

CMA Minutes – February 1, 2023 – Congregation Mickve Israel

In Attendance

Natasha Roman (speaker) – SHER, CISA
Elyse Butler - GHS
Breana James - GHS
Wilma Wheton – individual
Luciana Spracher – CoSMA
Kelly Zacovic – CosMA
Juliana Sims – Prohibition Museum
Ayela Khuro – Massie
Tara Kelsey – Massie
Joe Stahl – Botanical Gardens
Glenda Anderson – GHRAC
Rebecca Eddins – Andrew Low House
Chris Sergi – Andrew Low House
Rita Elliot – LAMAR Institute
Dan Elliot – Lamar Institute

Laura Seifert – Ft Pulaski
Samantha Matera – Ft Pulaski
Jamie Credle – Davenport House
Sarah Logan Reynolds – JGLBP
Kat White – JGLBP
Danielle Christian – JGLBP
Elizabeth Srsic – JGLBP
Alison Breckelhymer – JGLBP
Sheena Fulkerson – Davenport House
Jane Pressly – Green Meldrim House
Ginger Varner – Andrew Low House

Business Meeting:

Member Introductions

Treasurer’s Report – (LINK)

Old Business

- Results of Kiah Fund online voting
 - An increase in the Kiah Fund eligible amount raised from \$300 to \$500 (unanimous decision)
 - Alison Beckelhymer’s application for \$500 towards The Indiana University Archives Management Certification Program was approved.

New Business

- Reciprocal Admission program update
 - 2 new sites added: SCAD Museum of Art and the UGA Marine Extension
- Membership Survey
 - Please complete by February 10th
 - Organized by sustainability committee to improve CMA

Program: Active Shooter Training, Natasha Roman, Protective Security Advisor with the Department of Homeland Security (see bio at the end of the Minutes)

The goal of Natasha’s role is to help get organizations and individuals out of the zone of a reactive response in an emergency situation and instead plan for a range of potential threats in order to reduce

the potential of a bad outcome occurring in any situation. This is not only applicable for mass shootings but any emergency – medical, weather, crowd control, criminal.

Human interaction at our sites is the basis of threat evaluation and response.

- when greeting and interacting with coworkers and guests you have a sense of what a baseline “normal” interaction should be. When your gut tells you something is off is when you should start evaluating the situation closer.
- Situational awareness is the most important thing you can have
- “The Power of Hello” – when someone is acting outside of the normal baseline, say hello and engage them in a friendly, helpful, judgement free manner as you might other guests.
 - Ex: If someone is lingering where they shouldn’t be, avoiding staff, avoiding cameras, wearing bulky clothes, wearing a backpack when they shouldn’t be
 - Greeting them brings attention to the person to other staff and alerts the person that you are watching them.
 - How they react gives you more information about the situation and informs what you should do next, if it needs to be escalated to a supervisor or law enforcement, or if the person might just need a different type of help or guidance.
- It is OK to report suspicious behavior. Most mass shootings and crimes have warning signs that no one reported or acted on.
- Make sure you have a policy and staff is trained on how to involve higher-ups or law enforcement AND on how to de-escalate and disperse tense situations.

Consider having panic buttons – they are cost effective and very beneficial in tense moments.

How you respond to tense situations impacts the outcome.

- Tone of voice, hand gestures, body language, and wording can help de-escalate
 - Calm and steady tones of voice tend to help calm someone down
 - Try not to smile – try to be empathetic and express understanding
 - Stick to neutral hand gestures
 - People want to be heard – try phrases like “I understand you are upset. Please tell me more about it”, or “I am trying to understand better, please tell me more”. This buys you time and shows you care.

Everyone at your site should be CPR and Stop the Bleed Certified. These come in handy in many emergencies and all front line staff may encounter situations where it is needed. Often staff are the literal First Responders before EMS and LE can arrive.

- The County, hospitals, some universities provide training if asked.

Have quarterly or yearly visits from Law Enforcement and Fire personnel so they can be familiar with your site, floor plan, resources, and policies. Building and maintaining those relationships is key.

Have a plan to get people out (or in) your site in a hurry in case of an emergency. Think about a wide range of situations – active shooter or weather for example.

Luciana shared that City Hall had an incident with a person behaving in a way that attracted the attention of building security, and having a large security response made the situation worse.

- Yes, embarrassing a person can escalate a situation. Try not to draw an overwhelming amount of attention to a developing situation until necessary. Try to take someone out of sight or out of immediate proximity of large amounts of people or staff.

Joe Stahl asked about efficacy of carrying a weapon at a site.

- If your people are going to carry at the request of your site, make sure they are regularly trained on handling the weapon and what will happen when law enforcement respond to an event at the site
- Kat White mentioned a New York Times article that statistically analyzed mass shooting events and the common denominator is a suicidal perpetrator, so make sure you what your plan consists of would actually deter someone's motivations.

Best thing you can do is create a policy, apply it, practice it, review and update it regularly, conduct drills, keep contact information updated.

Don't hide behind a door in a mass shooting event, look for something heavy to block an entrance. Most shooters will move on quickly because they have limited time to make an impact. Resistances is a big deterrent.

There are several apps for communicating in an emergency situations between staff and between staff and law enforcement.

Nonprofit sector grants exist! FEMA disperses money for them to the states, who then award the grants. You will HAVE to submit a risk assessment when you apply for a grant.

DHS will help nonprofits do risk assessments. Their priority criteria for helping conduct assessments are: population, economic impact, health, iconic venue, loss of American way of life.

Online resources exist. (Links will be sent out) (ADD LINKS!)

- Emergency action plan templates
- Exercise templates
- Online classes

SHER Update: Laura Seifert

- Trying to build a larger state-wide group instead of regional groups like SHER
- No timeline, but they are meeting monthly deciding by-lines, mission statements, and more.

Member Updates/Announcements

Glenda – CEMA Hurricane Conference is on April 11th

Elyse – Sunday February 5th is Super Museum Sunday. Colonial Faire and Muster at Wormsloe is this weekend as well.

Jane Pressly – Antiques and Architecture weekend is March 9-11th.

Ayela Khuro – Black History Month Walking tours are taking place “Civil Rights, Civil Wrongs”

- History on Wheels is focused on Black History for Black History Month
- Exhibit Go Down To Savannah is on display at Bull Street Public Library

Luciana Spracher – Municipal Archives will be at The Black Heritage Festival and at the NAACP February mass meeting for Black History Month and the W.W. Law Centennial Celebration



BIOGRAPHY

Natasha Roman is a Protective Security Advisors (PSA) with Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). She is based out of Savannah, Georgia and covers the southern and coastal area of the state. PSA Roman supports homeland security efforts serving as a critical infrastructure security and resiliency liaison between federal, state, local partners, and private sector owners and operators throughout the state. Her role includes the identification of critical infrastructure, assessment of vulnerabilities and recommendation of appropriate protective measures to improve security posture and site resiliency. Ms. Roman facilitates and coordinates DHS-sponsored training and exercises and performs vulnerability assessments for local critical infrastructure assets.

Prior to joining the PSA Program, Ms. Roman served as the Operations Analyst and Critical Infrastructure Specialist for the southeast, operating out of the Region IV, Office of Infrastructure Protection with DHS. In this capacity, she facilitated planning and preparedness efforts towards risk mitigation across eight states for special events, major sporting events, and incident response.

Ms. Roman brings 15 years of risk management experience within DHS. Her expertise includes emergency planning and security planning development.

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