

CITY OF SAN RAFAEL

FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 4:02 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:02p.m. by Chair Burford

Present:

Chair Stan Burford

Commissioner Dave Fonkalsrud

Commissioner Ken Johnson

Commissioner Donna McCusker

Commissioner John Chung

Commissioner Brian Waterbury

Thomas Wong

Chief Sinnott

Chief Roman

Firefighter Angel Landaverde (Virtually)

Member of the public: Michael

1. Open Time for Public Expression

Michael promotes his Association and proposes to display some of the Club's antiques Fire Apparatus at the occasion of the 150th anniversary of San Rafael Fire department.

2. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2024

Chair Burford requests to correct in the Minutes that Commissioner Brian Waterbury was indeed present. The request is accepted by all.

Chair Burford makes a motion to approve the draft minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Fonkalsrud and Commissioner Chung.

The Minutes are adopted unanimously.

3. Firefighters Without Borders California – Informational

[Non-Profit | Firefighter Without Borders California \(firefighterswithoutborderscalifornia.com\)](https://firefighterswithoutborderscalifornia.com)

Firefighter/Paramedic Angel Landaverde, from San Rafael Fire Department is a member of Firefighter Without Borders California International since 2008.

Landaverde and four other members of San Rafael Fire and Police Departments will leave on June 6th, 2024, to Guatemala to support a local Fire Department in a humanitarian help. They are bringing material they collected, shipping through an agreement they made with the Airport. They will provide training and teach world rescue, firefighting techniques to 35 firefighters who never received any training.

Landaverde calls for the support of the Fire Commission. The cost for housing and transportation for each firefighter is \$2,000. Commissioner Mc Cusker wants to raise awareness and calls for donations.

4. Fire Foundation – Verbal Update from Commissioner McCusker

Commissioner McCusker brings and shows the original City of San Rafael Certificate of Corporation dated on December 14th, 1874.

The Fire Foundation is still searching for two new Board members.

The 2024 Crab Feed raised \$17,000.

5. 150th Anniversary Sub Committee – Verbal Update from Commissioner Chung

Commissioner Chung reports that almost each Fire Station has a scheduled date for an Open House event to celebrate San Rafael Fire Department 150th Anniversary.

Commissioner Chung would like for the Fire Commission to sponsor the Parade.

Chair Burford shows a smart TV donated to the Fire Department available to display historical pictures of San Rafael Fire Department.

Discussion about the collection of pictures, memorabilia, and the possible growing content available.

6. Current Media Coverage

Major California home insurer could resume writing new policies. Here's what it would take - San Francisco Chronicle

Commissioner Johnson presents the article. Discussion about the future of Fire Insurance in California.

7. Chair and Commission Member Reports:

- Stan Burford– Chair: No report.
- David Fonkalsrud- Vice Chair proposes to advertise the need of two new members in the Board of the Fire Foundation and volunteers both on the San Rafael Fire Department Social Medias and on the Fire Foundation website.
- Donna McCusker: Point out the fire risks existing due to overgrown weed on alleyways in Terra Linda.
- John Chung: No report.
- Brian Waterbury: Shares and proposes to use some personal pictures of his collection circa 2000 at the San Rafael Fire Department.
- Ken Johnson: No report.

8. Fire Chief Report

Chief Sinnott's Report:

- Staff update: Manny Albano left us for Sonoma County, New Wildfire Prevention Inspectors will join the Department in May and June.
- The Taqueria San Jose is closed since a Fire that happened few months ago. As an example, even though a building is intact, it can take up to months to be able to reopen.
- Update given on Marinwood Development: the construction of 135 affordable housing and commercial spaces should have a good impact on the community.
- Update given on Marin Lab – Vivalon project.
- The Wildfire Mitigation team is very busy training their Seasonal team members.
- Facility update: Station 55 will be installing fire-resistant planting garden as an educational tool for residents, led by Calvin Schrader.

Chief Roman's Report:

- The City Manager is asking to take a recess with the Fire Commission meeting in July because of an overload of work. The Commission agrees to take July off.
- The firefighters are in the process of signing their agreement.
- Staff update: One of the Battalion Chief will be moving to an EMS Administrative position. There will be an exam in June for filling the Battalion Chief vacant position in July. The Deputy Chief position will be held open until next year. Chief Roman is hoping to have the operation staff fully staffed by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM