

CITY OF SAN RAFAEL

FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

November 12, 2020

Meeting via Zoom

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

Present: Chair Stephen Mizroch, Vice Chair Larry Luckham, Eli Hill, Thomas Weathers, David Fonkalsrud, and Stan Burford.

Absent: Nadine Hade

Staff: Chief Darin White

1. Approval of Minutes: M/S Luckham/Burford moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2020 Fire Commission meeting.

- Chair Mizroch: Aye
- Vice Chair Luckham: Aye
- Commissioner Weathers: Aye
- Commissioner Hill: Aye
- Commissioner Fonkalsrud: Aye
- Commissioner Burford: Aye

2. Open Time for Public Expression: None.

3. Fire Foundation Report. \$40,297: Chair Mizroch provided an update on the value of the donation made by Donna McCusker. Jeff Kramer will match Donna's donation and any donations made this season. M/S Luckham/Fonkalsrud to issue a letter of commendation to Leonard Thompson for his efforts in the creation of the Fire Foundation.

- Chair Mizroch: Aye
- Vice Chair Luckham: Aye
- Commissioner Weathers: Aye
- Commissioner Hill: Aye
- Commissioner Fonkalsrud: Aye
- Commissioner Burford: Aye

4. Historic Subcommittee: Chief White provided comments on the development of the updated San Rafael Fire Department emblem.

5. Commissioner Reports: The commissioners provided their reports.

- Chair Mizroch: Offered time to support safety review by leveraging experience using root cause analysis and heuristics.

- Vice Chair Luckham: Provided report on effectiveness of robot employed by Los Angeles Fire Department (<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-13/los-angeles-fire-departments-robot-goes-where-firefighters-cant>).
- Commissioner Weathers: Offered congratulations on the award for Station 57. Provided comment of the San Francisco Fire Department fatality in a training accident; prompted Chief White to provide comments on San Rafael Fire Department approach to safety in training scenarios.
- Commissioner Hill: Shared observation on election transition in San Rafael; prompted discussion on the Fire Commission meeting the new Council.
- Commissioner Fonkalsrud: Offered to leverage social media to promote fire safety during holiday season (as done previously) and further, to provide reminders to the public to allow first responders priority on the road.
- Commissioner Burford: Prompted Chief White to comment on the approach to COVID-19 testing and vaccination for the San Rafael Fire Department; Chief White commented and the Commission discussed the topic at length.

6. Fire Chief's Report: Chief White provided verbal report spanning several topics, including:

- Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA)
 - Northern California Council for The Community (NCCC) crews (17 personnel) were deployed 10/29 and will perform vegetation management focusing on open spaces and create defensible space for homeowners. Community members should use the following URL to access Wildfire Prevention Direct Assistance resources:
 - <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/wildfire-prevention-assistance>
 - On November 3, MWPA Executive Director Mark Brown hosted a trip to Santa Rosa to share lessons on defensible space.
- COVID-19
 - Provided comments on Marin County "Orange Tier" designation and emphasized criticality of adhering to mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - San Rafael Fire Department has received 230 NOAA radios, which provide a redundant mechanism to receive emergency information in the event of primary communications failure during an emergency; to be distributed to designated community members.
- Election Preparedness
 - During election, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated for potential civil unrest.
- Discussion
 - Chief White provided comments on MWPA funding.

Adjournment: The Fire Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

Submitted,

Eli Hill, Fire Commission