

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, February 26, 2020  
997 Cedar Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

Present: Annie Bailey, Shirley Dean, Robert Flasher, Ruth Grimes, Paul Degenkolb, Toby Simmons, Toni Stein, Jose Luis Bedolla, Gradiva Couzin

Absent:

Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May, David Brannigan

Public: Sarah Jones, Chris Cullander, David Peattie, Ray Yep, Sheryl Drinkwater, Gordon Wozniak, Robert Krumme, Shane Krpata

**Preliminary Matters**

Call to Order

G. Couzin called meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Approval of the Agenda

Move Item 5 before 4

Approved by Acclimation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Chris Cullander asked about the coronavirus outbreak and whether it would fall within the purview of the Commission.

Sheryl Drinkwater introduced herself on behalf of her work with the Diablo Fire Safe Council.

1. Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services Staff Report

January 27, there was a kitchen fire on the 1900 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Fire was contained to the kitchen cabinets. Occupant stated that she was drying her clothes in the oven which caught the oven and cabinets on fire.

On the 2700 Block of Piedmont smoke in the building. Fire and smoke showing, an elderly gentleman was escorted out and treated for smoke inhalation.

Planning phase of a Wildfire Evacuation Drill in August followed by a preparedness fair in collaboration with Oakland.

Fire Academy 109 Graduation will be held on March 6, 2pm at Freight and Salvage.

Friday, February 21, 2020, the Fire Department Badge Pinning Ceremony was held where 5 personnel were promoted.

### **Consent Items**

2. Approval of Draft Minutes for Meeting of January 22, 2019\*

Motion to approve minutes as revised: Flasher

Second: Degenkolb

Vote: 8 Ayes: Flasher, Simmons, Degenkolb, Grimes, Bailey, Dean, Bedolla; 0 Noes; 0 Absent, 1 Abstain: Couzin.

### **Action Items**

3. Annual Election of Officers

Open nomination for Chair.

Motion to nominate of Gradiva Couzin for chair: P. Degenkolb

Second: R. Grimes

Vote: 9 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Bedolla, Stein, Bailey, Couzin, Grimes, Simmons, Dean; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain:

Gradiva Couzin elected as Chair.

Open nomination for Vice Chair.

Motion to nominate of Annie Bailey as vice chair: P. Degenkolb

Second: R. Grimes

Vote: 9 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Stein, Bedolla, Bailey, Couzin, Grimes, Simmons, Dean; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain:

Annie Bailey elected as Vice Chair.

4. Notification of Residency in Designated High Risk Fire Areas\*(Dean)

Motion to recommend Notification of Residency in Designated City of Berkeley Hazardous Fire Zones with amendments to include notification to each Address and Property Owner Without Duplication: Dean

Second: Stein

Vote: 4 Ayes: Simmons Dean, Stein Couzin; 2 Noes: Degenkolb, Bedolla, 3 Abstain: Grimes, Bailey, Flasher.

Motion fails.

5. Phase 3 Study to Underground Utilities Wires in Berkeley\* (Flasher)

Motion to Recommend City Council to accept the report for Phase 3 Study to Underground Utility Wires in Berkeley: Degenkolb

Second: Grimes

Motion Withdrawn: Degenkolb/Grimes.

Motion to forward the Report for Phase 3 Study to Underground Utility Wires in Berkeley to the City Council: P. Degenkolb

Second: R. Grimes.

Vote: 9 Ayes: Flasher, Simmons, Degenkolb, Grimes, Bailey, Dean, Bedolla, Couzin; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain.

Motion Passes.

Motion to recommend that Council authorize proceeding with next steps in the Report for Phase 3 Study to Underground Utility Wires in Berkeley: Couzin

Second: Degenkolb

Vote: 9 Ayes: Flasher, Simmons, Degenkolb, Grimes, Bailey, Dean, Bedolla, Couzin; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain.

Motion Passes.

Motion to recommend that the Commission attach additional information and recommendations to the report: S. Dean

Second: T. Simmons

Vote: 3 Ayes: Simmons, Dean, Stein; 6 Noes Degenkolb, Grimes, Bailey, Bedolla, Couzin; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain.

Motion fails.

Motion to form a Subcommittee to write a supplemental report on Utilities

Undergrounding: Dean

Second: Bedolla

Vote: 4 Ayes: Simmons, Dean, Stein, Bedolla; 4 Noes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Bailey, Couzin; 0 Absent; 1 Abstain: Grimes.

Motion fails.

**Discussion Items**

6. Special Tax Assessment for Wildfire Prevention Possible Future Action

7. October's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and Plans for Future PSPS's
8. Public Process to update the Wildfire Fire Code
9. Public Outreach on Emergency Preparedness
10. Referral from City Council: Amending Chapter 19.34 of the Berkeley Municipal Code to Expand Automatic Gas Shut-Off Valve Requirements in Multifamily, Condominium and Commercial Buildings Undergoing Renovations and to All Existing Buildings Prior to Execution of a Contract for Sale or Close of Escrow
11. Future Agenda Items

## **Adjournment**

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Dean

Second: Bedolla

Vote: 9 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Bedolla, Stein, Bailey, Couzin, Grimes, Simmons, Dean; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain:

Adjourned at 903p