

Santa Clara Community Organization
General meeting presentation via Zoom
May 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the chair, Kate Perle. Others present included Dawn Leslie, Ann Vaughn, Matt Vohs, George Price, Mary Leontovich, Joel Robe, Tim Foelker, Gary Haliski,, Jerry Finigan, and guest/presenter, Danuta Pfiefer.

Kate introduced Danuta. Danuta said she probably became interested in emergency preparedness because of her mother's interest and involvement with it as a first responder. She said the Long Tom Grange needed a project and mission to keep it energized. Former projects involved calendar sales and the on-going Daffodil Festival. She had become informed about the danger posed by the Cascadia Fault and convinced the Grange to arrange for acquisition and distribution of emergency grab bags. The Grange found a website where emergency supplies could be purchased wholesale and a website where backpacks could be acquired inexpensively. Donors were found among local businesses. Normal cost of the bag would have been \$78 to \$80, but was purchased for \$38. (Danuta demonstrated the bag and its contents). She said donations purchased the first 600 bags, which were sold almost immediately and another 600 were ordered. There is about 100 left from this second order. Sale of the bag gave a little profit for the grange which was used for a defibrillator and training on it for grange members.

Danuta said she looked for emergency responder classes and had trouble finding one locally but was eventually able to find one so that 12 grange members are being trained in an 8-week course to be certified as community responders. Emergency responders surveys and inventories a scene before the arrival of first responders. A bag of tools is part of what is offered by the class. One facet of the class is the apprise trainees about the psychological effects of an emergency in which victims may actually begin blaming their rescuers. Danuta said that those who took the class came out feeling very empowered. Others were signing up for the next class, but that was sidetracked by the Covid-19 crisis.

Danuta then discussed the "map your neighborhood" program that followed this. This began with a video that came out of Washington State and that was followed by a guide as to how this mapping should be done. Part of this is to also track the resources and assets that private citizens might offer in an emergency. The map shows houses in the neighborhood and their water and gas turn-offs. People are given signs to put on their mailboxes or in their windows indicating that things are OK there or if help is needed. The neighborhood that was organized was Jag Road. The number of houses organized in a neighborhood depends on the actual neighborhood. Emergency responders have a system in place so that in an emergency they might coordinate with each other.

Questions/answers:

- George asked about the neighborhood that was organized – Jag Road. Are there plans to expand this? Danuta said that in the future High Pass Road has shown an interest and that there are 4 other neighborhoods in Junction City that also seems interested: the recent fire and the ice storm a couple of years ago highlighted the need for them. George asked if the program also considers urban neighborhoods and Danuta said the program

used out of Washington State does have recommendations for both rural and urban neighborhoods. In any case, the initial organizing meeting begins with the video and has a fireside atmosphere to it. George asked if the program considered security issues where criminals might try to take advantage of the situation. Danuta said this is not part of the program but depends on the neighbor-to-neighbor responses already in place.

- Jerry commented that a couple of main differences between the rural challenges and the suburban challenges is that in suburban settings the population is more transient, causing a need of constant update of neighborhood mapping and also causes neighbors to not know each other as well and may cause a trust deficit. This means there is greater suspicion in giving out personal information.

- Dawn asked how the Grange set the prices the go-bags would sell for. Danuta said it was decided to sell the bags at half the bags' market value. Many of the donor businesses also help sell the bags for the Grange, as well as selling them at her winery.

(At this point Louie Vidmar joined the discussion)

Danuta said, given the current emergency, maybe gloves, masks, and sanitizers could be added to the next batch of bags ordered. She said this project has had the ancillary advantage of bringing neighbors together as well as giving the Grange a reason for existence.

- Joel asked how Danuta got buy-in from her group. Danuta said that it wasn't easy and it took about a year of trying to convince her grange-members. In the end, she simply took this on herself by going to businesses for donations and ordering the bags herself. She said after selling the first order and demonstrating the efficacy of the project, excitement tended to snowball and more people wanted to get involved.

- Dawn made the observation that the gear already collected in a bag makes it easy for people to have the emergency supplies they might need without having to go out and collect each item individually, which makes for procrastination. She said that SCCO, too, needs to find a mission for the future after the neighborhood plan process is complete, and this is a good possibility. Danuta said that people like to see and have tangible items as reminders. Shoes, a hardhat, gloves, and flashlight along with a box of tools under the bed keeps this issue in the front of people's minds.

- Kate said that Santa Clara's situation makes a challenge of scale as there are 21000 residents and getting together any kind of comprehensive effort is daunting. Danuta said that in her neighborhood there is a community feeling nurtured by the annual Daffodil Festival. Getting the community together would be a good start. Given the current environment, maybe drive-in theaters would make a return. Showing a drive-in movie with an entrance fee to cover the go-bags might be one idea.

At this point the group thanked Danuta for her presentation and she left the session.

Kate asked what should be agenda as the meeting moves forward. She announced that the construction of the LTD Transfer Station begins on Monday and asked for any other announcements. Hearing none, she asked for ideas of creating a community gathering as suggested by Danuta. Is the drive-in theater idea actually possible? Where would it be? A number of possible locations were suggested. How do we pre-arrange attendance, and Ann said sometimes people just want to be impulsive – who comes, comes. How do we put together our little emergency bags? What would be in the bags? Possibly we can

promote SCCO as one of the items in the bag. Given the pandemic, how do we not touch items that go in the bag? Dawn suggested we could call the City Parks and Recreations to find out how they organize their movies-in-the-park. Mary volunteered to do this. How do we get the items in the bags – Fred Meyer? Bi-Mart? Grocery Outlet? We will need to know better what we are asking for. Dawn said she would call to find out if we might get donations. George asked where we might find the bags. Maybe we might find out more about where Danuta got her bags. Mary said we might put card games or child-oriented diversions in the kit. Joel said that for a time, Lane County gave out packs of cards with safety information. Ann said we should begin by keeping our kits small. George said the small emergency bags given out by Lane County might be a good model.

Following up on the drive-in movie idea, Ann said the venue we choose would probably determine the number of kits that we might start with as it would be determined by the number of vehicles. Dawn said we might call Action Rental to see if it is possible to rent a large screen. Ann said we might need to address security and liability concerns – more needs to be found out about this – a lot can go wrong.

(Mary and Joel left the session at 8:35; Ann left at 8:39)

Tim suggested that we might target a specific neighborhood that would be easy to map and create a template for other neighborhoods in the future as a start. Dawn said the beginning communications is made difficult because of the Covid policies and distancing. There was a question about the video Danuta used out the State of Washington. Is it available on-line?

It was decided to meet again on Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. via Zoom to follow up on this discussion.

meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

note taker: Jerry Finigan