

**SUQUAMISH CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**May 2, 2019 — 6:00 p.m.**

**Suquamish Elementary School Library, 18950 Park Blvd. NE, Suquamish**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

*Members Present:* Martha Burke, Kevin McDonald, Laurie Kadet, Lisa Lindsay, Allen Jacobs

*Members Absent:* Tom Curley, Brian Albro, Carol Larsen, Peter Kalmar

*Quorum* No

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

County Staff: Tina Nelson, Jennifer Cannon

Community Members: Sandra Senter, Bob Larson, Allen Haugen

Other Governmental Partners: Michele Laboda (Public Information Officer, North Kitsap Fire and Rescue), Dave Rasmussen (Public Information Officer, Kitsap Dept. of Emergency Management), Cherrie May (Suquamish Tribe Emergency Management Coordinator).

**PROCEEDINGS**

Meeting began at 6:10 pm, Martha Burke (Vice Chairperson) presiding.

Public Comment: None

Minutes: The April minutes were not available for review and approval.

Meeting Core: Michele Laboda, Dave Rasmussen, and Cherrie May were introduced. There was a presentation of the “*Map Your Neighborhood Program.*” This is a tool that has been used for a number of years and is based on neighbors helping neighbors in the event of an emergency or disaster. Neighbors connect ahead of time and define the “circle” of their neighborhood--ideally 10-20 homes. The program does not need 100% participation, but aims to connect 1/3 to 1/2 of the neighborhood. Neighbors then meet to review program materials (including a DVD) that outline what to do to stay safe in an earthquake. There is also “*Map Your Neighborhood*” information available on YouTube. The process includes learning what special skills neighbors have that could contribute to safety efforts. Additionally, 1 or 2 homes with easy access are identified where kids can go if parents cannot get home immediately. Participating neighborhoods often host an annual event to keep people connected and updated. If your neighborhood wishes to participate please contact Cherrie so she has a contact person(s) for your neighborhood and can provide support.

Cherrie reinforced that the Tribe’s emergency management plan and response encompasses the entire community and includes all residents. Michelle Laboda used the example of an 8.2 magnitude subduction earthquake to illustrate the importance of having a plan in place to protect you and your family during and immediately after the quake. This includes knowing what to do during a quake and having emergency supplies on hand in your home, vehicle, and workplace. Roads may not be passable and emergency responders will be focused on evaluating the scope of the entire situation and will not be available immediately to respond to individuals. It can take up to a week before help is available so households should be prepared to be self-sufficient for 7-14 days. Having a neighborhood network and knowing people you can call on in small as well as large incidents is an important component of preparedness. Much more information about individual and neighborhood emergency preparedness is included in materials available from Cherrie and Dave’s offices.

There was discussion of the communication system including how phone lines were jammed with 911 callers asking if there had been a quake during the Nisqually earthquake. 911 should

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be used ONLY for emergencies. It is important to have a communication plan with your family members and to use “low impact” communications like text instead of voice. Develop a “text group” so one short, simple message can be sent regarding your condition and where you are. There is a local radio station (KITZ 1400 AM) that plays syndicated radio programming, but in an emergency the County can feed them current Kitsap specific information--what you need to know about getting help and resources. The Tribe will be linking into this as well via communication with the county and state operations centers. KOMO, KIRO, and other news radio stations can be used for regional emergency information as well as NOAA weather radio channels.

People can subscribe free of charge to Kitsap County ALERT, an “Alert Sense” system that provides emergency mass notification services. With the push of a button the county can send out localized, critical notifications to people who have signed up. Opt-in to Kitsap County ALERT at [www.kitsapdem.org](http://www.kitsapdem.org) and click the Kitsap County ALERT button on the website homepage. Subscribing gives the county your address and this system has been used to alert neighbors in the area of a gas leak. During the night a robo call alerts subscribers to an emergency situation.

Michelle said that the Fire District has been unable to reach schools in past incidents because parents blocked the roads. It is her hope that people will stay off of transportation routes, especially around dense areas such as schools. Parents can check with the schools to learn about their level of preparedness; however, schools focus on keeping kids and staff safe, surveying the impact of the quake around the school, and sheltering and supporting the kids. Parent/student reunification needs to happen systematically. Schools take this responsibility very seriously and there are efforts now to make day care centers more prepared as well.

There was discussion of wildfires as 2019 is expected to be a fairly ferocious wildfire season. In the first week of March there were 51 wildfires reported and 49 of them were west of the mountains. This has not historically been a problem, but April rains encourage rapid growth that is susceptible to fire. The web site Firewise.org has useful tips for prevention and preparedness. Start thinking about moving combustibles away from your home and think about escape routes in advance. It is helpful to make a list of what to take with you in case you need to evacuate.

The speakers discussed the CERT program, a national 6 week (7 session) training program that provides basic understanding of emergency preparedness including disaster first aid. It has been offered in Kitsap County for 5 or 6 years. The training is free and run by volunteers. Individuals can do the training alone or be part of a volunteer team to respond in the event of a real emergency as a coordinated team. Cherrie said the Tribe has hosted the training in the past and will be hosting additional ones. Contact her at [cmay@suquamish.nsn.us](mailto:cmay@suquamish.nsn.us) if you are interested.

Updates:

- James Street—Allen Haugen said we still need money for gravel as well as help spreading the gravel.
- Short term vacation rentals—Jennifer Cannon said the survey was extended until the end of March. There were 894 responses and a report will be distributed to the County Commissioners soon. The existing code that requires a permit is on hold for now, but it will be updated.
- PTSA—had a successful auction in Indianola.

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- Transit—a fast foot ferry from Kingston is being proposed for Saturdays, which would mean Saturday bus service to Suquamish.
- Vegetation Management—Kevin McDonald provided a draft of text related to controlling vegetation for safety for motorists and pedestrians. Tina Nelson said she is working on a postcard to LAMIRD residents with information about maintaining your landscape “in front of your property up to the pavement.” It is intended to inform people about safety and ease of walking. There may be help available for people who are not physically able to do their own maintenance. The county will continue to do major pruning for safety and site distance. Tina will bring draft postcard text to the next SCAC meeting. It will go out as a joint effort between SCAC and the County and will be mailed to house addresses and owner addresses for rentals.

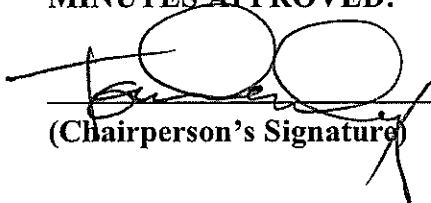
Final public comment: None

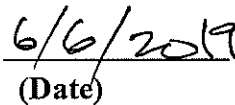
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Next meeting will be June 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Suquamish Elementary School Library, 18950 Park Blvd NE, Suquamish

Minutes submitted by Acting Recorder, Sandra Senter

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson's Signature)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)