

BDPNN Meeting Minutes  
29 Jan 2015  
Timothy Burroughs

Lynn Zummo opened the meeting and introduced our guest speaker. Announcements were made at the end of the meeting, consisting of the following. Norine Smith has been the President of BDPNN and led the organization for 6 years, and she has stepped down and taken the position of Vice President. Lynn Zummo is now the President. The next meeting will be April 30 at 6:30 pm. Please keep sending us suggested meeting topics so we can ensure that upcoming meetings continue to provide useful preparedness information. This year's meetings will be April 30, July 29, and Oct 30 at the same time and place.

BDPNN needs volunteers with specific duties and time commitments. If you know of a non-profit lawyer who might be willing to do some pro-bono work, or work at a discounted rate, please let us know. Watch for a newsletter with additional requests for volunteers. We made the announcement a few times, but just to reiterate that BDPNN is now a fully non-profit organization, making all deductions tax-deductible. We appreciate any and all donations to help offset our day-to-day costs, such as renting the meeting space and equipment.

We are planning a Radio Drill to take place on Saturday, Feb 21. Sandy Miarecki went over some of the basics behind how the drill will work. Preferably we would like to have many groups all over Berkeley to sign up. We would request at least 2 people per group to make radio calls as if they had their headquarters set up. Everyone in Berkeley will do this simultaneously on the same channel to see if we will interfere with each other. Then we will try a few other things, such as the privacy codes, to see if that helps or hinders communications. There will be a sign-up process and a feedback process. The feedback is the most important because we need to map out where groups will get the most interference so we have the information to come up with a plan of action.

The Berkeley City volunteers group will have a tabletop CERT HQ drill. This is through the Berkeley CERT and OES programs. It will be held on Sat Feb 7 from 9 am to 12 noon at the 997 Cedar training facility. There will be new scenarios, so you are welcome to join. There is a new schedule of CERT classes as well, posted on the City website. <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=57314>

The City has opened up the Disaster Cache program again. Applications are now being accepted for neighborhood groups to get a supply cache. Deadlines are May 29, 2015. See the City website for more details: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/DisasterCaches/>

Lynn introduced our guest speaker. Timothy Burroughs is the new Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Berkeley and Assistant to the City Manager. Timothy is very interested in working with the Network members and hearing your ideas. His email is [tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info) His position came about from a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, where Berkeley was one of 32 cities worldwide to be recognized for their resiliency planning. Eventually 100 cities will be recognized through this program. San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley were 3 of the original 32 named. Another 30 or so have just been added to the list. Most of the cities are large (one million or more people), but little Berkeley was recognized amongst the giants.

Timothy's duties include preparing Berkeley for a full range of threats, from earthquakes to natural disasters to climate change. Before taking this job, Timothy was the lead for the sustainability program for 7 years. He just started this new job in September 2014, so he is getting into the rhythm of his duties. So far he is pleased to meet so many great people.

Resilience has achieved buzz word status. There are a lot of news articles and books already being published. Everyone has a different perspective and a different answer about what

resilience is. To Timothy, resilience is: (1) disasters; (2) impacts of climate change (such as rising ocean levels); (3) social aspects (such as high cost of living in this area); and (4) economic resiliency (having a robust economy). Resiliency is a very comprehensive concept. For example, it is silly to do earthquake retrofit on a building when you cannot afford to live there, or it will be under water due to rising ocean levels. You need to work on all parts together with integrated solutions that touch many different issues (and therefore gain multiple benefits).

Some solutions are better because they touch on more aspects of resiliency than only one.

Timothy highlighted the ideas that have already been studied. For example, the Hazard Mitigation Plan has just been approved by the City Council. In addition, the City performed a survey in November 2014, looking for ideas about how to make the city more resilient.

Another aspect that Timothy is pursuing is how to improve the care and shelter of vulnerable residents (such as language barriers, low-income housing, homeless) with facilities that exist or need to be improved, such as Red Cross shelters and existing homeless facilities. The CERT programs need to reach the folks that need the training the most. He is currently working with OES on this subject.

On the subject of emergency shelters, the existing structures need to be ready for use. This includes using existing schools, community centers, etc., but they need work. This includes seismic upgrades, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and others. We need to look at this from a safety, financial, and environmental point of view.

Another issue is Energy Assurance. We must have access to power when it is needed. This includes having backup power using diesel fuel. Maybe it should include better technology, such as solar power, batteries powered from the grid, or a micro-grid for emergencies. We should be able to connect these power supplies to the shelters.

We need to address Climate Change. This problem is happening all over the world, and it's not just affecting the polar bears. For example, the San Francisco Bay is 7 inches higher now than it was 100 years ago. The storm water systems in the area are deteriorating due to age. More flooding is possible during storms. We should look for green infrastructure solutions. These might include more of the "permeable pavement" streets such as the new street in front of the Berkeley High School on Allston Way. This type of street can remove some of the pollutants in the rain water before it reaches the Bay. Another possibility is rainwater capture and reuse.

Timothy then reviewed the Rockefeller Foundation grant requirements: (1) new position of resilience, hence Timothy's new job; (2) "platform partners", which is where Rockefeller has been pulling together a team of industries and companies in a variety of fields (marketing, risk management, engineering, energy and water management, earthquake preparedness), and these resources are free for the Rockefeller cities to use; (3) network of 100 cities (by the end of 2015) that can learn from the successes and failures of each other, exchange programs, and also making possible joint grants and programs.

Overall, Timothy is eager to work with the BDPNN and the citizens of Berkeley on solutions to make Berkeley more resilient. Timothy then opened the floor to questions.

- What can you tell us about bio-retention systems? Bio-retention area is used to manage storm water. For example, there is one of these areas at Spruce and Cedar, and also at Allston and California. These areas are necessary in a paved city to catch some of the rainwater and filter it through stones before letting it go into the Bay. There are several new projects in Measure M (2012) to speed up the installation of storm water management and also new pavement in the city to assist in that process. There are also engineered solutions for individual houses to participate in this process, so contact Timothy's office for details.

- What about the LED street light project? This project is nearly complete, and already the change to LED street lights has resulted in a 50% power savings. The lighting also makes it

easier to see at night, which should deter crime. - How long does the Rockefeller Grant extend?  
2 years

- Does the Rockefeller Grant requirements apply to new developers? All new development in Berkeley must include full environmental sustainability and integration planning. Resilience must be included.

- People who want to upgrade their homes have tons of trouble with permits, etc. The City should help the people who want to do the right thing. Timothy will look into this problem. Timothy also mentioned that the building code is behind the times because new technologies are not in the code. The City doesn't know what to do when someone comes to the office wanting to install new technologies that aren't in the code. There is an office working on this problem now, making sure that new technologies get through the process to be included in the building code. Timothy agrees that the City needs to remove hassles, provide information, and create incentives on this subject.

- Do we have information about shelters for the disabled? (Khin Chin helped out with this question). The shelters are opened when the need occurs, and the building is deemed safe to open. Listening to the City's radio station 1610 AM is the best way to find out about these shelters after a disaster.

- With vulnerable populations, how do these folks hear about the programs? Is the City reaching out to them? Timothy answered yes, that there is a person (Jennifer Lazo) working in the OES office primarily on this purpose. She is working with the folks at Ed Roberts Campus who are disabled. She works with a network of organizations, including faith-based groups. Timothy agreed that we need to build more relationships but directly in person because that's the best way to go. A lot of work can be done by the current neighborhood groups as well, so Timothy encourages groups to reach out to the folks nearby.

- The City has a great program for gas shutoff valves and dumpsters and other free programs that help preparedness, but the processes are horrific! The processes need to be simplified. People who need the programs find them too difficult to manage, and those people are turning away. Timothy will look into this problem.

- People in senior centers and disabled centers can be independent (there is no need for neighbors to help them), but they do need help from the City. Maybe we can learn something from other Rockefeller cities about how they work on this issue. Also, these populations do not like the name "vulnerable population." Timothy is looking into this as well.

- What are Timothy's personal Top Five Resilience topics for homes? (1) Water for 1 week for all members of the family; (2) Food for 1 week for all members of the family; (3) Out of area contact phone tree so that the outside contact can take care of notifying all your friends/family; (4) Backup power (such as batteries or a generator); and (5) Medicines and medical supplies. - How do we get in touch with Timothy with our ideas? Timothy already agreed that he will routinely come to the BPDNN meetings to talk with people. He also gave us his business card to share with everyone so they can phone or email him. Phone: 510-981-7437 (TDD: 510981-6903) Email: [tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info).