



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

LOCATION: CAL FIRE Conference Room
6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018
DATE: November 20, 2019
TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

I. ROLL/CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order at 4:10 pm

Present:

Volunteer Firefighters Representative/Chair:	Doug Aumack
Second District Representative:	Carey Pico
Third District Representative:	Janet Webb
Fourth District Representative:	John Walker
Fifth District Representative/Co-chair:	Arnie Wernick
Office of Emergency Services Manager:	Rosemary Anderson

Absent:

First District Representative:	Alex Leman
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II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 18, 2019

Motion: Walker

Motion seconded: Pico

In favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Leman

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

(Items not on agenda, 3 minutes per person)

- A.** Russ Mackey commented on the following:
- i. Shared his opinion that some of the information presented for the ballot measure is misleading.
- B.** Becky Steinbruner commented on the following:
- i. Fire Safe meetings have been very well attended.
 - ii. Information about special speaker (Yana) is up on website.
 - iii. List online of supplies needed.
 - iv. Contest online for best before and after photos.
 - v. Firewise follow up meeting at Aptos library this evening is from 6:30-8:00 pm, featuring PP certified special speaker Marco.

V. CORRESPONDENCE:

A. None

VI. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Updates from Subcommittees

- i. Ballot Measure Subcommittee Update (Aumack, Pico)
 - a) Discuss the FDAC role in creating the ballot measure and clarified that they strictly advise without being actively involved in creation.
 - 1) Comments from the public:
 - Had hoped that the commission would have reviewed the ballot language and the engineer's report in its entirety before recommendation (Homan).
 - b) Discuss personal views on the ballot measure to consider writing to the editor of the Sentinel (Pico).
 - 1) What is the value? Would it make ballot process more confusing? Would sharing a personal story about how fire fighters helped his family.
 - 2) Feedback was that this would be a conflict of interest since the author would be an FDAC member.
 - 3) Comments from the public:
 - We need more volunteers per contract. (Mackey).
 - A letter from Carey to the Sentinel would not be appropriate since he does not live in CSA#48 (Steinbruner).
 - ii. Volunteer Recruitment Subcommittee update (Aumack, Wernick)
 - a) There have been six inquiries online from potential volunteers.
 - 1) The path to becoming a volunteer was discussed.
 - 2) More presentations may help to educate the public of who Santa Cruz County Fire is?
 - 3) Retention and recognition are important to attract and keep dedicated volunteers.
 - 4) Commission suggested that the public to write down their concerns to pass on to the Board of Supervisors or to write to them directly.
 - 5) Comments from the public:
 - Would like to see improvement in recruitment efforts (Homan).

B. Santa Cruz County Fire Chief's Report

- i. There are some new updates to share (Sherman).
 - a) A new chipper has been ordered but not delivered yet.
 - b) Unit will stay at peak staffing until 12/22 per a CALFIRE announcement.
 - 1) Of the FFI 26 will be redistributed per the Amador Agreement.
 - 2) Weather may change the projected pattern.
 - c) PSPS
 - 1) County Fire and CALFIRE staff for the threat, not for the outage itself.
 - 2) Our generators are powering fire stations adequately.
 - 3) There have been no calls stemming from generator or candle issues, a few heating fires were called in though.

C. Announcements

- i. Recent emergency council meeting included 3 presentations, and it also touched on PSPS (Anderson).
- ii. Measure G coming up for vote in Watsonville in March (Walker).

- a) Fire protection gets 40% of funds.
- iii. No replacement yet to fill the spot for the Third District Representative (Webb).
- iv. Ballot meeting including many County staff members was held recently (Steinbruner)
 - a) There was confusion as to who was hosting.
 - b) Short notice was given because the public announcement did not go out so private invites had to be used.

VII. ADJOURNMENT AT 5:52 PM

Motion: Aumack

Motion seconded: Pico

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Lemman

Set next regular meeting – *Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 4:00 pm, located at the CAL FIRE CZU Headquarters Conference Room, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018.*

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