**Monday, July 26th , 2021**448838725209

**GP-CERT Meeting Minutes:**

**Gordon Holtby welcomed everyone to GP-CERT’s first in-person meeting in 16 months, and gave a special welcome to all newcomers who were attending their first meeting. He requested that everyone sign in on one of the attendee lists, and mentioned that we also have new volunteer information forms for those who might consider joining and helping out the GP community in the aftermath of any major disaster, such as a hurricane.**

**Holtby noted that we previously held a 30-minute orientation for newcomers prior to the start of each regular in-person meeting, but we had moved away from that during COVID. He noted that we may go back to them depending on how many newcomers attend meetings going forward. He reiterated that all GP-CERT volunteers were welcome to reach out to him or any of the Command Team by telephone, text, or email at any time. All of the Command Team contact information is listed on the GP-CERT.org web-site. Holtby also mentioned that we have a** [granparadisocert@gmail.com](mailto:granparadisocert@gmail.com) **email address.**

**Kicking things off – Holtby noted that we are now getting to what he regards as the “teeth of the hurricane season” – August 15th through the end of October. He mentioned that everyone should be taking steps to prepare their family for being without power for up to 7 days – guidance used to be 72 hours or three days. Zone Leaders should also be reaching out to all of their Zone volunteers to coordinate a meeting place and plan for after a severe weather event. He mentioned again that we have a new Zone Lead for Zone 5 – Brian Sheftel, who lives on Amica Loop – and once again welcomed Brian.**

**Holtby thanked everyone who participated in last month’s Yellow Box exercise – the feedback received was that we need a He gave special thanks to Kristi Loret, and her father, Trent DePersia, for all their work on the Yellow Box drill. Kristi Loret then provided some additional feedback from the Yellow Box drill and reiterated the need for better communication protocol. Rich MacCread also provided his thoughts on the drill.**

**With respect to updates, Holtby noted that the thing that concerns him the most is our readiness – as we have a lot of volunteers in new roles and we have not done much in the way of training over the last 18 months. He mentioned that this is changing – he has been sending out updates on the new CERT Basic training opportunities for GP residents. While not a requirement, those GP-CERT volunteers who wish to do so may take CERT basic training that includes amongst other things first aid procedures that can come in handy at any time. Last Wednesday, there was a Ladies Wine Wednesday in the clubhouse foyer – and one of the attendees passed out at the event and started vomiting – classic heat exhaustion symptoms – yet no one was quite sure what to do. The 911 operator asked if GP had an AED (automatic external defibrillator) handy, and we do have one by the gym. The new Board to get 4-5 more AEDs, as IW has six. CERT Basic training covers what to do with heat-related injuries like heat exhaustion and heat stroke, as well as showing you how to use an AED. Holtby noted that even taking the FEMA IS-00317 Introduction to CERT introductory on-line course is a great start.**

**Holtby noted that we are fortunate to have some volunteers on GP-CERT who have fabulous backgrounds, and they have put in a lot of work on getting us an on-line CERT basic training course - as well as an in-person course put together in conjunction with IW. Rich MacCready has been incredible in assisting Kristi in getting things up and running. As of earlier today, we had 9 signed up for the on-line class (10 slots for GP-CERT) – skills portion on September 25th and 26th, and 7 signed up for in-person training on October 1-3. Kristi Loret and Rich MacCready then gave an extensive presentation on how to sign up for both the on-line and in person CERT Basic training courses, and they took a number of questions on both programs. Bottom line is that the on-line course is essentially full now, although there is still some room for the in-person training that is scheduled for October 1-3rd**

**Holtby noted that we have ample training material for anyone who is interested in getting a leg up on the next CERT basic training course. We have CERT training video DVDs of 2011 vintage - but the material is still relevant today. We have CPR lifesaving skills kits with hands-on Mini Anne Learning Manikins. We have CERT Basic training manuals available for anyone who wants to take the CERT Basic training. We also have CERT Train-the-Trainer instructor guides available for anyone who wants to take this course and help out Kristi with training our volunteers in the future.**

