



Fire and Rescue Services

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VANCOUVER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 6, 2002
Fire Hall #19 – 4392 West 12th Street

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joseph Bach
Jean-Francois Landry
Kathleen Bigsby
Echo Wang
Robert D. Gillan

REGRETS:

Larry Campbell
Richard Pomeroy
Chris Davies
Jack Short

GUESTS: RECORDER:

Tom Easterbrook
Charmaine Susanthan
Ray Holdgate
Bob Smith
Ron Ritchie

Kathleen announced Chris Baisley's resignation (notification via e-mail)

1. CALL TO ORDER: At 1745 hrs. by Kathleen Bigsby

2. ADOPT AGENDA: Adopted as presented

3. ADOPT MINUTES: Approved as circulated

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Letter from Hon. Stephen Owen's Office with enclosure from Hon. Susan Whelan, Minister for International Cooperation.
- It was decided that for the present, there would not be further correspondence on the deployment of the USAR team.

5. REPORTS:

A. TASK GROUPS:

5.1.1 Emergency Preparedness – Joseph Bach, JF Landry

- John Pye has expressed that he would like to make a presentation to the group. This will be arranged by JF.

- Reporting on the Communications System in the event of a disaster, JF remarked that although he was able to contact a few people it does not seem that at the present time a public broadcast is a possibility. This area of concern has been expressed to the Regional Emergency Planning Committee and it is hoped that an answer could be got. JF will arrange to meet with John Oakley. These broadcasts can be done only through E-Comm. The cost factor seems to be a contributing factor for these broadcasts not being done. Should there be a corporate sponsor the possibility of this taking place is much greater. The media themselves pose a problem as there are questions surrounding who will be responsible to make these broadcasts. The area of responsibility lies with the Communications Officer for the COV – Catherine Clement. JF will contact either Catherine or Robert Bryan for further information.

- Joseph reviewed the EP binder and has made a few recommendations to customize/standardize this for every hall. He will correspond with John Pye.

5.1.2 Budgeting – Jack Short

-No Report

5.1.3 Fire Prevention – JF Landry, Jack Short Ron Ritchie covered this topic.

- The Fire Prevention division is facing issues with vacant buildings. Routine checks will need to be done to ensure that these buildings that have been closed, remain closed and that they are free from occupants.
- Reported a fire death on the weekend.
- There was also a fire on the 1700 block of East 5th. 3 out of 5 houses under construction were destroyed. No fire safety plans had been filed. A few firefighters suffered injuries.
- With the increase of new construction sites in the City there is a need for more fire inspectors. The number of night inspections also needs to increase since the nightclubs and bars are now open later. Increasing staffing levels in this division will be taken for Council approval.

5.1.4 Strategic Planning – Kathleen Bigsby

-Chief Holdgate mentioned that former consultant John Coulson would like to be involved in the Strategic plan review, and arrangements will be made in the new year for John to meet the committee.

- Kathleen discussed Strategic Direction One. – Leadership. Reference was made to the Canadian Quality Criteria For

Public Sector Excellence. Charmaine will make copies and distribute to all members. The web site is: www.nqi.ca
- Strategic Direction Two will be discussed in December and members were urged to come prepared for this discussion.

5.1.5 Training & Recruitment – Chris Davies, Echo Wang

- Nothing to report.

5.1.6 Emergency Medical Services – Larry Campbell, Echo Wang

- Nothing to report.

5.1.7 Communications and Community Relations – Kathleen Bigsby

- No report.

5.1.8 Emergency Public Communications - Richard Pomeroy

- No report.

B. FIRE CHIEF: Ray Holdgate

- Recruitment & Training. This area may see some changes in the future. The operation deputies will be more involved in the process.
- Should the Training department be able to come up with a business plan that shows internal training to meet NFPA standard is possible, the entire recruitment and training process will change.
- At present it is felt that new recruits from the JI and other academies have the theoretical training but inadequate hands-on training. The department is looking for members who are able to get on the job as soon as they complete their last day of training. The department has a three-week hands-on training program after which the probationer is sent out to the firehall. Within a one-year period there are lots skills and standards that the probationer will need to achieve. It is hoped that the department will be able to conduct the entire training process.
- Chief Ritchie reported on the fire at 3122 East 8th Avenue. The building was part residential and part of the basement was a marijuana grow operation. It has been established that the victim died from the fire, and that it was not a homicide.
- Fire deaths have totaled 6 to date this year.
- 3rd Alarm Fire at 5th Avenue-single family dwelling. There was extensive damage to the fire truck (cost is estimated around \$50,000/-)
- JF mentioned that 51 people received assistance from the Disaster Assistance Team after the fire on Bute/Georgia.

C. COMMITTEE CHAIR: Kathleen Bigsby

- The committee will have 2 vacancies with the departure of Chris

and Richard. It will be necessary to raise awareness of the committee. Actions to make the committee more known were discussed.

- Publicity on the web site
- Approach Board of Trade

6. OLD BUSINESS: None

7. NEW BUSINESS: None

8. PRESENTATION FROM FIREHALL #19

Captain Gord Hartney explained that this fire hall covers a wide residential area and also responds to calls from UBC. Statistics reveal the hall responds to 575 incidents per year. 49% medical calls. Whilst fires with damage total 33, there have been 44 fires with no damage reported over a 3-year period [many of these are beach fires]. This firehall has responded to 181 false alarms over a 3-yr. period. This hall also provides protection for Pacific Spirit Park – 1700 acres with no water supply. The 'white' fire truck parked in the hall is used to combat wildland fires. The truck is equipped with 100 gallons of water, broken down through a small foam applicator so it does not depend on external fire hydrants. This is an ideal truck as it can access the park and trails that a big truck is not able to. Captain Hartney expressed the concerns of the crew on September 3/02 when the fire truck from #19 was dispatched to cover another hall. He said the crew felt there should be coverage for the area. Chief Holdgate mentioned that call-outs are being investigated and he is confident that call-outs of this nature will not recur.

Meeting adjourned at 1915 hrs.

NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2002 @ 1730 HRS.
E-Comm, 3301 East Pender Street