

Providence District Council (PDC) Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday February 8, 2017

Time: 7:30pm - 9 pm

Location: Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax (Classroom #2)

Primary Speakers: Sulayman Brown (Assistant Coordinator, Operations & Outreach Manager, Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management)

Agenda:

- Welcome and PDC Administrative Reports
- Program: Emergency Preparedness

1) Welcome and PDC Administrative Reports

PDC President Report (Tania Hossain):

Welcomed guests and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Membership Chair Report (Kosmo Tatalias):

PDC currently has 16 paid members. Our PDC website is paid for through next year (2018) but will be transferred to a new provider to save PDC money in the long run. Currently PDC has both the www.providencedistrictcouncil.org and www.PDCFairfax.org websites active. Eventually only the www.PDCFairfax.org site will be used.

Recording Secretary Report (Marie Gerritz):

Minutes for the January 2017 meeting will be open for approval at the March 2017 meeting, as time permits.

Treasurer Report (R. Dana Opp III):

The website expense is \$20.17. The Holiday Party was \$93.98 PDC currently has approximately \$906 balance.

Environmental and Fairfax County Federation Chair (Flint Webb):

In early February, Flint Webb met with aids to Senators Kaine and Warner as part of a delegation put together by the Virginia Conservation Network to discuss the health impacts of climate change. The impacts include increases in:

heat stroke, populations of disease-carrying pests, mold, concentrations of ozone and fine particulate matter, and even virulence of poison ivy.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has a web site regarding the impacts of climate change on our health. Refer to

<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/>.

Land Use Committee Chair (Erika Yalowitz):

The Rotunda Association joined the PDC. They have over 1,000 units and 3,000 residents. Erika also serves on a Leadership Development team in Tysons.

Transportation Committee Chair Report (Julie Hirka):

Julie Hirka was unable to attend the February PDC meeting however reported the following:

a) I-66 update from Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth:
Per VDOT, the design public hearings may be as late as September 2017 with a public information meeting on the design sometime before the public hearings. Her office will let everyone know when they hear something definitive.

b) Julie Hirka also attended a McLean Citizen's Association meeting last week on Transportation. They had the head of County Transportation there who answered some pre-prepared questions and then took questions from the audience. Over a hundred people spoke mostly about dangerous situations where people are speeding in neighborhoods, etc. Julie asked about speed cameras and apparently the state of Virginia doesn't allow them even though the cameras help free up police officers, earn revenue and slow people down. Julie wrote to a couple State Senators the next day and Senator Chap Petersen responded that it's a privacy issue, but will revisit this concern. And there seem to be traffic backups currently in McLean when people cut through to avoid express lanes and associated backups. This issue could escalate when the I-66 Express lanes are complete, so Julie encourages citizens to contact their State Senators about utilizing speed cameras before it's too late.

2) Program: Emergency Preparedness

Sulayman Brown (Assistant Coordinator, Operations & Outreach Manager, Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management) spoke about Emergency Preparedness in Fairfax County.

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provides emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery services to residents of Fairfax County. A lot of their work occurs "behind-the-scenes" to the typical citizen. Example tasks of OEM include:

- Manages the county's emergency operations center and duty officer program.
 - Sends messages via "[Fairfax Alerts](#)".
 - Conducts and facilitates training and exercise programs on intra-agency, inter-agency and multi-jurisdictional levels.

Fairfax County is continually threatened by emergency and disaster situations such as flash flooding, hurricanes, hazardous materials and other incidents that may cause shortages of resources. The County has their own Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which is a multi-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of major emergencies and disasters within the county. The EOP establishes the overall roles and responsibilities for emergency operations. A copy of the EOP can be found at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/emergency-operations-plan.htm>

During an emergency event, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has personnel from various county agencies (fire, police, etc.) working together in a coordinated fashion under one roof.

Fairfax County Emergency information such as what to do and/ or who to contact if you have a power outage for example, can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/.

More timely emergency information can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog . For example, safety tips about flooding on a very rainy day can be found at this site. One can also subscribe to receive emails from this site.

Fairfax Alerts provides information about public safety, inclement weather, traffic, AMBER and other timely events. To find out more and to register for alerts, go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts/>

If your family, business or place of worship is impacted by a disaster (such as a hurricane), you should have a plan in place. Steps to prepare for such emergencies can be found at: <http://en.readynova.org/>. This site will guide you to create a useful, actionable plan for emergencies. For example, there are 5 steps to completing your Family Preparedness Plan:

Step 1: Plan to Stay in Touch

Step 2: Emergency Contact Information

Step 3: Plan to Meet up and Shelter

Step 4: Make a Survival Kit

Step 5: Plan to Share, Practice, Train and Review

Detailed information on each step is found on the website, including a survival kit checklist!

Get involved, join Citizen Corps! Citizen Corps builds on community strengths and develops action plans to involve the whole community, including local businesses. As a Citizen Corps volunteer, you: get training in first aid and emergency skills; volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety. For more information refer to:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/>