

South Bay Fire Department – Citizens Advisory Team

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2016

* Underlines indicate action items

List of Attendees: Betty Berndt, Todd Eckstein, Cora Morley Eklund, Commissioner Engle, Susan Goff, Chief Kilpatrick, Kim Gylys, Ray Harry, Uta Harry, Dick Kistler, Bill Pedersen, Camille Pedersen, Marie Potter, Janet Rhodes, Tom Thayer, Chief VanCamp, Cynthia Walker

I. Call to order.

Camille Pedersen opened the meeting of the Citizens Advisory Team at 6:05 PM on June 9, 2016 at South Bay Fire Department, Station 8-1.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Correction on the Minutes from the last meeting: The last Minutes states that there were 11 Fire Fighters. They should have stated that there are 11 “Employees”, which includes 9 paid Fire Fighters and 2 administrative positions.

III. Open issues – No open issues from previous meeting.

IV. New business

- 1) Camille opened the meeting by welcoming new CAT members, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- 2) She gave a summary of a few of the issues which have been discussed at Board meetings since the last CAT meeting.
 - a) Update on construction of the training center: Discovery of underground power lines added \$12K to the costs, and water on the property led to delays in obtaining county permits. This in turn led to a delay in construction and needing an additional \$75K for the project. This money was approved at the last board meeting to pay for all of the above issues.
 - b) She said that the Board and the Chief have been discussing ways to fully staff the two main stations. The Chief will provide more information about these strategic planning efforts.
 - c) The long awaited re-rating of FD8 by the Washington Survey and Ratings

Bureau (WSRB) has now been completed. This is an agency which analyzes all aspects of fire districts and determines the rating each one should receive. The rating can be anywhere from 1 to 10, the lower the number the better. Many rural districts in Thurston County have received a rating of 5.

Some insurance companies subscribe to this rating service; they can be flexible in applying it. Others use different sources to determine what a homeowner's fire insurance rate should be. She then asked the Chief to provide more information about the WSRB process and to tell the group what rating we have received.

3) The Chief provided additional details about the WSRB rating and about the strategic planning process.

a) The Chief reported that the Washington Survey and Ratings Bureau has given FD8 a rating of 5. He stated that the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau is a private nonprofit organization that provides a grading (protection class) that's done to set an advisory criteria for insurance companies so they can set rates for their clients. Ratings only concern Fire Protection and not medical support.

2013 survey and rating came under new management and the rating system became more meaningful. Shortly after the merge, the Chief got a phone call from WSRB, stating that they wanted to come and review SBFD, and the Chief asked for a delay of a year, so they could adequately combine the various programs from the merger and be better prepared.

The bureau visits the local water supply, reviews apparatus, talks to the Fire Chief, etc., and all of that is fed into a fairly complicated formula. Since 1966 SBFD was a class 8, which was about as good as a rural station could be without fire hydrants. However, their recent score came back as a 5 which is very good.

Chief VanCamp then discussed some of the details on how the station is scored;

- (1) Fire department is only 40% of the total score.
- (2) Water supply constitutes 35% of the total score; hydrant system in Boston Harbor and along Johnson Point, tender equipment evaluated.
- (3) Emergency communication 9% of the score. 911 center configuration, training and how staffed, dispatch system, etc.

(4) Fire Safety Control is 16%; how the county bldg official manages the state fire code and bldg codes; how they enforce the fire code in the field, etc.

b) Strategic Planning - Chief VanCamp then discussed their plan to focus on increasing staffing to fully cover both main stations. He stated that it takes time to bring in more staff; 9 firemen are generally enough for daytime coverage so they're focusing on volunteers for nights and weekends.

The district has been looking at marketing on intercity transit buses, advertisements in movie theaters, Fire Chiefs making contacts in the communities with businesses, schools, etc. and ways that they can streamline the training program and shorten the lead time for bringing trained staff on board.

c) Chief VanCamp also discussed fire prevention and safety: trying to reduce workload by reducing car or bike accidents, children riding in car seats, decreasing tripping hazards for the elderly, ensuring people have disaster supplies on hand, etc.

Chief VanCamp discussed the increase in wild land fires and the fact that districts used to have brush trucks, but they got rid of them due to the urbanization of the district and the fact that they weren't used. However, wildfires are becoming more common with negligence being the largest cause of these fires.

He provided a handout of ideas to keep our homes and loved ones safe from fires, and there was considerable discussion of these ideas.

4) Camille then introduced an idea that Commissioner Berman had discussed at a previous board meeting. He was interested in reducing the number of fatal accidents that occur in our district and had asked Camille if this was something that the CAT was interested in helping or addressing.

b) The ideas were to put up a cross to commemorate the deaths and in effect warn drivers of the deaths that had occurred at those locations.

Susan thought that this would have to be coordinated with Thurston County Roads. There was considerable discussion of this topic but no one volunteered to take on this project.

c) Rent a machine that shows drivers how fast they're going, but this would require someone to pick up the machine and tow it to a suggested location.

(Most members didn't think that the speed limit signs were as useful as the crosses or "in memory of" signs.). There were no volunteers to do this.

- 3) Camille asked from a procedural standpoint how we should address those requests in the future. Some ideas were:
 - a) Take the request to the next CAT meeting.
 - b) Send it out via e-mail to the CAT when she receives the request.
 - c) Or form a subcommittee that would handle those requests, and Camille would e-mail the requests to the POC for that subcommittee.
 - d) Most of the members seemed to think that bringing it back to the next CAT meeting or e-mailing time sensitive ideas out to the members were the best ways to address future requests.
- 4) This discussion led to feedback from numerous members on problem roads or areas in the district, and the need for potential changes to the speed limits or the need to cut back brush, add signs, etc. There was a suggestion that someone from Public Works come and brief the CAT at the next meeting, and Camille will try to do that.
 - a) Chief VanCamp stated that it does require a county ordinance to make changes to the speed limits. In response to a question on fatalities, Chief VanCamp said that they do have records on where fatalities have occurred, it just a matter of taking the time to mine the data.
- 5) There was other discussion on "square corners", locations for adding rumble strips, "Stop Ahead" signs, etc. The CAT members were asked to start keeping a log of problem areas, and to begin e-mailing those ideas to Camille for consolidation. We would then take that list of problem areas to the County for their review and assessment.
- 6) Camille discussed how this would be the first election in a while where there wasn't anything FD related on the next ballot. She did note, however, that Commissioner Small and Commissioner Harper would both be up for re-election in 2017.
- 7) As previously approved, the meetings will be held three times per year on the 2nd Thursday of March, June and October. Next meeting is on the 13th of October.

V. Adjournment

Camille adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Todd Eckstein

Minutes approved by: Camille Pedersen