**Second update – we need a new Access Control lead – Chris Moen has accepted a full-time job with North Port Fire Rescue as a Life Safety and Fire Prevention Officer, starting August 9th. Please join me in wishing Chris all the best – we now will have a resident on the “inside”. So, if anyone has an interest in stepping up as Access Control Officer, Holtby requested that they let him know.**

**Third update - ‘The GP Responder’ newsletter, which we started up in September of last year, has published four issues so far. Thanks to all those volunteers and contributors who have helped so far, and a special thanks to Carole and Jeff Myles. Holtby noted that we still don’t have enough volunteers willing to write articles for the newsletter. Our next issue is scheduled for publication in August. Please consider contributing an article – we are looking for 100-150 words on anything with a safety or weather focus that would be of interest to the GP community. In addition, we would like to start profiling one member of the Command Team in each issue, perhaps Tom Porada for our August issue. If you have an idea for a newsletter article you would like to write that does not have a safety or weather focus, please let us know.**

**Fourth update – Finances. The GP cap fundraiser worked out extremely well – we started with 158 Core 365 Adult Pitch Performance caps and we only have 18 white caps left. Total cost of the caps was $1,341 or $8.78/each and we sold them for 2 for $35 or $20 each – so we have made roughly $1,500 in profit so far – with another $300+ still to be realized. In addition, we have over $10,000 in the bank due to Matt Koratich of Lennar leaving the $9,000+ in Sarasota County funds available for GP-CERT. Holtby was not sure yet if all of those funds will fall to GP-CERT, but things were looking pretty good. As things start to open back up around here, we would like to continue to do some fundraising, so any suggestions would be welcomed.**

**Fifth update item was recruitment – we have 92 volunteers on GP-CERT as of today – but not that many are active – so we need to continually recruit. Check in with your neighbors and friends – bring them along to a meeting.**

**Sixth update item – communications – which Tom Porada gave an extensive presentation on. He mentioned the repeater in the garbage enclosure, the two separate types of radios, and he spoke about some of the new initiatives that he was working on in conjunction with Rich MacCready.**

**Next item is a little “pop quiz” exercise put together by Rich MacCready that involved knowing all the street names in your respective Zones – GP caps were given out as prizes. It emphasized the need for Zone volunteers to become familiar with their respective zones and the streets within them. In the event of a storm, street signs may be down, and it is imperative that Zone volunteers know how to describe damage assessment locations in those circumstances.**

**Holtby also mentioned that Leroy Spayd is our retired resident meteorologist and he has volunteered to provide storm updates specific to GP. Leroy spent 40 years working at NOAA, mostly in the National Weather Service.  For a few years he did hurricane research and forecasting hurricane paths at NOAA’s National Center in DC.   He is friends with the current Director of the Nat Hurricane Center in Miami. Robert Spong commented that Leroy’s weather updates were fabulous!**

**Longer term forecasts have come to us compliments of Dave Elwart, another of** **our resident weather gurus, and the brand new Florida-based web-site called WeatherTiger. WeatherTiger provides regular updates on developing and already developed hurricanes.**

**Last, Holtby mentioned that he has been leading GP-CERT for 2-1/2 years now, and at the end of this hurricane season, he would like to step aside to give some “new blood” their opportunity to take GP-CERT to the next level. He noted that when he started in this role that he had no background whatsoever in emergency response. He felt that there are a lot of talented GP volunteers that could take our program from here. Holtby noted that he has been extremely busy as the head of the Finance Committee, and there is a lot of heavy lifting involved with that role – which Ihe does not see letting up – and he felt that he can’t do justice to both roles. So, please let him know if you have an interest in stepping up!**

**There were a number of questions and comments, and the date for next meeting was announced as Tuesday, September 21st at 6 pm in the craft room.**