



# VANCOUVER FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2021

1700 hrs. via WebEx

#### In Attendance:

Ray Greenwood  
Ross Greenwood  
Lisa Hall

Geoff Pegg, Chair  
Anthony Kupferschmidt

**Regrets:** Dave Pasin & Greg White

#### Ex Officio Member:

Karen Fry, Fire Chief  
Rob Renning, Deputy Chief  
Dave Meers, Assistant Chief

#### Recorder:

Charmaine Susanthan

#### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1708 hrs. by Chair Geoff Pegg.

#### ADOPT AGENDA

Adopted as presented.

#### ADOPT MINUTES

Minutes of the February 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting adopted as presented.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Callum Woodbury -potential new recruit.  
Geoff to liaise with Callum – provide more info and report back at next meeting.

#### Introductions

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- **Committee Mandate & Activities Sub-committee (Geoff Pegg)**
  - Chair Geoff Pegg: How can this committee be effective? Fire Chief's expectations?
  - Strategic Plan – committee's involvement.
  - Geoff and Ray represented the committee at the BCEHS Board Meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 advocating for Fire crews to administer Naloxone.
  - Fire Chief expressed that she is a firm believer of prevention and public education. Presently the department is focusing on the growth plan. Staffing is on hold. Chief Fry mentioned that she could have used the support of this committee at the time she was advocating for vaccinations for firefighters. She had to work different angles and finally was able to secure vaccinations for staff.
- **New Sub-Committee: VF&RS and Seniors' Centers (Anthony, Ross, Ray)**
  - Anthony prior to this meeting had provided the Fire Chief with an overview of this sub committee.
  - Will rely on Fire Chief's commitment to further educate seniors with various programs. Fire Prevention division would be involved in this project.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Report from the Fire Chief**
  - VFRS will be 135 Years tomorrow (May 28<sup>th</sup>) This department was founded in 1886.
  - The department created a COVID-19 Task Force at the onset of the pandemic. This task force directed safety protocols and business operations for the department. Fire crews shifted to a 24 hr. pattern – staff have lobbied council for this shift pattern. Big impacts in mental health and wellness. Seems to be making a big difference. Rolled out the immunizations – group of our staff were trained to provide immunizations – this is on hold at the moment.
  - Restart & Reopening : Public inspections – at this point they have taken a pause but fire halls will be resume when the province reopens normal operations.
  - Fire Hall #17: Building is close to the final stage of being built. First ever green zero emission building. Opening date – beginning of August.
  - Getting prepared to accept our first electric fire engine.
  - Joint Committee with UN/Management – sustainability and green initiatives – collaborative group.
  - Growth Plan: 2019 to be completed in 2022. (Hired 42 of 132 positions. 35 suppression FFs, 4 additional prevention staff. Focusing on 2 on the SROs – funded through the empty home tax. Hired an analyst. 2 management positions – mental health and accreditation manager). Accreditation is on hold at this time. One staff member involved in the Mayor’s initiative CORT – Community Outreach Overdose Response Team. Overdoes crisis still on the increase.
  - Are we rotating members through hall #2? One year rotation. We should probably doing this for fire hall #8 as well. Resilient Minds – created in Vancouver – now has gone national.
  - Cardiac screening – testing firefighters.
  - Budget prep: Revenues are down in the city. The department is trying its best not to lose any FFS and retain the budget. Capital budget has not been discussed as yet. 30 year facilities plan.
  - Hiring process for a Deputy Chief Diversity and Inclusion.
  - Woodframe construction- need to make resources available. River district. Moved ladder 17 over to Fire Hall #5.
  
- **Report from Deputy Chief Protective Services- Rob Renning**
  - Chief Renning reported the completion of Disaster Staging Areas (DSA). There are six located throughout the city.
  - Some staff returned to suppression. Operational type inspections were paused. Present focus is on highrise buildings, SRO’s and single family dwellings. During the pandemic most work tasks have gone virtual.
  - Reinvented Pub Ed – virtual training, social media. More programs are being run but without the Fire Safety House. Training more people with less staff.
  - Fire extinguisher training – virtual, short one-hour hands on program. Starting to work on video now. Information videos. Wake Vancouver videos – smoke alarms.
  - 23000 inspections – 11000 inspections were done last year. Major restructuring in the division.
  - Strathcona Park decampment took a great deal of this division’s time and resources
  - This division will promote and assist the Seniors Program; lockbox program, fire safety plans etc.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1830 hrs.**

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1700hrs.**  
via WebEx