



# VANCOUVER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 @ 1700 hrs.  
Fire Hall #1 – Boardroom  
900 Heatley Avenue

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Greg White – Chair	Geoffrey Pegg
Shannon Barrows – Vice Chair (Recorder)	Gary Pattullo
Ray Greenwood	Ross Greenwood
Dave Pasin	

#### Absent:

Kinder Aujla	Charmaine Susanthan
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#### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

John McKearney, Fire Chief

#### CALL TO ORDER

At 1710 hrs by Greg White – Chair

#### ADOPT AGENDA

Adopted as presented with the following additions:

- Summary of meeting with the Union
- Committee meeting times
- Chief's Report

#### ADOPT MINUTES

Adoption of October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting minutes deferred to next meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

None

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### ▪ Vancouver Fire Foundation

- Chief sent the foundation proposal to the City of Vancouver Legal Department (David Li, Lawyer; Francie Connell, Director of Legal Services; Iain Dixon, Litigator; and Jeff Greenberg, Assistant Director)
- Iain Dixon replied voicing their concern (due to ongoing issues with the Band) with the use of the VFRS logo and name. Iain recommended steps be taken to get the logos and names registered as trademarks.
- David Li offered his support to assist with the intellectual property issues and registering marks.
- Shannon will reply to David's email and will set up meeting to discuss concerns, structure and next steps; will ask David who he wants to attend.
- Shannon will also contact the executive director at the police foundation to look into their foundation's structure and governance model.

- **Summary of Meeting with Union Local 18**

- Greg provided a summary of the meeting, highlighting the items discussed: staffing, resources, and the Union's relationship with both the Chief and the advisory committee.
- It was suggested that the committee meet with the union once a year

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Chief's Report**

### Budget Freeze

- Effective January 1st, 2012, full freeze on staff positions
- All City departments are to provide a 3% decrease in their budget, which translates to \$600,000/23 staff for the VFRS
- City wants to mitigate cutback and Chief is hopeful
- Final budget due in March and hoping the freeze thaws in April

### Strategic Planning Meeting

- Review divisional priorities, issues and mitigation and align to the corporate business plan or the VFRS strategic plan
- Deconstructed the 2011 statistics and looked at the hall and apparatus coverage

### Emergency Medical Services

- Meeting to discuss with the goal of achieving an agreement of a strategic business partnership with BC Ambulance
- Aiming for ongoing discussions and reducing redundancies
- Will provide an update to the committee at the next meeting

### Strategic Plan

- Chief provided a copy of the strategic plan to all the committee members in attendance
- Will be visiting the 84 work sites between the 14 exempt staff to give copies of the strategic plan and review with the uniformed staff.
- Will be giving the uniformed staff a merit coin (illustrated in the strategic plan) if they want one
- Committee asked if the Tri Data recommendations were used in the strategic plan? Chief responded that portions of the recommendations were incorporated into the plan. The department has also adopted some of the recommendations (some were modified) and they still use and refer to the Tri Data report and recommendations.
- The strategic plan dovetails up into the corporate business plan. The plan also provides connections of all the initiatives back to the main areas of concern as reported in the employee survey. The public document will be posted on the website after being distributed to the members.
- An employee strategic committee is being assembled, which will meet 3-4 times a year and will discuss and gauge the achievements of the strategies and goals as outlined in the report.
- The report will also serve as a template for the next strategic plan in 2015.

Hall #15

- Charmaine will send out invitation to event at Hall #15 on Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Enderby Explosion

- The committee asked about what had been learned from the event in Enderby and the Chief said they needed to be more aware of what can be put in the white flammable containers (firefighters had knocked down the fire to a manageable level when the explosion rocked a free-standing storage container beside the burning building.)

- Chief also said that the service for the firefighter who lost his life in the explosion was beautiful and 1500 VFRS members attended.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Open Position on Committee**

- It was suggested the position be filled by a youth representative and should there be more than one interested candidate, the position could be rotated through several candidates

- Geoff volunteered to contact Mark Baker with the Youth Academy to see if he could recommend any candidates from the academy's alumni. Dave offered to assist.

- **Committee Meeting Time**

- Meetings have been historically held at 6:00pm, starting at 6:30pm and running until 8:00pm/8:30pm. The change to the earlier meeting time, 5:00pm, was to assist in having the meetings end earlier, shortening the day for all, especially for the VFRS staff who attend. Some committee members do not finish work until 5pm and any meetings at fire halls would have to be later than 5pm due to shift changes.

- The committee has agreed all future meetings will be held at 5:30pm unless otherwise notified.

- **Chair & Vice-Chair**

- By unanimous vote, Greg White was reappointed Chair for the year and Shannon Barrows was reappointed Vice-Chair.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 1825 hrs.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2012 @ 1730 hours  
Fire Hall #1, 900 Heatley Avenue**