

**City of Sonoma Disaster Council  
REGULAR MEETING  
Emergency Operations Center  
175 First Street West  
July 9, 2009**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Mayor Ken Brown, City of Sonoma  
Chief Bret Sackett, City of Sonoma  
Milenka Bates, City of Sonoma  
Debra Rogers, City of Sonoma  
Stephan Buffy, Sonoma Valley Library  
Sondra Costello, Vintage House  
Herb Golenpaul, Pueblo Serena Mobile Home Park  
Kathleen Hill, Sonoma Valley FOOD  
Barbara Johnsen, Pets Lifeline  
Darrel Jones, Skypark Airport - Sonoma  
Nancy Laird & Tim Arensmeier, Safe Sonoma  
Diana Lawrence, Sonoma Valley Unified School District  
Nanci Mathison, Sonoma Valley United School District  
Ken McTaggart, Auxiliary Communications Service, ACS Unit Leader  
Charlene Rundstrom, Creekside Village Disaster Preparedness  
Bob Smylie, County Department of Emergency Services, OES  
Hans Steuck, Chantarelle HOA  
Sarah Tracy, Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order. Introductions were held.

**2. Comments from the Public**

None

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of May 14, 2009, were approved as presented by consensus.

**4. Safe Sonoma**

Nancy Laird, citizen of Sonoma, provided an overview of a program called SafeSonoma which is a guideline of "What You Should Do When Your Child (or anyone) Is First Missing". The Council was given two documents by email prior to the meeting which included handouts in both in English and Spanish. The one document is a "be prepared" (Missing Person Form) information sheet including up-to-date photos of your children, detailed physical description, and information to be recorded in case of an abduction or missing person; this information would be filled in by the parent or guardian and kept by the telephone. The second document is a checklist and describes the first 48 hours following the disappearance and what to do. Nancy indicated she has worked with such organizations as La Luz, Sonoma Valley School District, Mentoring Alliance, and Sonoma Valley Mother's Club, who are interested in getting the message out to the community. Tim Arensmeier, pastor from the Sonoma Valley Community Church, has been instrumental in setting up and managing the website; he showed the information provided at [www.sonomasafe.org](http://www.sonomasafe.org). The website provides other resource links such as to the Polly Klaas Foundation. Herb Golenpaul asked if the Police Department could provide parents with finger prints of their babies. Chief Sackett said that parents would be given a fingerprint kit which they would take home, versus an officer keeping a fingerprint record.

Chief Sackett said that National Night Out would be held on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, in its 26th year of promoting crime prevention and community awareness. He said this year's theme is to promote Child Safety, which is consistent with the new SafeSonoma non-profit. This years NNO will be held at the Farmer's Market; reference material, fingerprinting services, inkless fingerprint kits, etc. will be provided. They are hoping to revitalize the NNO which has "faded" in recent years.

Milenka Bates said that August 4<sup>th</sup> would be a big night at the Farmer's Market for children, with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Zucchini Races being showcased.

Nancy Laird said that David Goodison at City Hall was working on having the information of SafeSonoma on the City website.

Kathleen Hill asked if the handouts were current with the changes most recently made. Nancy said the document is the final draft and available on-line.

#### **5. Sonoma Sky Park Disaster Preparedness Exercise Report**

Darrel Jones, Auxiliary Communications Service, reported that the emergency drill on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Sonoma Skypark Airport was a success and demonstrated how the airport can be used during a disaster. The drill included: volunteer pilots loading boxes into airplanes (simulating emergency supplies) and airlifted them to Petaluma; taking aerial photographs, targeting specific "disaster situations" and successfully captured a 360° picture of the target which then were emailed immediately to cities and counties needing the information – the practical application during a disaster if bridges or roads are down, aerial photos would show routes available). They completed 10 targets. They also used home video cameras to capture images; by next year's drill they will have the equipment to send live footage directly to ground stations. Also available for the drill were four, yellow, Piper Airplanes (used in World War II, yellow in color) that fly low for observation when helicopters are not available. He said Councilwoman Laurie Gallian participated in one of the flights. Darrel said that the Boy Scouts and Explorers also participated and helped with general errands and tasks. In the past the National Guard has come through the airport saying they might use it if needed for staging or refueling. The next drill is scheduled for September 2010.

#### **6. S.C.O.P.E. Program Update**

Debra Rogers reported for Joe Morrison who could not attend. Joe indicated that approximately 475 citizens have gone through the S.C.O.P.E program to date, but that requests for training have slowed down.

Sondra Costello, Vintage House, said they would be scheduling S.C.O.P.E. training at the Vintage House for the surrounding neighborhood in August.

#### **7. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

Debra Rogers reported that every five years the City works with ABAG (Association of Bay Area Government's) and currently are updating the Mitigation Strategies, a 50 page document. Their purpose is to better prepare the City in the event of a disaster, and to be eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation funds. The strategies of disaster include areas of infrastructure, housing, education, health, economy, government, and environment. There will be two opportunities for public input before FEMA signs off, at which point the City of Sonoma City Council would approve a resolution.

Chief Sackett said that once the document was approved, that it would become part of Sonoma's Operations Plan, replacing the mitigation plan approved five years ago.

#### **8. Report from Subcommittees**

Public Information Outreach: Milenka Bates reported that the Disaster Council parade entry was a success. She thanked Rhonda and Rich Stallings for lending their golf carts, and Stephan Buffy, Sonoma Valley Library for participating by leading the troop with the one of the banners. The City had signs a T-shirts made for the parade which will also be used at other events to promote S.C.O.P.E. and disaster preparedness. She plans on having an information booth at the City Party scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The banners will be used and she asked for volunteers to rotate at the booth to provide information to the public.

Sheltering Services for Pets: Barbara Johnsen, Pets LifeLine, reported their subgroup is still working on a proposal for sheltering animals that they will present to the Council in the future for review. Since the ARC does not typically shelter people with their pets in one location, the subcommittee's goal is to find locations in the City of Sonoma that will provide a sheltering environment where people could shelter with their pets. Not only does this solution completely eliminate the expense and complicated, cumbersome demands of setting up and running a separate animal shelter operation, but there are mountains of evidence to support the benefits of this, especially in the wake of hurricanes Katrina.

Population Demographics: Herb Golenpaul, Pueblo Serena Community, Emergency Preparedness Committee, reported since the last meeting, that the Retirement Homes he contacted did have Disaster Plans in place. He emphasized the importance of getting the ARC shelter list up-to-date and offered to help contacting those organizations to get current contact names and phone numbers.

#### **9. Set Next Meeting Date**

August 13, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. was set for the next Community Preparedness, Subcommittee meetings.

September 10, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. was set for the next regular Sonoma Disaster Council meeting. Both meetings will be held at the Emergency Operations Center.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra N. Rogers