

**CITY OF SAN RAFAEL**

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

November 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

In Person Meeting at 1375 Fifth Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chair Burford

Present:

Chair Stan Burford  
Commissioner Donna McCusker  
Commissioner Ken Johnson  
Commissioner Dave Fonkalsrud  
Commissioner Weathers  
Commissioner Waterbury  
Commissioner Chung  
Chief White  
Thomas Wong

**1. Open Time for Public Expression**

Resident on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave notices the dead wood and eucalyptus trees on San Rafael hill. He went up to the fire roads recently and is pleased with how clear it is but remains concerned that it is a continuing emergency.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Fonkalsrud makes a motion to approve the draft minutes. Commissioner Johnson seconds the vote.

The minutes were adopted unanimously.

**3. Appointment Certificate Presentation for Fire Commissioners and Alternates**

Chief White presents Certificate of Appointment to Commissioners Chung, Fonkalsrud, McCusker, and Waterbury.

**4. Fire Foundation**

Commissioner McCusker discusses the crab feed and fundraising. The Foundation is struggling to sell tickets and tables to the event. The same with donations, the Foundation needs more donations.

Chief White says the Crab Feed has not been advertised as much as in the past, including a banner across 4<sup>th</sup> street. The banner was misplaced during the pandemic. Currently sold 140 tickets which is below the 200 tickets breakeven point.

Discussion about getting word out through the IJ, Chronicle, and Patch.

## **5. Current Media Coverage**

*“Girls Fired Up” – Marin Independent Journal*

Chief White says quite a few people that were involved in putting the camp together were not recognized. Marin had previously had a gap in having a girls camp as compared to other regions in the Bay Area. 50 girls registered for the camp, but only 23 came the first day. The Golden State Women in Fire Service supported the event and provided instructors.

*“Some 911 Call Centers Still Haven’t Adapted to the Cellphone” – The Wall Street Journal*

Commissioner Fonkalsrud says that some call centers do not have the ability to get location and other benefits of cell phones. Chief White says this problem does not exist in Marin.

*“MAGNUM’S BIG DAY; WISH BECOMES REALITY FOR EL DORADO HILLS 5-YEAR-OLD” – Folsom Times*

Commissioner McCusker said the El Dorado Fire Department did a Make-a-Wish event for a 5-year-old and it might want to be something that San Rafael Fire does.

## **6. Commissioners’ Report**

Commissioner Fonkalsrud scheduled his ride along with Captain Berkey

Commissioner Johnson says the price of insurance is so high for reinsurance that it’s at a point that some of the insurers are starting to undercut each other a little. If you look at Fire Wise map it is amazing what this community has done.

Commissioner Waterbury states that he was formerly a Division Chief with San Rafael Fire for 33 years. Passion has always been community service. Wanted to get involved with the Fire Department after seeing the good work that had been going on.

Commissioner Chung shares he recently retired from the San Francisco Fire Department and wants to stay connected to the service. Finished career as an instructor and continues to do so.

Each Commissioner shares what motivated them to join the Commission.

## **7. Fire Chief’s Report**

Chief White speaks about topics in his Chief’s report including wildfire prevention and insurance, vegetation removal project in Gerstle Park, Employee and Team of the Quarter won by Fire Department staff and Vegetation Management group, Fallen Firefighters memorial, and Station 54 updates.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM