



VANCOUVER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 19th 2016
Fire Hall #1 – Boardroom
900 Heatley Avenue

IN ATTENDANCE:

Yanni Alexandropolous
Dylan Chow
Geoff Pegg
Greg White

Shannon Barrows, Chair
Ray Greenwood
Ross Greenwood

Absent:

Dave Pasin

Guest:

Assistant Chief Ron Coulson

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

John McKearney, Fire Chief

Recorder:

Diana Lozano

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1740 hrs.

ADOPT AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

ADOPT MINUTES

Minutes of the October 20th 2015 meeting adopted as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

Call for committee members.

PRESENTATION:

Presentation on VF&RS Occupational Health & Safety and the Canadian Mental Health Association.

When: February 16, 2016

Time: 10:00am

Where: 900 Heatley Avenue, Vancouver

VF&RS and the Canadian Mental Health Association, Vancouver-Fraser Branch (CMHAVF) will be announcing the launch of a unique mental wellness initiative designed to better prepare our staff for the challenges they face on a daily basis.

Emergency service staff across Canada are in the middle of a mental health epidemic. It has been recognized that our staff experience distressing and recurring traumatic events in the course of their duties, and injuries and illness can arise from both single or prolonged, repeat

exposures. Working together, VF&RS and the CMHAVF have developed a comprehensive, four-module skill-building workshop for our staff that provides tools to support those who show signs of a mental illness in the community and tools to strengthen the psychological health of our men and women on the job. Through early identification of injury, peer support, the program's goal is to increase mental health literacy, reduce psychological injury and raise awareness to the importance of these issues.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Vancouver Fire Foundation**
 - Kelly and Shannon met over Christmas 2015
 - Revised the Bylaw Constitution
 - Final operational details to follow
- **December 2015 Informal Meeting**
 - Geoff asks to incorporate the informal December 2015 meeting into the minutes

NEW BUSINESS

- **Fire Chief's Report**
 - Arbitrations - three ongoing
 - Bargaining – three dates pending
 - Fire Boats – delayed due to frozen lake. May 2016 marks the beginning of trials
 - Vacation – January 27 to March 4
 - BC Emergency Services – VF&RS Firemen are training as first responders with Surrey Fire Services and the University of Fraser Valley to counteract opioid overdoses.
 - Respectful Workplace Memo to be forwarded to Committee
- **Ray Greenwood**
 - Announces he is the President of the Canadian Club of Vancouver, with Captain Jonathan Gormick as the VP of Public Relations
 - Feb 15, Flag Day – Invites everyone to a celebratory lunch to commemorate the 51st anniversary of the Canadian Flag, which will be hoisted at City Hall at 0900 hours.
 - Heritage Canada – grant money can be won from Heritage Canada commemorating Canada's 150th Anniversary. An essay has to be submitted acknowledging diversity, reconciliation, and aboriginal and youth topics.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1930 hrs.

**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, February 16th at 1730 hrs.
Telus Garden
510 W. Georgia St., Downtown Vancouver**