayor's office was both unique and long term. The Committee may have to look into the methods and adequacy of any warning systems. Sydney pointed out that he comes from areas in the country that have clearly marked evacuation routes and warning horns that are both visible and tested. None of those are evident in Venice.

Coordination: Although promoting community groups and neighborhoods to protect themselves is the Committee's primary goal, we may also need to promote coordination among the various emergency agencies in Venice. For instance, the Vera Davis Center is a community center, but does it have sufficient resources to fulfill that role. What are the evacuation plans referred to in the recent warning and who is to implement it?

Next Meeting: January 26, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Vera Davis Center