

**SAN RAFAEL FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
1600 LOS GAMOS DRIVE, SUITE 345**

March 11, 2020

4:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

Present: BC Windrem, Quinn Gardner, Dave Catalinotto, Commissioners Mizroch, Luckham, Hill, Burford, & Fonkalsrud, Citizen: Linda Barnello

Minutes of Feb. 12, 2020 were approved without changes. Open Time for Public Expression: Linda Barnello expressed appreciation for the “draft minutes” arriving with the agenda. She also saw some negative feedback on the Measure “C” issue that surfaced on “Next Door”. (See Fonkalsrud and social media later.)

Fire Foundation Report:

1. Treasury presently at \$23,242.
2. Thank you to Stan Burford for \$1000 from the Fairhills HOA.
3. The logistics of managing the annual Crab Feed is going to be more problematic without the help of Bob de Lambert (retiring & moving) & his army of volunteers. Implications were discussed.

Commission reports:

1. Chair Mizroch –
 - a. Presented the Fire Commissioner’s Letter to the Editor at the Marin IJ in support of Measure “C”. Despite entering the “letter queue ” by Feb. 20th, it was not published. Still, we are thankful that the voting is showing a path to success.
 - b. Shared an article from the NEJM concerning “placebos and nocebos” that described both positive and negative effects of expectations concerning health outcomes.

2. Vice Chair Luckham presented two articles –
 - a. The first concerned CAL Fire’s newly purchased fleet of helicopters. These helicopters can drop fire retardant at night and also sport two engines rather than one, which enhances safety.
 - b. Second, an article from 3/8/20 describing a successful mine rescue in San Bernardino County featuring the Fire Dept. and USAR teams.
3. FC Burford updated the FC on new jackets.

Report from Quinn Gardner:

1. Measure “C” looks poised to meet its 2/3 vote requirement. Planning is underway as to specific implementation plans for the Joint Powers of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. Marin Co. may provide seed money. RFP’s for vegetation management are being considered & detailed evacuation maps are being prepared. An Open Space Ranger is a priority. Signs that promote Measure “C” work were encouraged.
2. Funding for another Americorp team to perform vegetation management has been granted jointly to San Rafael/Marinwood & Tiburon. The six week program is scheduled to occur between May & July. There may be two six week segments.

Special Presentation by FC Dave Fonkalsrud concerning our Fire Commission social media and web page opportunity. FC Fonkalsrud met with Quinn Gardner and Dave Catalinotto. Fonkalsrud divided the plan into six parts.

1. Enhanced website presence. The Fire Dept. website is supported by the City and the Commission has a page on the Department’s site. Updating the page and adding robust content (photos & videos also) would be a good first step in supporting our online impact.
2. Develop a training program for Department spokespersons. This could be a Fire Commission project aiming to enhance the messaging real time concerning department activities in a complex environment. Training & skill building are anticipated.
3. Create a rotating yearly calendar of important safety tips and advice. For example, in July – fireworks safety/risk; during Christmas season –

Christmas tree & lights safety tips. As seasons change, information could be added or subtracted as is helpful to the community.

4. More robust social media presence for fire incidents, disaster preparedness and timely messaging.
5. Coordination with “Next Door” – how to generate constructive feedback loops with San Rafael neighborhoods.
6. A place on the site for the History of the Department, Milestones, and Important Benchmarks.

Chief’s Report:

1. BC Windrem announced that new Fire Chief Darin White will officially assume leadership on April 15, 2020. The Fire Commission is excited to meet with Chief White soon.
2. Quinn Gardner was named “San Rafael Employee of the Year” – a great honor! Quinn did a superb job of interacting with the community in problem solving the wildfire risks we all face. CONGRATULATIONS!
3. An update on the Fire Dept. & Countywide preparations for Coronavirus challenges was described. The County has activated an Emergency OPS plan & off-site testing center. More “PPE” has been requested.
4. The San Rafael Fire Academy graduation ceremony for three new FF/PMs took place 2/29/20. More candidates are being recruited for the next class.
5. The Fire Dept’s pilot program to address the needs of frequent 911 callers is underway. It is called the “Direct Connect Pilot”. Utilizing a NP and other social service & mental health care providers, this program will assist folks who frequently call 911 and who may benefit from integrated care management and personalized problem solving.
6. The Department is updating information and documentation required to maintain San Rafael’s ISO Class 1 rating.
7. “Pulse Point” was referenced. This app is in addition to “Alert Marin” and is meant to keep people abreast of changing emergency dynamics.

Finally Dr. Mizroch shared an article from the NEJM on the Novel Coronavirus and how to assess its potential impact in relation to prior Coronavirus infections. An

open ended discussion of Coronavirus risks and opportunities took place. An effort to stay safe and stay balanced was emphasized.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.

