



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

LOCATION: CAL FIRE Training Room
6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018
DATE: September 18, 2019
TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

I. ROLL/CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm

Present:

Volunteer Firefighters Representative/Chair:	Doug Aumack
Second District Representative:	Carey Pico
Fourth District Representative:	John Walker
Office of Emergency Services Manager:	Rosemary Anderson

Absent:

First District Representative:	Alex Leman
Third District Representative:	Janet Webb
Fifth District Representative/Co-chair:	Arnie Wernick

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

A. None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 17, 2019

Motion: Pico

Motion seconded: Anderson

In favor: Aumack, Walker

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Webb, Leman, Wernick

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

(Items not on agenda, 3 minutes per person)

A. Becky Steinbruner commented on the following:

- i. Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 7pm, the Aptos Library will partner with Aptos/La Selva and Central Fire Protection Districts to encourage communities in the wildland areas of Santa Cruz County to do some grassroots organizing and become a certified FireWise Community. Keynote speakers will be Fire Marshal Mike DeMars and Deputy Fire Marshall Marco Mack.

B. LizAnne Jensen commented on the following:

- i. The Santa Cruz County Fire Safe Council received an education outreach grant that will be used to administer a home hardening project. This project will be comprised of six presentations with guest speaker Yana Volkovich hosting the first two. The presentation will end with a series of photos of homes in Santa Cruz County, giving participants a chance to

evaluate each home with newly critical eyes and see what each homeowner should do to improve the safety of their home.

V.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Email dated 09/11/19 regarding a public records request (B. Steinbruner)
 - i. FDAC members acknowledged the receipt of information and thanked Ms. Steinbruner for her continued efforts in advocating for County Fire.

VI.

BUSINESS MATTERS

- A. Updates from Subcommittees

- i. Ballot Measure Subcommittee Update (Aumack, Pico)
 - 1) FDAC members to consider and vote on a recommendation to move forward with ballot measure for new assessment to fund County Fire (Anderson, Aumack, Pico, Walker)
 - a) A motion was made by Aumack to recommend moving forward with the pending ballot measure through a vote of confidence which members Aumack, Pico, Walker, and Anderson voted in favor of.
 - 2) Board of Supervisors meeting to consider and approve the engineer's report to take place on October 8, 2019, to allow for enough time for both legal and expert review prior.
 - 3) Ballots will reflect the amount of the assessment specially calculated for each individual property owner, and on December 10, 2019, the ballots will be counted.
 - 4) It was noted again that other counties similarly situated have fire protection operating with significantly more resources than Santa Cruz County, researched comparisons provided by Pico.
 - 5) Community member Becky Steinbruner questioned when the public would be allowed access to review documents related to pending ballot measure and noted concern that there is a lack of transparency. Ms. Steinbruner was advised that the final details are still being developed, but that the final wording would be disclosed at the October Board of Supervisor's meeting.
 - 6) Positive feedback received from educational outreach.
 - a) Two articles published by Zach Friend and one published by Bruce McPherson.
 - b) The Farm Bureau presentation was well received.
 - c) There is a possibility that a second presentation will take place in Paradise Park.
- ii. Volunteer Recruitment Subcommittee update (Aumack)
 - 1) Leman has been absent to help relief efforts on the East Coast to help those affected by recent hurricane/storms.
 - 2) Eight volunteer inquiries were received since last FDAC meeting through Volunteerfirefighter.org.
 - 3) Feedback has been received about how stringent volunteer requirements have become, especially from volunteers in Bonny Doon.
 - 4) It was encouraged that FDAC members and community members promote volunteer firefighters every opportunity possible.

- B. Santa Cruz County Fire Chief's Report (Sherman)

- i. The Chief's Association has voted to purchase a new chipper.
- ii. The state of California is still in declared fire season.
- iii. The recent Deer Fire was discussed, which was ten acres and resulted from illegal burning.
- iv. Outreach is wrapping up, there are no plans to down staff, and all engines have returned.

C. Announcements (Anderson)

- i. "California On Fire: The Past, Present and Future of Fire Ecology in the Golden State," sponsored by the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History will take place at the Rio Theatre on Thursday, Sept. 19. San Francisco State University biologist and plant ecologist Thomas Parker will give the keynote presentation. Following Parker's lecture will be a panel discussion featuring the county's Emergency Services Manager Rosemary Anderson, chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band Valentin Lopez, and former Cal Fire Director Ken Pimlott.
- ii. September is natural disaster awareness month.
- iii. October marks the 30th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake which a variety of local events will be taking place to look back on how this disaster has changed our community, and a list was provided with said dates/times.
- iv. The next Emergency Management Council meeting will take place on November 7th, 2019 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Emergency Operations Center in Santa Cruz.
- v. The annual flood preparedness meeting will take place on September 25, 2019 in Monterey County.
- vi. The Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services will be facilitating an exercise on what action to take in a large-scale flood scenario on November 13, 2019.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 5:02 PM

Motion: Aumack

Motion seconded: Anderson

In favor: Pico, Walker

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Leman, Web, Wernick

Set next regular meeting – Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 4:00 pm, located at the CAL FIRE CZU Headquarters Conference Room, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018.

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