



VANCOUVER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday September 18th, 2012
Fire Hall #1 – Boardroom
900 Heatley Avenue

IN ATTENDANCE:

Greg White – Chair
Shannon Barrows – Vice Chair
Ray Greenwood

Geoffrey Pegg
Gary Pattullo
Ross Greenwood

Absent:

Kinder Aujla
Justin Rai
Ashley Lewis

Recorder:

Charmaine Susanthan

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

John McKearney, Fire Chief

CALL TO ORDER

At 1745 hrs by Greg White – Chair

ADOPT AGENDA

Adopted as presented with the following additions:

- CoV's Volunteer Program
- Feedback from Fire Hall #5
- Georgia viaduct
- Coast Guard closure of Kitsilano station
- Inspection Program

ADOPT MINUTES

Adoption of May 14th 2012 meeting minutes with the correction of changing the recorder to Charmaine Susanthan instead of Shannon Barrows.

Minutes of June 19th meeting adopted as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

Greg will respond to the three members from the Youth Academy program who have shown interest in this committee. He will invite them to a future meeting and advise them that the committee has a full complement of members at present but that they can submit their applications at the time there is a call for applications.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Vancouver Fire Foundation**

- There has been some interest from various personnel of CoV. Francine Connell has responded that she will assist with the formation of this foundation.

- The Chief indicated that the Union had revamped their charitable society and although there has been a decline in the United Way donations, the FF's charitable society has been able to secure some donations.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Program

- 50 volunteers have been trained in mid summer. The Chief was not able to provide current numbers.
- Some VF&RS staff are committed to this program.

Georgia Viaduct

- The Chief indicated that he has no information on this but does not have any concerns.
- The department has sufficient fire power to respond to calls due to the strategic location of the halls in the downtown area. The area that may get affected is Prior St.

Coast Guard Kitsilano Closure

- Coast Guard has given sufficient data and statistics to support the closure of this station.
- Marine Fire Service – although there has been no communication and confirmation there may be some reliance on the two Vancouver Fire Boats.

Inspection Program

- Achieve a target of 30,000 inspections
- Tracking and keep to the information to date, we will lack in about 5000 inspections of the target number for 2012
- City is moving forward to a Rental Database – will show violations etc.
- 23,070 inspections to be carried out. A Rental Property Database Steering Committee has been set up with representation from Operations, Prevention and Administration (finance).

OTHER BUSINESS – Fire Chief's Report

- Process for replacement of Deputy Chief Fire Prevention
 - Develop a promotional approach – creating a profile
 - A few challenges with the promotional process
- Property Safety Program.
 - Fire inspector
 - Annual Fire alarm system needs to be checked – the fire department will conduct a check as an audit process. A third party will inspect and sign off when this check is complete.
- Department has hired an Assistant Chief Fire Protection Engineer.
- The CoV has created a database on problem buildings and hoarding units. This department is involved in this program.

- The HUSAR JEPP Funding has ceased for the department but hopeful that with continued communication and further assessments and advocacy this will be restored. Responded to Johnson's Landing firstly as a rescue operation. Due to the intensity of the incident the operation sadly ended as a recovery; the team did a tremendous job and received accolades from the province and community.
- Hiring of 12 new recruits. In 2009 we had 7 female firefighters and at present this number has increased to 18. The department has revised its hiring process; targeting recruits that have a background/experience in BCAS, IT, Military, Forest firefighting etc.
- Engaging in a Pilot – Medical Emergency Health Services
 - Terms of reference with BCAS – level of service,
 - Agree to an (x) response time. If it is determined that the ambulance can respond timely, that call will be left to BCAS and there will not be a fire response. In a life threatening call, fire and BCAS will both respond.
 - Bill 48 – ability for communities to have much more latitude in determining how the calls will be handled.
- Facilities upgrades in some fire halls. Fire Hall #5 will be rebuilt in two years.
- The Department has added the following tools of communication with the membership; VF&RS bulletin, Chief's crew talks and site visits.

The Committee reported on the following:

- Would like to have another meeting with the Union and will coordinate a meeting sometime in the fall.
- Communicate to the membership the role of this committee since very little is known about the committee and its intentions.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1850 hrs.

**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, October 16th @ 1730 hrs.
Fire Hall #4 – 10th & Granville**