



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

January 11, 2006 Meeting Summary

Municipal Manager's Conference Room
8th Floor, City Hall; Anchorage, Alaska

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Precyous Council
Sam O'Connor
Tony Piper
Mike Smulski
Chuck Springer
Lynda Zaugg

Members Absent:

Mark Mew (Excused)

Others Present (in order of participation):

Heather Handyside, Office of Emergency Management
Capt. Ross Plummer, Anchorage Police Department
Michelle Weston, Anchorage Fire Department
Denis LeBlanc, Municipal Manager
George Hieronymus, Senior Consultant, The Foraker Group
Catherine Curtis, Office of the Municipal Manager

MEETING SUMMARY

CONSENT CALENDAR

Meeting called to order at 6:05PM. *The December meeting summary was unanimously approved.*

New Business

a. Office of Emergency Management (OEM) report

Heather Handyside, OEM director, gave an update on the eruption of Augustine Volcano. She and Vince McCoy, OEM emergency coordinations manager, are on the 911 call list in the event of such emergencies. The day's eruptions allowed the OEM to do a sort of test run for an eruption event. The OEM timeline is to be up and operational in 30 minutes in the case of an emergency event. The Emergency Operations Center was activated at 5:30 AM that morning and had been staffed ever since.

Ms. Handyside distributed copies of the Emergency Operations Plan. The Plan is fully compliant with NIMS (National Incident Management System) and the requirements of the Department of Homeland Security. This update, the first since 1994, is considered to be more streamlined and user-friendly. This EOP version addresses vulnerable populations and pets, which have not been addressed in the past, and allows latitude for communities to act as needed. The Plan is accessible on the OEM Web site at <http://www.muni.org/oem/EOP.cfm>. Mark Mew was identified as a good contact for the Anchorage School District's emergency plans.

Ms. Handyside discussed the OEM's partnership with the Red Cross to provide congregate care facilities where, for example, people might receive mental health care and FEMA assistance in addition to medical assistance, and where people can be sheltered with their pets. The centers would be staffed by

medical volunteers, including pharmacists, who could evaluate and distribute prescription medications. Through this partnership the organizations are working to establish Memorandums of Understanding with local box stores to house materials for first responders, community needs, and congregate care centers.

Ms. Handyside elaborated on the Neighborhood Plan Emergency Watch program, which RaeShaun Bibbs introduced to the PSAC in December. She emphasized that it is very different from the CERT program (see Dec. meeting summary), in that it involves citizens in their neighborhoods, in their current capacities (i.e., as doctors, as people who have special equipment on hand such as generators, etc.). Individual training will not take place. The CERT program is not being pursued because the AFD has not determined how to provide the program free to the public. The CERT-trained individuals will not be activated in the CERT capacity for Emergency Watch, but many will be involved through their participation in other organizations such as Search & Rescue and Community Patrol.

b. Anchorage Police Department (APD) report

Capt. Plummer reported that APD used the recent Augustine eruptions as an opportunity to evaluate their response in the case of such an emergency. They assessed staffing needs, supplies on hand, and what is needed to keep police vehicles running. They have enough fuel on-hand for 4-7 days of round-the-clock operation. Municipal Manager Denis LeBlanc said that MOA departments are working towards 5-7 days of sustainability. The Municipality has four gas stations under contract for priority fueling for MOA vehicles.

Chair Lynda Zaugg asked Precyous Council to give an update on the Mayor's Anti-Gang Initiative. Ms. Council said the group is looking at how other states are addressing gang issues. A facilitator will work with the group to develop a plan. One function of the group will be to identify and facilitate community resources to families of gang members. The group was informed of the PSAC's work on youth violence. The group meets again Friday, Jan. 13. Capt. Plummer said a representative from APD will be at the meeting to answer questions.

c. Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) report

Michelle Weston reported that AFD also assessed their resources with the recent volcanic eruptions. She reported on the chiefs' transitions. Department morale is positive and there is a good feeling about the direction AFD is going. Soon they will be at a point in the planning process when members of the public may attend planning meetings.

A \$1.96 million bond for "acquiring property for replacement of support/rescue vehicles and related fire protection capital improvement" will go before voters in April. The MOA is asking the Alaska legislature for funding assistance for the new fire training center. A training center in Anchorage is necessary as they are required to train while on duty. Currently the nearest training center is in Kenai.

Chuck Springer asked about the AFD Explorers program. Ms. Weston explained that the students go through fire training and that some Explorers have gone on

to become firefighters. There is a link on the AFD Web site to the program. Sam O'Connor asked if APD plans to re-open their Explorers program. Capt. Plummer responded that the program would need to go through a review and some changes would need to be made.

d. Other New Business

Municipal Manager Denis LeBlanc introduced George Hieronymus, senior consultant for The Foraker Group. Mr. Hieronymus facilitated a discussion with commission members about goals for the upcoming year. Goals identified included:

- Relevance to and voice for the community
- Group cohesion
- Follow through on previously identified goals
- Community involvement and input
- Learning earlier about issues departments are dealing with

Mr. LeBlanc noted that department liaisons could include in their reports more information about new and continuing issues of community concern that they are dealing with. The heads of these departments may occasionally invite a commission member to join a department meeting in order to get a better sense of the issues they are addressing and the type of work being done there. He also suggested that the Department of Health and Social Services might also be included as another department to report to the commission on issues of public safety. He also suggested the group interact more with the chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee, Paul Bauer.

Members decided to revisit previously identified goals, including interacting with Community Councils to learn what the concerns are in different areas of the community, and potentially identifying new areas of concern. Chair Lynda Zaugg suggested that a Community Council Report agenda item be added. The group agreed. Catherine will add the MOA Community Council liaison, Teri Albrecht, to the PSAC meeting notification list.

NEXT MEETING

Members decided to hold a planning meeting January 28, 2-4PM at Fire Station #1. At this meeting they will review goals identified in previous meetings and decide which to pursue and methods for doing so.

The meeting adjourned around 8:00PM.