**GP-CERT 3-8-2022 Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes 3-8-2022

Holtby welcomed everyone, and offered a special welcome to all residents attending

their first GP-CERT meeting. He advised that we previously did a GP-CERT

orientation for all new volunteers, but we had gone away from that since Covid

appeared. Holtby mentioned he would like to get back to a 30-minute orientation

prior to our regular meetings, but he needs feedback from our new attendees. In the

interim, he recommended the on-line FEMA course IS-317 Introduction to CERT for

new volunteers. In addition, Holtby mentioned that all GP-CERT volunteers are

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 noted that we also have a

granparadisocert@gmail.com email address.

First agenda item: ‘The GP Responder’ newsletter, which was started up in

September of 2020, has published seven issues so far – the latest which went out a

couple of weeks ago. In this issue, Holtby advised we had to recycle an old article

due to lack of new content. Holtby thanked those volunteers and contributors who

have helped so far, and gave a special thanks to Carole and Jeff Myles. He noted that

the next issue of The GP Responder is scheduled to go out in mid-May – so he

requested that everyone consider contributing an article – 100-150 words on

anything with a safety or weather focus that would be of interest to the GP

community. Holtby noted that we have a couple of volunteers who proofread all

submitted articles, so you don’t have to worry if your punctuation or grammar is not

perfect.

On the web-site front, Holtby advised that we now have our own hosting service

agreement with BlueHost and no longer have to rely on IslandWalk. Cost was

$178.20 for three years, and he thanked Carole Myles for taking on and completing

this switch-over.

Second agenda item - Training and Education (“T&E”): Holtby noted that another

Yellow Box exercise was in the planning stages for May – with a date to be

determined – but Rich MacCready was tied up with AC&P implementation and Kristy

had family in town. We also will likely have an “all hands on deck” search and rescue

(SAR) event, much like IslandWalk CERT does every year. At our last meeting, there

was also some discussion about implementing team morale boosting activities to get

all volunteers involved – cookouts, meet and greet, wine nights, etc.

Holtby reiterated that we have ample training material for anyone who is interested

in getting a leg up on the next CERT basic training course or CERT Train the Trainer

guides. We have CERT Train-the-Trainer virtual courses K0428. These 24-hr

courses are facilitated by FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute and are free.

Each individual course offering meets 3 days per week for 4 hours for 2 consecutive

weeks. You need to have completed the CERT Basic training to take this course.

You’ll also need to get a referral from either Ryan Murphy or Kaylynn Carpenter, our

new Sarasota County CERT Program Manager. 2022 course dates are as follows:

• June 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 (12 – 4 p.m.)

• July 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 (1 – 5 p.m.)

• September 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 (12 – 4 p.m.)

Holtby mentioned that he still views communications to be our team’s “weak link”

and a key item we need to improve upon in 2022. Tom Porada, our Communications

officer, then provided an update on the net control exercise that took place just prior

to our 6 pm meeting – 12 of the 14 Command Team members participated – which

was an excellent result. He identified reception at the back gate and Zone 5 as

weaker than optimal, and advised that we may have to look at extending our antennae

to improve it. Porada then gave an extensive update on some of the Communication

initiatives underway in our area, and responded to a number of questions regarding

radio usage in the zones.

Fourth update – Recruitment: Holtby advised that we passed out materials at the

SuperBowl party, as well as min-CERT footballs – and he thanked Jean Townley for the

idea and Cheryl and Jim Heeren for the great stencil work. There was some

discussion as to effectiveness – as many of the event attendees were renters – and

signups/cap sales were minimal. Holtby also advised that Trent DePersia has been

working to update our trifold marketing materials – and has a quote for $309 for

1,000 trifolds from Venice Print Center. Holtby mentioned we still have a little work

to do on the trifold before we get the printing done.

Overall we all need to do a better job on recruitment – and if anyone is willing to help

Trent and Ed on the Recruitment Committee, please let all of us know. Recruiting

takes “a village”. A few thoughts: Do we need to get more involved in planning

another Family Safety Day like we had planned to do in 2020? We are attempting to

put together a GP-CERT sponsored Family Day/Barbecue which would include North

Port Fire Department - similar to what we had scheduled in March of 2020 prior to

that event being cancelled due to COVID. Ideally, it would be scheduled in May, prior

to the official start of hurricane season (June 1-November 30). We would like to

stay away from the May 7th weekend, as there is a Kentucky Derby Fundraising

event scheduled.

There was strong support for a Family Day, and a number of volunteers in

attendance offered to work on putting this together, led by Jay Alvord. Holtby will set

up a meeting with North Port Fire Rescue to see what can be scheduled.

As a side note, I just got an email from the activities committee and it appears the

activity budget has a memorial day portion set aside but they have not locked in the

event yet or the date.  Might be beneficial to have one massive event to impact more

homeowners with safety, donations, and potential recruitment.  Will provide more

details once I receive a response from Liz Kooymans and the BOD liaisons.

Fifth Update item – Bob – anything on the Access Control front? I know that you

mentioned 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. We also need to coordinate Access Control with

the AC&P changes that are being implemented, and Rich MacCready is the guy to

update you on the AC&P changes.

Sixth Update Item: Our finances continue to be solid with $10,500 in the bank as of

the end of January. We still have 5 white GP caps left out of the 158 we started with.

As things start to open back up around here, it would be good to start thinking about

how to increase our visibility within the community and also to continue to do some

fundraising.

We still need to establish a GP-CERT Treasurer 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. There has been preliminary interest exhibited in the

position, but if anyone has an interest - please let me know ASAP.

Also, I have resigned my position on the POA Finance Committee as of March 1 st , and

plan to continue to head up our team – unless someone else wants the job? At last

night’s Board meeting, a liaison was to be determined for GP-CERT, but while I tuned

in via Zoom, I did not hear who that might be. I also want to take this opportunity to

thank Mitch Farrah for his work on the POA Board over the past year. Mitch, thank

you on behalf of all of us.

The date for our next meeting is to be determined at this time – I originally put a

placeholder on Tuesday, May 10th at 6 pm in the craft room, but my wife advised me

that is our grandson’s birthday and my presence will be required.

Meeting was then adjourned.