

Landfall CERT
Board of Director's Meeting
Special Meeting
September 24, 2018

President Mitchell called a special board meeting to examine how Landfall CERT might be able to support post hurricane Florence efforts in Landfall and provide financial support to the COA employees who remained on site during the storm.

In attendance were board members Mitchell, Smoot, Flynn, Schwieters and Daraszdi.

President Mitchell felt that CERT should contribute to the recovery effort following Florence. He suggested that, given the massive clean-up effort, we might assist Landfall Security with traffic control as our streets are clogged with heavy equipment and tree service contractors.

We could also assist by providing drinks or other support to those involved with the clean-up operation.

Skip Flynn suggested that we could do residential security checks and take some of the burden off of Landfall Security. We could also provide assistance away from Landfall by helping COA employees clean-up their personal residential problems.

There was a strong sentiment that CERT would like to help and support the COA employees who stayed at Landfall and assisted this community while many of them were experiencing storm related problems at their own homes. The question was how? It was noted that at this time only about half of COA employees were back at work because they had their own issues to confront.

President Mitchell suggested that money might be raised to:

- reward employees for specific efforts during the storm
- reward employees for their general dedication to Landfall during the storm
- support employees who experience personal storm damage
- provide food and beverages to those continuing with recovery efforts

Although the board supported the sentiment, Treasurer Schwieters indicated that she felt that there are too many potential pitfalls and advised that CERT not become involved in the collection and distribution of monetary donations.

President Mitchell opined that the COA was currently too busy to deal with such an effort and perhaps CERT could take the lead.

Board discussion suggested that if we became involved in the collection and distribution of donated money we could easily be criticized by people who felt that the collected funds had been inappropriately distributed or were otherwise disgruntled. It was felt that potentially significant liability existed.

President Mitchell suggested opening a new bank account into which donations could accrue. Funds would then be given to the COA staff for distribution as they saw fit in order to insulate CERT from such criticism.

It was also suggested that a Go Fund Me account might be established.

It was noted that several community groups are interested in assisting the COA employees by collecting funds. President Mitchell and the board felt that it would be better to have an umbrella organization to coordinate these efforts, but Treasurer Schwieters felt that such involvement could be problematic. Among other potential complications could be tax exempt letters.

Treasurer Schwieters suggested that the President of the COA, Mary McKenna, would be the best person to coordinate an effort to collect money for COA employees. In this context, donations would come from all residents rather than donations from many separate groups. But it was agreed that money is needed and would be best if its collection and distribution is coordination by the COA board. It was clear to the CERT board that donations are needed, but should be pooled into a central account rather than many separate ones.

The board agreed that the best entity to accomplish this is the COA board since it represents all Landfall residents who benefitted from the COA's employees hard work.

Thus, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for CERT to get involved with the collection and distribution of funds intended to support the COA employees as there is the distinct possibility of legal liability.

To formalize the result of the discussion, President Mitchell proposed that CERT open a new bank account for the purpose of collecting donations from Landfall residents to be used to reward and assist COA employees who served the community during hurricane Florence.

The motion did not pass.

Since the board felt the concept of helping COA employees was important, just that it should not be handled by CERT, President Mitchell suggested that he compose an e-mail to the President of the COA Board to encourage their involvement.

NOTE: Following this meeting President Mitchell did send an e-mail to COA President McKenna providing a suggested structure for handling donations and a separate e-mail to Security Chief Adam and COA COO Hughes offering CERT services described above.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Smoot
Secretary