

CERT Meeting Notes 11-21-22

In attendance: Melissa Barringer, President; Karen Scheuerer, Outreach; Rachel Bush, Training Officer; Dr. Linda Green; Tim Jenkins; Jimmie Tarlau, City Liason; Mark Grisar, Secretary

Melissa called the meet to order at 7:31 and introduced Rachel to do her presentation on how to recruit new members.

Some of Rachel's pointers:

Engage with your subjects

Be genuine

Be conversational

Know what your own "why" is: Why you are doing this; practice making a concise statement, being sure to attune your message to your audience.

Have an 'ask'; meaning, what you hope the next step is for your subject. It can be as simple as requesting they read some CERT literature or it can be "Come join us at our next meeting. Make it personal, have a hierarchy in mind. Think of it as story-telling and always bring it back to the Why and always have an Ask.

Rachel gave us a few minutes to think out and write down our 'Whys'.

We then paired off and took turns practicing our recruitment spiel. It was a helpful exercise.

Our meeting location came under discussion growing from the notion that many people will find the Police Station an off-putting and/or awkward place to meet.

Mark took issue with this rejection while acknowledging the reasons for it do exist. He hopes we don't have to pay for space when free venues are available.

Melissa will check with Joe's Movement Emporium, Linda will check out the Nature Center and City Hall is a third alternative, which Jimmie would arrange.

Melissa reported on her experience attending Fairfax County's CERTCON, the all day class entitled Until Help Arrives. The first portion is available online. The second part is in person, hands on training which can be completed only after completing the online classes. She spoke of the 'Rodeo' she attended. Participants formed teams and rotated through different stations, where they were scored. Stations included Situational Awareness, Triage, Human Anatomy, First Aid and Hazardous Materials.

Mark spoke about his attendance at some workshops, notably the Duct Tape special and the Stroke Smart lecture. The presenters of these two events are willing to make presentations to our group and Rachel volunteered to make the arrangements.

The size, commitment and range of experience of the Fairfax County CERT organization was noted, a model for our long term goals.

Christmas baskets will be given out at the Police Dept. on December 16 (7 am to 6 pm) and the baskets will be prepared on December 13 and 14 beginning at 4 pm. Wearing their CERT gear, as many members as possible will attend these events.

Tim reported that he had attended a 5K event in another capacity and noted the importance of taking the opportunity at every event to beat the CERT drum.

It was noted that some Hyattsville residents are interested in our group and it was agreed they would be welcomed.

The By-Laws, as edited at last month's meeting, were adopted unanimously.

Jimmie noted we should have a table at the Dec. 3 Crafts Fair at Joe's. Melissa is looking into this. Mark hopes we don't have to pay for having a spot at this event.

Karen presented her well thought out Community Outreach plan, which is extensive and ambitious. It outlines a number of avenues for us to establish connections in the community, including meets with community stakeholders. She will provide a Monthly Update that will include: Training opportunities, a re-cap of the previous meeting and an invitation for the public to join us.

It was agreed that we should meet with Mr. Kamala, City Manager, to discuss the City's Emergency Operations Plan. Either Melissa or Jimmie will send the plan in pdf format to the group.

The next meeting will be December 19, 7:30 pm at the Police Station.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52