



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES

February 14, 2022

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022. Chair Guichard called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Erel Betser – District I
Richard “Tom” Chapman – At Large #2
Michael Daugelli – District III
Mike Egan – At Large #1
Debra Galey – District IV
Matthew Guichard – District II
Richard Nakano – District V
Soheila Bana – At Large Alternate #1 (arr. 7:30 p.m.)
Walter Fields – At Large Alternate #2

Fire Chief: Lewis T. Broschard III

Absent: Clayton Laderer – At Large Alternate #3

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jonee Grassi, who lives in Richmond in a high fire severity zone, is concerned about evacuation routes and wildfire prevention. She asked when that area will be addressed with something like the shaded fuel break CCCFPD is working on.

Fire Chief Broschard responded that although Measure X funds will not be available until spring and there is no guarantee that the District will be awarded funds, the District has been working with the Wildcat Canyon Forum, East Bay Parks, and various subject matter experts and is in the process of assessing where Measure X funds could best be leveraged in the county.

Chief Bachman, Fire Marshal, suggested Ms. Grassi check with the City of Richmond as they also applied for the same grant seeking funds for mitigation work in Richmond.

CONSENT ITEMS

A. December 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

B. Accept and File Reports:

1. Personnel Report

2. Operating Budget
3. Fire Prevention Report
4. Monthly Activity Reports
5. Suppression Leave Summary

Commissioner Fields requested that Items B.1., B.3. and B.5. be moved to Discussion.

Commissioner Nakano made a motion to accept and file Items A., B.2., and B.4. Motion seconded by Commissioner Chapman. Motion passed (AYES: Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; Nakano; ABSTAIN: Betser and Galey for Item A. only).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Personnel Report

Commissioner Fields asked about the vacancy left by the Mechanic who separated from the District. Chief Broschard noted that the District is in the process of onboarding a new Mechanic. He also noted that we are losing qualified mechanics to others companies that pay higher salaries. Because our salaries are lower, it is very difficult to recruit for this position.

B. Fire Prevention Report

Commissioner Fields asked about conviction rates on the arson arrests. Chief Bachman, Fire Marshal, shared that more than half of the arrests were for exterior fires, but he was not aware of the conviction rate.

C. Suppression Leave Summary

Commissioner Fields asked about high mandatory overtime numbers in January. Chief Broschard noted that we currently have just under ten percent of suppression staff out on workers' compensation, and other districts are experiencing similar staffing issues. We are looking forward to the graduating academies to provide some relief.

Commissioner Daugelli made a motion to accept and file Items B.1., B.3., and B.5. Motion seconded by Commissioner Egan. Motion passed (AYES: Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; Nakano; ABSTAIN: None).

D. Declaration of Surplus Equipment – Report of January 18, 2022

Commissioner Egan made a motion to approve the surplus of equipment listed on the declaration report of January 18, 2022. Motion seconded by Commissioner

Chapman. Motion passed (AYES: Betser, Chapman, Daugelli, Egan, Galey, Guichard; Nakano; ABSTAIN: None).

E. Discuss Commission Roles and Bylaws

Chair Guichard opened the discussion by sharing that he did some research and found that the Commission's standing committees are holdovers from long ago when the Fire District was in need of that type of involvement from the Commission. In recent years, the only committee that has seen activity has been the Bylaws Committee. The most recent revision to the Bylaws concerned changing Alternate commissioners to At-Large Alternate commissioners.

Chair Guichard also noted that Supervisor Andersen likes that the Commissioners are out in the community to pick up on matters of concern that can be shared at Commission meetings and/or with the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Nakano expressed that there should be definition and clarity for what committees are responsible for and should be reporting out at meetings. Without functionality and purpose, there is no point of having committees.

Chief Broschard, adding to Chair Guichard's comments, noted the Commission resembled more of a governing body when it was formed long ago. His concern now would be creating functions that do not serve the District's current needs.

Commissioner Galey noted that none of these committees have been active during the numerous years she has served on the Commission and she does not think they are needed.

Chair Guichard suggested that each Commissioner reach out to their respective supervisor to get a better sense of their expectations and the discussion can be continued to the next meeting.

Commissioner Egan posed the question of whether or not the Commission is needed at all anymore. People ask him when Station 4 will reopen and not about much else.

At Chair Guichard's request, Jill Ray, Field Representative for Supervisor Candace Andersen, shared that other advisory bodies generally use their subcommittees to do deeper dives on topics of interest.

Chair Guichard suggested that this matter be discussed further at the next meeting.

Jill Ray kindly offered to help Latonia Ellingberg, recording secretary and staff to the Commission, gather information on the history of the Commission.

ZONEHAVEN PRESENTATION

Deputy Chief McAlister presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Zonehaven project.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Reviewed/discussed the February 14, 2022 Fire Chief's report.

Commissioner Egan asked if the Station 4 reopening is still planned for July. Chief Broschard confirmed that it is, depending on how many graduates come out of the next two academies and barring any other staffing issues.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS / ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Commissioner Guichard would like an update on the Morgan Territory Community Association and continuation of the Bylaws discussion.

Commissioner Bana would like an update on when the sign(s) will be placed in her area. Chief Bachman will follow up.

Commissioner Bana also asked if the Fire District can reach out to the Board of Supervisors about including an information sheet about Zonehaven in the envelopes when tax bills are sent out; the notice would also advise residents to register for CWS.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



Latonia Ellingberg, Recording Secretary