

DEPT Meeting
4 April 2005

Ken Phillips chaired the meeting. Doc Taliaferro and Doug Noble were attending a board meeting of the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department to present Doug's plan for a communications network to be organized by DEPT.

NEXT STEPS

George Moy led a discussion of his vision for the "Next Steps" for DEPT. The discussion of the Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Goals was deferred to a later meeting after everyone had a chance to review these items, which can be found on the website.

DEPT Projects were reviewed and chairpersons were suggested (assigned!) for each. They were:

- Good Heart chaired by Doc Taliaferro and Bob Gladhill
- Community Communications Network chaired by Doug Noble
- Community Outreach suggested chair was Sam Sumner (John will check his willingness to chair)
- CERT chaired by Paul Laing and Joe Corey
- Damascus Days chaired by Ken Phillips and Bob Gladhill
- Disaster Simulation/Training chaired by Paul Laing and Doug Noble
- Grants chaired by John Miller

Three additional projects were discussed and added. They were

- Damascus Safety Day chaired by Doug Noble (Paul has laid the ground work for this)
- Software chaired by Norm Ayers
- Website chaired by Collingwood Harris

DEPT leadership was discussed and the following positions were assigned

- Chairperson – Doc Taliaferro
- Vice Chairperson – Doug Noble
- Secretary – Julie Sain (if acceptable for her)

DAMASCUS SAFETY DAY

Paul provided information on plans for Safety Day, which will be held at the Community Recreation Center on 30 April. The police will have a K-9 unit, SWAT team and Helicopter. Paul has arranged for DEPT to have a booth (table) to give visibility to the community. The exhibits will run from 11:00 to 3:00 so Doug and Doc will need volunteers to man the booth.

EMERGENCY PREPARANESS SOFTWARE

Doc and Norm Ayers met with Ahmed Tauheed, author of the emergency management software used by the World Bank, to evaluate software that he has available to manage resources and people during an emergency situation. In addition, it can provide checklists and procedures for handling

various emergencies. Norm went into the meeting hoping that this software would be a starting point for what DEPT might need. However, it looks like this package will provide most DEPT needs. The dialog will continue and Ahmed has been invited to attend our meetings.

DAMASCUS ECUMENICAL CLERGY ASSN MEETING

Bob Gladhill reported this meeting will be held 8 April at the Damascus United Methodist Church hosted by Walt Edmunds. The attendees will be County officials, Church leadership and civic organization leaders. The purpose is for the area ministers to come together for County officials to show what services they can provide the community, for community leaders to voice their concerns, and to provide a forum for the Good Heart to get some exposure.

GOOD HEART PROGRAM

Doc and Bob presented a status of the Good Heart Program to the group. Six churches have come on board and are in various stages of preparation.

DVFD MEETING

Doug and Doc joining the meeting after attending the Fire Department Board Meeting in which they presented the plan for a communications node in the fire station. During an emergency, HAM radio operators in the neighborhoods and at the churches could communicate with the fire station. They reported that the plan was greeted with enthusiasm and was approved by the fire department.

VIDEO

At the conclusion of the meeting, Doug showed a video of a weather emergency simulation in Massachusetts, to show how an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) works and how our network may function in the event of an emergency.