Minutes 3-9-2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. and Incident Commander Holtby welcomed those  
attending, as well as those who were on their very first GP-CERT virtual call. Holtby advised that in the absence of orientation sessions for newcomers, the Command Team is available for questions by telephone, text, or email at any time (and that all of their contact  
information is listed on the GP-CERT.org web-site)

An agenda will be provided several days in advance of future meetings. Updates were  
provided on the following:

1. Congratulations were offered to Tom Porada, our Communications Officer, and Mitch  
   Farrah, our Deputy Incident Commander, on their recent election to the GP Board.
2. ‘The GP Responder’ newsletter has published three issues. Thanks were given to all  
   those volunteers and contributors who have helped so far. A request was made for  
   100-150 word articles to be submitted for future issues, as we had to cut back on our  
   original goal of publishing every two months to once every three months due to lack  
   of content. Next issue is scheduled for publication in May, and we also plan to start  
   profiling one member of the Command Team in each issue.
3. Holtby spoke last week with Chief Karl Bennett of North Port Fire Rescue - Division  
   Chief for Emergency Medical Services. Two things came out of that discussion:  
   • He is looking for 5-10 GP-CERT volunteers who would be willing to help out  
   each day for their next COVID-19 Moderna vaccination clinic. It likely would be  
   held in 1-2 weeks time, and would be held at a site close to North Port City Hall.  
   Our volunteers would not be administering the vaccine, but would help out  
   with traffic, directing people with appointments to the appropriate areas, and  
   keeping them moving along in an orderly fashion through the process. Four  
   hour shifts are what Bennett advised are likely to be required, and volunteers  
   will have as strong likelihood of being vaccinated at the end of each day should  
   there be excess doses available, which was the case during their prior event.  
   • Commencing March 15 th , Florida will be lowering the COVID-19 vaccine  
   eligibility age to 60 years old.  
   • As a result, GP-CERT volunteers over 60 years of age, preferably those who  
   have not yet been vaccinated would be preferred, as NPFR does not want any  
   excess vaccine at the end of each clinic day to go to waste. Bennett advised that  
   he can make no promises that there will be vaccine available at the end of the  
   day, although it is highly likely. If you are interested in helping North Port Fire  
   Rescue out with their next clinic, please send me an email or text. Preference  
   for clinics will be given to GP-CERT volunteers over 60 first, and then to  
   volunteers under 60 who have not yet been vaccinated.  
   • Chief Bennett also advised that NPFR still has 7,000 masks available for  
   distribution. A ‘show of hands’ vote was taken on our call whether to do  
   another ‘mask-distribution’ event, and the response was to move forward with  
   it. Ed Litcher has graciously agreed to once again coordinate this event, and he

will set a date and time, and it will be communicated to the team along with a  
request for volunteers to assist.

1. Trent DePersia, one of our Recruitment Committee chairmen, then provided an  
   excellent update on recruitment strategy. Trent discussed key items of the  
   Committee’s strategy: Voluntary participation and open to all residents; the  
   continuing need for volunteers in each of the teams – Damage Assessment, Access  
   Control, Communications, Triage/Basic First Aid, and Administration (scribes,  
   newsletter articles, logistics, training, recruitment, etc); and getting new residents  
   awareness of the team improved at orientation meetings. Volunteers will be assigned  
   to areas based on needs, desires, skills, and experience. No prior experience  
   necessary and training is available. Trent advised that the key is to have all  
   volunteers spreading the word to neighbors and friends, have a robust web-site, and  
   also to have GP-CERT pamphlets in the clubhouse.
2. Trent then introduced his daughter, Kristi Loret. Kristi discussed taking the CERT  
   Train-the-Trainer classes recently, and how that sets GP-CERT up nicely to do our  
   own training once things open back up. Kristi stressed the need for regular training,  
   and recommended having an Education and Training Committee set up to handle  
   this. Kristi was willing to spearhead this effort, as long as other volunteers helped.  
   She would like to see CERT Basic training classes twice a year in GP, initially starting  
   out with one. Still to be determined would be format, as there are a number of  
   different options available to us. Kristi also stressed the need for team-building drills  
   and CERT activation scenarios to better prepare GP-CERT. She also discussed the  
   need for training supplies and equipment, as well as additional volunteers to help out  
   with training (primary instructors, and supplemental instructors such as those with  
   firefighting experience, EMS/Nurse, and even Psychology/Survivor advocates  
   If you have an interest in taking a CERT basic training class, please let Kristi Loret and  
   Holtby know by text or email, so we can maintain an up-to-date list. Future CERT  
   classes will likely fill up quickly once they start to open up again, as there are a lot of  
   communities that are starting up training, so it is important that we are able to do  
   something in-house.  
   Holtby advised that GP-CERT has a great deal of training material available for  
   anyone who is interested in getting a leg up on the next CERT basic training or other  
   courses. We have CERT training video DVDs, divided into eight separate segments,  
   including such topics as Disaster Psychology, Safety in the After – Disaster  
   Environment, Handling Mass Casualty Situations, etc. They are 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 participant manuals (30+)  
   available for anyone who wants to take the CERT Basic training at some time in the  
   future. 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.
3. On the communications front, Tom Porada asked that we start looking at events that  
   allow us to practice using the talkies. Holtby requested that those Command Team  
   members who have radios and who are planning to help out during the mask  
   distribution event next month please bring their GP-CERT talkies to the event.
4. As things start to open back up around here, GP-CERT would like to do a little  
   fundraising, so any suggestions would be welcomed. Our Gran Paradiso cap  
   fundraiser was a huge success, as our volunteers sold 94 caps, making roughly $1,100  
   in profit to date. We still have 66 GP Core 365 Adult Pitch Performance caps (42 white  
   and 24 charcoal grey) left. We had been selling them pre-COVID for $20 each or two  
   for $35. Based on continuing that price point, we have a minimum of $1,155 in  
   additional profit (as all costs have been covered) once they are all sold.
5. We need a new Zone Leader for Zone 2. David Durham, the prior Zone 1 Lead, is  
   leaving our GP community. Kristi Loret was the prior Zone 2 Leader, but she is  
   switching over to be the Zone 1 Lead (as she lives in Zone 1). If anyone is interested  
   in being the Zone 2 Lead, please let me or Mitch Farrah know at your earliest  
   convenience. You do not need to have taken CERT basic training, but as long as you  
   have a desire to take it once things open up, that is good enough for us.
6. Holtby previously advised that Joe Wyatt, who is viewed as one of the “godfathers” of  
   GP-CERT, had passed away due to cancer. There is a ‘Celebration of Life’ ceremony  
   planned on March 21 st at 2 pm to honor Joe. There were so many people that wanted  
   to attend that his spouse requested that the event be “invite only”. Originally, this  
   was not the case. Holtby will be attending and speaking about the impact Joe had in  
   helping GP-CERT find our bearings, and how he raised the bar for all volunteers.
7. There were a number of questions and comments about the Board of Directors  
   authorization of GP-CERT and other matters.