

CITY OF SAN RAFAEL FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
June 8, 2022

VIA ZOOM

Present:

Chair Larry Luckham

Thomas Weathers

Ken Johnson

Stan Burford

Donna McCusker – Alternate

Fire Chief Darin White

Special Guest: Capt. Pete Martin – Retired SRFD/Marin Co. FF

Absent:

Vice Chair Nadine Atieh

David Fonkalsrud - Alternate

Chair Luckham called the meeting to order at 4:07PM.

[Minor technical problems with new Zoom protocol-slight delay]

1. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

With no members of the public present, Chair Luckham started the meeting [off agenda] by welcoming Pete Martin and shared a summary of Captain Martin's contributions to the San Rafael and Marin County fire departments.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

First order of business – approval of the minutes from the 5/11/22 Commission meeting. Moved to accept by FC Stan Burford, seconded by FC Ken Johnson - vote, unanimous.

3. FIRE FOUNDATION

FC McCusker reported that the Foundation has approximately \$93,000 in cash reserves. She also described a proposal that was made to the Foundation to participate in a program called “Boots for Troops”. The idea being to help subsidize the cost of newly designed, more protective, longer lasting fire-fighting footwear. The Foundation is looking into the costs and logistics of distribution.

FC McCusker also put out a call for volunteers to assist the Foundation with Heritage Day, August 27, 2022, at China Camp. [Questions? Email programs@friendsofchinacamp.org or call (415) 456-0766.]

4. HISTORIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Though History is being made every day, there was none to report this month. Sometimes, no news is good news.

5. CHAIR AND COMMISSION REPORTS

FC Thomas Weathers – Nothing to report

FC Ken Johnson – Ken presented:

AIR is the most popular Wildfire modeling tool Lloyds of London is using. Our discussion centered on Northern California and the San Rafael area. The general direction of Ken’s presentation concerned the impact of “modeling” and the changing costs of fire insurance. Detailed information available at:

<https://www.air-worldwide.com/models/wildfire2/Introducing-AIR-s-Wildfire-Model-for-the-United-States/>

FC Stan Burford spoke about recent communications with City Manager Jim Schutz and the Commissions interest in including First Responder contact information in the San Rafael Activities Guide published by the San Rafael Park and Recreation

Commission. Progress is being made now with newly opened communication between SRFD and the P & C Commission.

FC Donna McCusker – Nothing more to add beyond her SRF- Foundation report.

FC-Chair Larry Luckham – A reminder of upcoming department promotions and a ceremony to be held 6/17 at Station 52. A brief discussion of a letter of commendation for retired Chair Stephen Mizroch. FC Burford asked about our current ISO rating. [An ISO fire rating, also referred to as a fire score or Public Protection Classification (PPC), is a score from one to 10 that indicates how well-protected your community is by the fire department.] Our current rating is #1 and there is every expectation it will stay #1. The Berkeley Fire Department will be conducting special training classes regarding arson investigations. Recommendation made that SRFD, and Marin Co. Fire consider participation. Prescribed fires and controlled burns are back on the schedule for Marin...dates and locations to be announced.

SRFD Chief White – His monthly update included: Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority FY 2022-23 workplan and annual budget. Work for some of the proposed projects will start 7/1/2022. Vegetation Management: five temporary “Seasonal” Defensible Space Inspectors have been hired. New member joins SRFD: on 6/27/2022 the Command Staff will be adding the position of Deputy Chief of Operations. COVID-19 continues to be an operational reality. The newest subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5 are believed to be more transmissible than the current variant BA.2. The department remains vigilant with operational protocol. Construction continues at Stations 54 and 55. SRFD Academy #25 will welcome seven applicants to begin training on 7/5/2022. Captain Nicholas Giusti, SRFD Training Officer, recently directed an exercise training existing staff on the process of D.R.A.F.T.S. [Direct recirculating apparatus training sustainability] the process

of using high volumes of water while capturing and recirculating the runoff, saving copious amounts of water from going down the drain. On a quarterly basis the City of San Rafael recognizes outstanding individual employees and groups. Mayor Kate Colin and City Manager Jim Schutz recently presented “Employee of the Third Quarter” to Deputy Chief Robert Sinnott and the “Team of The Fourth Quarter went to the SRFD Vegetation Management Unit.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 P.M.

Prepared by: FC Stan Burford

