

BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING 20-02

July 09, 2020

MEETING Minutes

1. Introductions

Block Captain Lead (BCL) Arlene Honbo opened the meeting and gave a quick overview of the agenda and introduced guests:

- Elaine Jeng – RH City Manager
- Battalion Chief Brian Bennett - LA Co FD
- Battalion Chief Jason Robertson – LA Co FD
- Captain Powers, LA Co Sheriff
- Kristen Raig - RHCA
- Special guests –
 - Sue Jimenez, IT consultant for City of RH
 - Annie Occhipinti – resident and member of Fire Fuel Management Standards

2. Annual Brush Clearance Inspections

BCL Arlene reported we hoped to review the Annual Brush Clearance Inspections before launch on June 1 but were delayed due to the Covid 19. Battalion Chiefs Bennett and Robertson provided updates on annual inspections. A summary of information shared:

- a. There are 22 Battalions in LA County and the Peninsula is served by Battalion 14. Battalion 14 has A, B, and C shifts. Chief Douty covers A shift, Chief Robertson covers B shift and Chief Bennett covers C shift.
- b. Rolling Hills is included in Battalion 14, has 752 parcels and 50 non-compliant as of the last report. The goal is to complete the inspections by July 15, 2020.
- c. Chief Robertson stated the importance of clearing around the home before September and October, months with low water content. He pointed out when smoke is detected and when one smells a fire, the importance of observing the direction of the smoke and watching any changes in wind direction. He encouraged how important it is for residents to decide for themselves when to evacuate and encouraged residents to leave early.
- d. We can follow the LA County FD on twitter @LACoFDPIO. This is the official Twitter feed of the LA County Fire Department Public Information Office (PIO), which provides emergency incident driven information.

3. Important Updates –

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) - Elaine reported the CWPP will be on the City Council meeting agenda on Monday, July 13 and asked for support from the Block Captains. Kristen reported that once the CWPP is accepted by the City of Rolling Hills it will be included on the next scheduled RHCA Board Meeting agenda.

Crest Road East Gate – Kristen reported that work on automating the locked Crest Road East Gate will occur during August 2020.

Fire Fuel Management Standards Project - Annie Occhipinti, resident and member of the Fire Fuel Standards Committee, provided a brief update on this effort. She described the ongoing work by committee members and stated the design of the standards is to be a guidebook for residents in creating defensible space around homes.

4. “Lessons learned” from Stay-at-Home order

Captain Jim Powers provided an update on activities on the Peninsula during the Stay-at-Home order and reported Lomita Station increased their staffing while units were closed elsewhere. There was an initial shortage of supplies and protective gear for employees. Captain Powers encouraged everyone to make sure households have enough supplies on-hand.

Block Captain Ralph Schmoller shared a reference document “Know Your Risk During Covid-19” and recommended it be shared with all residents.

5. Transitioning Zone/ Block Captain meetings to Zoom meetings

BCL Arlene stated in-person meetings for large groups are discouraged given Covid19. The Block Captain and Zone meetings will be conducted using Zoom until further notice. The next Block Captain meeting will be a training session for all Block Captains for our next Zone meetings and will focus on “Hardening Your Home”.

6. City’s Website – www.rolling-hills.org

The City of Rolling Hills has engaged IT Consultant, Sue Jimenez, who has worked on the Block Captain pages of the City of RH’s website. Sue accessed the website, reviewed with the Block Captains what has been added since the launch in April and asked for feedback. Pages reviewed included:

- *Block Captain Program*
 - Important Information for Residents
 - Block Captain Responsibilities
 - Meetings and Agendas
 - Block Captain Calendar
- *Public Safety*
 - Fire and Emergency Preparedness
 - Earthquake and Flood Preparedness
- *I Want To*
 - Signup | Register

7. Volunteers Needed for Emergency Communications Project

BCL Arlene gave an update on the emergency communications project. This project will focus on defining the protocol for communication with the City of Rolling Hills during an emergency. In the event that cell phones, landlines and/or email communications are compromised evaluate the equipment options, such as digital radios, satellite phones or other equipment. Interested volunteers should contact BCL Arlene.

8. Next Block Captain Zoom Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2020 from 10 – 11 am