**Tuesday, July 5th , 2022 GP-CERT Meeting: Minutes**

**Holtby welcomed everyone, and offered a special welcome to anyone attending their first GP-CERT meeting (two new attendees). Holtby advised that tonight’s meeting should last approximately one hour.**

**Holtby then introduced Leroy Spayd, GP’s own retired meteorologist, who was at tonight’s meeting. Spayd has been providing storm updates specific to GP for the last year+. Spayd 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. Spayd then spoke and answered audience questions, including a discussion on flood insurance and when it would be appropriate to evacuate in advance of a hurricane. He also noted that 2022 is expected to be an “above average” year for storm activity.**

**We then switched up the agenda due to one of the presenters having to leave early, and the training and education team did a “teach back” on splinting. After a demonstration, attendees audience split up into teams and did hands-on splinting of other volunteers. The key takeaways were to ask permission, to utilize whatever materials are on hand, and to bind the splint above and below any exposed contusion or wound.**

**The training and education team then provided feedback on the July 4th 5K run, which had taken place the day prior to our meeting. Baglio and MacCready advised that the event went very well, but that for future events we need to have a banner or sign on the “medical” golf cart so that race attendees know that assistance is available and that the cart is not part of the cheering section. Baglio mentioned that one race participant appeared to be having some difficulty during the race, but the GP-CERT medical team kept a close eye on his progress.**

**Holtby then provided some feedback from volunteers who participated in GP-CERT Family Day on Saturday, May 28th:**

* **Timing should be earlier in the year (during March) to catch snowbirds and part-time residents**
* **We should have our “own” GP-CERT event separate from the Activities Committee so the focus is on GP-CERT**
* **Ideally, it needs to be centrally located (ie. the parking lot) rather than spread out across the various venues**
* **We need better promotional material to pass out (updated tri-folds) as the FEMA material is of limited value.**
* **We need continuous and much earlier advertising (to explain what the day is all about and to promote it effectively)**
* **While all the food was excellent and we had great feedback, hotdogs starting at 11 am may be a better and ultimately cheaper option (breakfasts do not always attract big crowds)**
* **We could provide a hotdog, beverage and potato chips for $1 (with a donation jar nearby) and be far better off than the approximate $500 loss (after donations)**
* **We also had too much food, and really did not need to be purchasing candy and games for the kids games.**
* **We can leave out the NPFR vehicles and NP Police Department vehicles, as well as the canine unit, substituting more classes and demos instead (with an introduction to GP-CERT as one of the classes)**
* **The senior fraud class was excellent, but we need to find classes/demos that are of similar length so that we can have attendees “rotate” to different classes (ie. every 30 minutes)**
* **As attendees arrive, having a “sign-in” in the parking lot with an agenda and map of events would be ideal (in GP-CERT tent), as that would allow us to promote GP-CERT immediately**

**Holtby thanked all those who helped out for this event!**

**First agenda update item: Holtby advised that ‘The GP Responder’ newsletter, which we started up in September of 2020, has published eight issues so far – the latest which went out a couple of weeks ago. It received some wonderful feedback – a few email comments:**

**“Wow. Totally impressed. Thank you and please extend to every single member of the team who has spent their time and efforts in creating a unified group to benefit each resident. Gran Paradiso is showing how we are creating a sustainable educated community.”**

**Again, thank you to those volunteers and contributors who have helped so far, and a special thanks to Carole and Jeff Myles who do a fabulous job of putting the newsletter together. A special thank you to Vicki Coors for the wonderful photos she took during Family Safety Day, which were featured in our last issue. The next issue of The GP Responder is scheduled to go out in mid-September – so 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. We have a couple of volunteers who proofread all submitted articles, so don’t worry if your punctuation or grammar is not perfect.**

**Holtby noted that we are getting closer to what he regards as the “teeth of the hurricane season” – August 15th through the end of October. Everyone should be taking steps to get supplies in 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.**

**Holtby still views communications to be our team’s “weak link” and a key item we need to improve upon in 2022. Our Communications officer, Tom Porada, was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, but we did have a communications Net Check-in just prior to the regular meeting – but only two Zone Leads of six checked in – so we need to do a lot better.**

**Fourth update – Recruitment: Still our biggest challenge, and we are open to ideas and suggestions. Ed Litcher has passed on his VNC president crown, so he may have some thoughts moving forward. He was unable to attend tonight’s meeting due to a 24-hour illness.**

**Trent DePersia had been working to update our trifold marketing materials – and had a quote for $309 for 1,000 trifolds from Venice Print Center. We still have a little work to do on the trifold before we have the job done, as I wanted to include photos specific to our GP volunteers from the Family Safety Day.**

**Fifth Update item – Bob Browne, head of Access Control, reiterated that we need additional volunteers willing to help out on the Access Control front, as a minimum of 500 hours will be needed to adequately staff the front gate in the aftermath of a hurricane. Browne also mentioned that we need to have a few volunteers look at updating our Operational Plan, and he and Holtby volunteered to do so.**

**Sixth Update Item: Holtby advised that our finances continue to be solid with $10,300 in the bank as of the end of May. We are sold out of GP caps (158 total sold). It would be good to start thinking about how to continue to increase our visibility within the community and also to continue to do some fundraising.**

**Holtby noted that we still need to establish both a GP-CERT Treasurer and a Special Events Coordinator position. We need to have an annual budget and to track revenues and expenses – which has to date been a “back of the envelope” type of thing. Marci Maynard volunteered to fill the Treasurer position, and Holtby advised that he would reach out to her once the management company transition has taken place. It would make more sense to have our own GP-CERT bank account, but as we are not a legal entity, that may not be possible. As for Special Events Coordinator, we need someone to handle getting volunteers for the various community events like the 5K run, putting up/taking down flag security, etc. Sal Baglio volunteered to assist on this position, and the Command Team will work with Baglio to get this accomplished.**

**Holtby then opened up the meeting for discussion, and there were a number of discussions on various topics. It was brought up that Zone leads need to “purge” Zone lists a couple of times each year to reflect volunteer interest and that Zone teams need to meet up prior to hurricane season.**

**Holtby then announced that the date for our next meeting is Tuesday, September 6th at 6 pm He encouraged the Command Team to do their radio check-in between 5:30 and 6:00 pm that day. The meeting was then adjourned.**