

**MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

ELK GROVE CITY HALL
November 17, 2021
Zoom Meeting

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Karen Grussenmeyer called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Members Present: Bruce Cager, Ann Hennessey, Steven A. Capps, Karen Grussenmeyer

Members Absent: Ted Clark

Staff: Jamie Hudson, RTIC Supervisor / Emergency Manager
Jim Ramsey, Risk Analyst/ADA Coordinator

2.0 APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

Ann motioned to accept the August 2021 meeting minutes, Bruce seconded the motion. Motion passed 3 Ayes, 1 Abstain.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4.0 REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS/POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 SUBJECT: Access and Functional Needs in Emergency Operations

Jamie Hudson introduced himself and described his background in emergency management, including working the Oroville Dam evacuation and the difficulty with finding those with disabilities to help them evacuate. He has recently spoken with a community member who had concerns with being evacuated during an emergency. The City has started the OWL project this season and he wants to establish a voluntary database people can register for, that the City will use to help evacuees. He proceeded to describe the kind of information the City would need and asked the committee to provide insight as to what the City needs to consider for those with disabilities during an emergency.

One element the City has determined is the ability to move those with disabilities physically, partnering with Paratransit, etc. The next element is sheltering and determining all the needs surrounding that. He mentioned that ways to get the word out can include social media, inserts with utility bills, and information available at City events and buildings.

Steve mentioned that medication access is very important not only to those with disabilities but also older folks. Steve said the fire department has advised to keep a list of your medications in your freezer, because they will look there for it. Bruce asked about sheltering in place. Jamie said the Oroville Dam event has two weeks of sheltering whereas the Camp Fire had sheltering of several months. He also stated with Hurricane Katrina people were sheltered for 9 months. Elk Grove, however, generally will have shorter term events unless we had a millennial flood. Karen stated that power shutdowns could have an impact as well. With a good database, Jamie said the City and its partners will be able to help people with specific needs. Steve asked if the DMV could help in some way, providing information on who within Elk Grove has a disabled placard. Karen stated that people could walk neighborhoods handing out informational flyers. Ann asked if the City could partner with health care providers to ensure those who can't drive could be covered in the database. Karen suggested reaching out to churches to help educate

about the City's database. Jamie said one challenge is finding those who are older and with disabilities who live with family. Steve said there's probably a lot of people out there who don't necessarily consider themselves as having a disability or needing extra help in an emergency situation. He stated that we will have to figure out all the different ways and combine them to reach out. Bruce asked if nearby Cities have programs that Elk Grove could use as examples, and if there's any kind of group where they get together to discuss issues. Jamie stated there is a group in the region that includes all Cities and Counties. Bruce suggested using local TV morning shows to educate people regarding this. Steve mentioned that hospitals have different kinds of support groups that invite speakers, and suggested the City could send speakers to those groups to educate them about the effort.

Steve asked about a timeframe to start communications. Jamie thought it would take at least a few months before he would be ready to start engaging on this. Bruce said we could have something we could give people so they'll have something they can refer to. Jamie stated that through the database, we could ask if people wanted to be occasionally contacted with reminders. Jim mentioned that he and Jamie could partner on looking for any grants that might be used for this effort.

5.0 GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

None

6.0 COMMITTEE COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Steve moved to adjourn at 6:58 pm. Bruce seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Karen Grussenmeyer

KAREN GRUSSENMEYER, VICE-CHAIR
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim Ramsey

PREPARED BY:
JIM RAMSEY, RISK ANALYST / ADA COORDINATOR