

Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association (SHiNA) General Meeting
TOPIC – Emergency Preparedness

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 6:30-8:30pm

Attendees: 60 total, including board and speakers

SHiNA Board Members:

Chris Jockcheck, Chair

Clay Neal, Secretary

Ralph McDonald

Beverly McDonald

Nora Hagerty, Wayne Morse Family Farm Representative

Presenters/Neighbors:

Janina Rager, Community Engagement Crime Prevention Specialist

Cary Lieberman,

Sierra Anderson, new City of Eugene Emergency Management Program Manager

I. Janina Rager

- What kind of disasters are we preparing for?
 - i. Set your phones for emergency tones
 - ii. At level 1 – you must leave – “Go Now” – and property can be replaced but lives can’t. Leave everything behind if you’re not prepared.
 - iii. Know in advance on the emergency services available to you.
 - iv. Plan your emergency plan thinking through jobs, schools, and family in mind.
 - 1. What’s your meeting place at any time of day?
 - 2. Contact sheet
 - v. Don’t spend a lot of time on your phone. You don’t know when you can charge the phone again.
 - 1. Close your apps
 - 2. Text instead of call (less energy)
 - 3. Try to leave the signals open for true emergencies
 - vi. Household evacuation plan
 - 1. Identify alternative routes – potentially bike paths, trails, or walking paths
 - vii. If you can safely shelter in place (and you aren’t in a mandatory evacuation zone) then sheltering in place is the best place to do
 - viii. Before an evacuation
 - 1. Disaster supply kit (there are City supplied materials to help you plan)
 - 2. Make sure important documents are in one place
 - a. Passports
 - b. Birth Certificates

- c. Marriage License
 - d. Health records
 - e. Financial documents
 - f. Cash and it should be multidenominational
- 3. Keep ½ tank of gas in your car
- 4. Emergency food storage – like Mountain House
- 5. 5 gallon bins of water, which should be changed out to keep fresh
- 6. Make sure all family members know how to turn off utilities
- 7. Make an inventory of all the valuables in your house – this is helpful for when you file your insurance claims
- EWEB has the Pledge to Prepare; City of Eugene has this information on its website

II. Cary Lieberman – Greenhill Humane Society

- The most important thing is to know each other, connect, and prepare
- Another thing to prepare for is ice and cold, which can take out power, particularly in the South Hills
- What does Greenhill do?
 - i. Greenhill Humane Society makes every effort possible to set up a pet shelter at the same location as a Red Cross Shelter
 - ii. They also shelter animals at the shelter in emergency
- One thing that we learned as a country after Katrina is that people would not evacuate their homes if they weren't sure that they could evacuate with their pets.
- You probably need to move toward a place that is outside of Eugene if you can (hotels, family,

III. Sierra Anderson, City of Eugene

- There are lots of community volunteers who are participating in emergency preparedness and disaster response, including community CERT volunteers who joined the meeting to introduce their work including Training of community members.
 - i. One coordinating piece is that EWEB is maintaining community wells throughout the area in case of loss of public water systems. CERT volunteers are helping to train community members on how to participate in emergency response.
 - ii. Volunteers are trained in Teamwork – which is needed at the organizational level
 - iii. CERT has a class to train neighbors on preparedness and everything that Janina Rager
 - iv. Also neighborhood organizations can have emergency management teams that help to facilitate trainings and volunteer opportunities
- Emergency Plans that the Cities have
 - i. Emergency Operations Plan – it's the plan if something goes wrong in our community?
 - 1. They are planning for each different type of emergency
 - ii. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

1. To be able to go out and identify projects that may be eligible for hazard mitigation (like removal of fire fuel)

Questions:

1. Is the City's emergency management concerned about the lack of a hospital within Eugene?
 - a. Yes, but more of a question for the hospital
2. Question about the Red Cross shelter a collocation with pet shelters in emergencies and whether there is a location in South Eugene that might serve both needs – potentially Spencer Butte Middle School
 - a. This is a new relationship that Greenhill has pursued and was able to set it up at Lane County Fairgrounds for the evacuation of Cedar Creek Fire. The collocation at the Fairgrounds lasted for 5 days
 - i. Currently Red Cross is remapping their shelter locations and they are including input from Greenhill now.
 - ii. Looking at additional facilities that allow pets like tents.
3. Who should our community be listening to during an emergency
 - a. In a large scale event, we'll have incident command which is a collaborative group from Police, Fire, etc. to cooperate on decision making
4. If the City declares a state of emergency, then are there additional powers that the City can enforce?
 - a. There are field level decisions that city officials can do even without a declaration of an emergency – close roads, ban backyard fires, etc.
 - b. EWEB doesn't need to declare a state of emergency to turn off power (although this is totally a last resort)
 - c. Declaring an emergency helps release funds and other state and federal support during an emergency
5. Is there are plan for the City to reduce wildfire fuel in the ridgeline trails area particularly Blanton Ridge trail?
 - a. The Parks Department does a lot of work to reduce fuel in our open spaces
6. Neighborhoods can become "firewise" neighborhoods, which may have been sponsored by the Fire Department. It put neighbors on notice that they hadn't create safe zones around their houses, so many neighbors implemented those recommendations. It also created a sense of pride within the cul de sac.
 - a. Firewise.org includes diagrams of defensible space, how to trim your trees, how to protect your roof, eaves, etc. You can also sign up to see if you can get a grant to help pay for the work.
7. 38th and Monroe property backs onto a private owner's large lot that is not well maintained for fire prevention
 - a. After June 14th, the City requires that grass be below 14" and you can report nuisance through Public Works
8. City of Ashland has excellent fire prevention including training volunteers – is this part of the emergency management planning?
 - a. City of Eugene is hoping to hire wildfire prevention coordinator, but hasn't been able to pursue this this year.

- b. The City could partner with the State Fire Prevention office to help train volunteers via a pilot program
- 9. Educating each other about alternative evacuation routes is super important.
- 10. Northwest Eugene region collaborated (River Road, Bethel, Santa Clara) into a coalition to disseminate information commonly for emergency management and preparedness.
 - a. From personal perspective – starting to plan for emergencies is super important. One woman was a victim to fire but had been to a few preparedness meetings, which she believes saved her life.
- 11. Peacehealth closing the University District Hospital has a huge impact, but their emergency management team is working on how the community will have health care provisions available to Eugene in the case of emergency.
- 12. How will individuals know whether a safe route is available in the event of an emergency that may take out bridges or have downed trees?
 - a. If you are on a route – you can call 911 and report a blockage in the road
 - b. The City will send out alerts about known evacuation routes
 - c. Recommended to leave at level 2 evacuation if you require more time
 - d. At times of being overwhelmed, the City will look to the larger jurisdictions (neighboring communities, county, state) to help with evacuation of a community
- 13. Do you foresee a time when the neighborhoods and CERT folks can train with the City on real-live evacuation exercise?
 - a. Yes – this is a plan for the emergency management office in partnership with Office of Neighborhood. Starting with CERT is a good place –
- 14. How is the school district involved?
 - a. All emergency management folks are working together in the community toward family reunification plans that incorporate the schools.
- 15. Are there additional plans to reduce hazards along evacuation routes and on city roads?
 - a. Yes – there is natural hazard mitigation and community wildfire protection efforts underway.