

# ***South Bay Fire Department – Citizens Advisory Group Meeting Minutes***

February 12, 2015

\* Underlines indicate action items

**List of Attendees:** Mike Born, Todd Eckstein, Cora Morley Eklund, Commissioner Engle, Carol Fry, Commissioner Gleckler, Susan Goff, Kim Gylys, Ray Harry, Uta Harry, Victor Karpovich, Dick Kistler, Sandra Parker, Bill Pedersen, Camille Pedersen, Janet Rhodes, Commissioner Small, Chief VanCamp, Cynthia Walker,.

## **I. Call to order.**

Camille Pedersen opened the meeting of the Citizens Advisory Group at 6:00 PM on 12 February, 2015 at South Bay Fire Department, Station 8-1.

## **II. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes from the November meeting were previously approved.

## **III. Open issues**

No open issues from previous meeting.

## **IV. New business**

- 1) Camille opened the meeting by welcoming new CAP members from the “old” District 7, and then asked everyone present to introduce themselves before handing the meeting off to Commissioner Engle.
- 2) Commissioner Engle discussed a number of items to include:
  - a) Commissioners from both the “old” District 7 and District 8 had a couple of workshops in January to discuss ways to work together, rules for a 6 member board, etc. It was decided that Commissioner Small would be the Chair of the new 6 member board. Tom also stated he was pleased with the way that the two districts came together.
  - b) Briefly discussed the new labor agreement with the career staff.
  - c) Talked about the Special Election that will be coming up in April. A 5 member board will have to be approved by the voters. If that vote passes, 2 Commissioner Positions will be up for re-election in November, 2015.

- 3) Camille then stated that the Board of Fire Commissioners had solicited the CAG and CAP's feedback on how to educate citizens on the upcoming vote. Ideas which came up during the discussion included:
  - a) Using "Next Door", a local online bulletin board where members can post information.
  - b) Mailing a 1 page flyer to Homeowner's associations in the District.
  - c) Posting info flyers in some of the local businesses.
  - d) Putting an informational flyer onto the SBFDD website.
  - e) Letters to the Editor of the Olympian newspaper.
- 4) There was some cross-talk between members and Tom Engle and Chief VanCamp as to the pros and cons of a 5 person board vs. a 3 person board. The biggest difference that came up at the meeting was that a 5 person board would provide for better representation of the larger district and would also enable the board to better share the duties and responsibilities that come with a larger district, budget, personnel, etc.
- 5) There was some discussion on who would write the "Pro"- statement for the board vote that will be posted on the Thurston County elections website. Janet Rhodes and Camille Pedersen volunteered to work together on that project and Mike Born, Cynthia Walker, and Kim Gylys volunteered to review the statement.
- 6) Camille then asked for input about the future name of the group, and it was decided that the name should be changed to the Citizen's Advisory Team (CAT) with members consisting of former members of both District 7 and 8.
- 7) Todd Eckstein volunteered to work with Chief VanCamp on providing a flyer with the facts of the Board Vote to interested citizens. CAT members will provide Todd with e-mail addresses to various civic organizations that may like the information; Homeowner Association, local businesses, etc.
- 8) Chief VanCamp then briefed the members on the new line & block chart for staffing of the two stations. He also stated that they were working towards staffing the station on Johnson Point, but they would need to get 90 volunteers in order to adequately staff 3 stations; they currently have 72 volunteers.
- 9) Chief VanCamp also discussed the potential for a volunteer to work with the district in the future to help set future salaries for non-bargain unit employees. It would be helpful if that citizen has experience in that area.

- 10) Camille solicited input from members for ideas for future CAT meetings. Some ideas were:
  - a) Status of the remodel of the Training Center
  - b) Preview of the steps required to be certified as a Fireman/EMT and the required training.
- 11) Todd read an email from Carolyn Logue in which she states that, because of her heavy work schedule, she is resigning from the Co-Chair position. She wants to continue to be a member and attend when she can, and she suggests that her replacement come from the west side of the district (former FD7). Todd asked for a volunteer from that area but no one has volunteered yet.
- 12) The committee briefly discussed dates for the upcoming meetings. As previously approved, the meetings will be held quarterly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month. Next meeting is the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, followed by 13 Aug and 12 Nov.

## **V. Adjournment**

Camille adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Todd Eckstein

Minutes approved by: Camille Pedersen