



FIRE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT, 2018

MISSION:

- To review and recommend concerning the future needs of the fire department in respect to long-range capital needs, including buildings, training facilities, and water mains and hydrant replacements.
- To review the relationship of the fire department with other governmental agencies and private entities concerning topics, which the commission feels present a true and pressing need for the city's fire service.
- To review, comment and make recommendations regarding the annual operating budget of the department.
- To recommend to the Fire Chief and the City Council action concerning initial adoption and future amendments to the fire prevention code, the building code, and other such ordinances that pertain to the prevention of fires within the community.
- To receive monthly reports from the Fire Chief concerning the general operations and functions of the department.

MEMBERSHIP (July 2017 – June 2018):

- Dr. Stephen Mizroch, Chair Apr 01, 2018 to Mar 31, 2022
- Larry Luckham, Vice Chair Apr 01, 2015 to Mar 31, 2019
- Thomas Weathers Apr 01, 2016 to Mar 31, 2020
- Leonard Thompson Apr 01, 2017 to Mar 31, 2021
- Nadine Hade Apr 01, 2017 to Mar 31, 2021
- David Fonkalsrud, Alternate Apr 01, 2016 to Mar 31, 2020
- Stan Buford, Alternate Apr 01, 2018 to Mar 31, 2022

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS:

“The noblest question in the world is:
What good may I do in it?”
- Benjamin Franklin
(organizer of the first fire service inn 1736)

The mandate for the San Rafael Fire Commission is to support the Fire Chief and the Fire Department in their efforts to protect and serve the City of San Rafael and its fellow communities. The past year has proven that the stakes have never been higher and the challenges never greater.

The Fire Commission is made up of seven people whose aim is to serve the City of San Rafael by supporting the Fire Department. Monthly meetings are attended by the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief on duty.

The meetings serve as a sounding board for new ideas and offer the Fire Chief an opportunity to share department activity and operational issues. Department successes and challenges are discussed. A summary of local fire activity, facilities and apparatus updates, community educational outreach (eg. wildfire preparedness and vegetation management) and recruitment are often highlighted.

The fire commissioners participate in myriad department activities, both ceremonial (eg. new Fire Academy graduations, promotions and retirements) and operational (eg. department/community interviews for promotions and/or new hires such as Emergency Management Coordinator). As a group the Fire Commission has participated in setting up the Annual Crab Feed sponsored by the San Rafael Fire Foundation.

The commission is composed of experienced, thoughtful, community focused people who seek success for the Fire Department. Each commissioner brings unique talents, expertise and life experiences to his/her service. These distinct skill sets are woven into a tapestry of competence and enthusiasm.

We welcomed a new member, Stan Burford, to the Fire Commission in March 2018. After an illustrious career in broadcasting, Stan has become an active and enthusiastic participant.

FC Dave Fonkalsrud has used his expertise in public relations and outreach via social media and print media to promote the interests and activities of the Fire Department, the Fire Commission and Fire Foundation. Dave also volunteered to be the Fire Commission liaison to the Latino Civic leadership initiative, seeking to encourage City Board participation in an under-represented group.

FC Len Thompson wears two hats (3, if you include Petaluma Fire Chief): He is a Fire Commissioner as well as a board member of the San Rafael Fire Foundation.

Vice-Chairman FC Larry Luckham has hung up his “Photo 50” spurs (? Boots), but continues to actively re-invent and support his Photo 50 archives.

FC Tom Weathers continues to offer legal support to the Fire Foundation along with active Fire Commission participation.

FC Nadine Atieh Hade is an enthusiastic member of the commission and an active participant.

Chairman FC Steve Mizroch is working to help establish the small historical display planned for the new Public Safety Center in downtown San Rafael along with retired San Rafael police members.

Together the commission has developed into a force for Department support and advocacy. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to do “good for the community” and for the recognition and encouragement offered by Chief Gray.

2018-2019 GOALS:

1. Act as a sounding board for the Fire Chief and Chief officers via monthly meetings.
2. Continued education of Fire Commission members to goals, objectives & operations on a monthly basis.

3. Promote cooperation between the Fire Commission and San Rafael Fire Foundation particularly via the annual Crab Feed.
4. Participate in departmental ceremonies (Badge pinnings, promotions, & retirements).
5. Support morale within the Department and among its members.
6. Participate in the new Fire Station openings & conduct more meetings at individual fire stations & the fire boat, inviting fire fighters to attend.
7. Continue to advise and support the “Historical San Rafael Public Safety” exhibit.