

CITY OF SAN RAFAEL

FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

In person meeting at 1375 Fifth Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chair Burford

Present:

Chair Stan Burford

Commissioner Donna McCusker

Commissioner Ken Johnson

Commissioner Dave Fonkalsrud

Commissioner John Chung*

Captain Kleinschmidt

Chief Sinnott

Battalion Chief Bernard

Thomas Wong

**Attended virtually as a member of the public*

Members of the Public: Larry Luckham

1. Open Time for Public Expression

No public Comment

2. Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2024

Commissioner Fonkalsrud makes a motion to approve the draft minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

The minutes are adopted unanimously.

3. SRFD 150th Anniversary – Historical Items & Preparations

Discussions about organizing an event celebrating the milestone anniversary.

Chief Sinnott confirms that the Fire Department has several historical items and vehicles available to display for this occasion.

Commissioners Chung and Johnson are creating a sub-committee to organize the event.

4. Fire Foundation – Verbal Update from Commissioner McCusker and Discussion Regarding the Fire Scholarship

Captain Kleinschmidt presents the scholarship program. The Program was created to support the Fire Department recruiting process, and to offer equals opportunity to all high school students in San Rafael.

Last year, the program helped support three students in their future college tuition in the Public Safety field with \$6,000.

Commissioner Donna McCusker asks to follow up with those students' careers.

5. Current Media Coverage

Helicopter drone is made to drop bombs – News Atlas

Member of the public Larry Luckham presents the article.

Discussion about the use of drones.

6. Chair and Commission Member Reports:

- Stan Burford– Chair: No report.
- David Fonkalsrud- Vice Chair: No report.
- Ken Johnson: No report.
- Donna McCusker: brought Photographs given by Retired Chief Pete Martin, from Marin County Fire. The vintage archives go back to the 1920's. It will be kept at the Fire Department.
No report from the Foundation.

7. Fire Chief Report

The Fire Foundation is looking for new members. It is advertised in Hotshot News.

- Staff Update:

Three new recruits joined the Operation staff, they are currently going through training at the Academy of Fire since March 8th.

Two new cadets are starting their internship program at the end of March.

The Fire Captain promotional process has started.

The recruitment of four or five Fire Prevention Inspectors has started.

- Operations Division Incidents:

Three similar laundry room fires have happened within a week in the Canal District. Police are investigating. It is an important concern.

- The Explorer Program is getting a lot of interest in the young community.
- The Response Data shows an increase in the Call Volume.

Commissioner McCusker wishes the Response Data, as well as the Hot Shot News reached a larger public, as it is educational.

8. Questions from the public

- Commissioner Chung asks Commissioner Johnson to report about Homeowner Fire Insurance in Marin, since it became outstanding.

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM

