

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday December 1, 2021

Present: Jose Luis Bedolla, Shirley Dean, Weldon Bradstreet, Nancy Rader, Toni Stein, Paul Degenkolb

Absent: Kim-Mai Cutler (Excused), Toby Simmons,

Staff: Khin Chin, David Sprague,

Public: Attendees 7: Henry DeNero, Ray Yep, Marcus von Engel, GoAnnieJ, Richard Thomason, Benay Dara-Abrams, Kathleen E. Kelly

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

J. Bedolla called meeting to order at 7:02pm

Approval of the Agenda

Move Item 4 to Discussion after Item 5

Approved by Acclimation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

S. Dean arrived at 7:13pm

P. Degenkolb arrived at 7:20pm

1. Fire Department Staff Report

DFSC Staff Report

December 1, 2021

1. Measure FF Monthly Report
 - a. Budget Overview –
 - i. Program Review

1. **Standards of Coverage Analysis** – No new updates.
2. **Project Management and Subject Matter Expert (SME)** – No new updates.
3. **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** – We are anticipating a response from the City Manager in the by early December. If she approves, the contract will move ahead to be signed and the work will begin. We anticipate the project will be complete within nine (9) months.
4. **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** – Inspections continue and the amount of vegetation that exists in Zone 2 & 3 is a huge problem. For the most part, the stories we are hearing from the RAs represent a community that is aware of the problem and wants to act – they just need clear direction. The RAs are often spending 20-60 minutes with a homeowner, a luxury that in-service companies just don't have. We believe this is driving an increase in compliance during re-inspection and is the gold standard for how to perform this work.
5. **Retired Annuitants** – Having the team of RAs back on the payroll has been really beneficial to the City and to the Department. They are working hard both in the field and in the office on all things WUI. It's been working so well in fact that we are working to recruit an additional five (5) RAs. This group will be primarily focused on increasing the inspection capacity and helping FP with the work associated with the built environment.
6. **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic Recruitment** – These new classifications are going to the Personnel Board on December 6th, 2021. If they are approved, they will then go to the City Council for approval in January. If the City Council approves, then we will begin recruitment. Recruiting for these positions is a critical component that will stabilize our staffing levels and allow us to launch forward with permanently staffing both Fire Prevention and the Wildland Urban Interface Division.
7. **Dispatch Re-Design** – The contract for Federal Engineering, the consultant who will conduct this work, has been reviewed and approved internally. It is making its way through the City's signing process now. We expect work to begin in December and really pick up in early 2022. We've got an estimate of 6 months to reach project completion – then the real work begins - implementation.

8. Recruitments:

- a. Shift Fire Inspector Recruitment – Recruitment is open for these positions, which are filled by exiting members and are used to assist with fire investigations and other inspection related activities in the built environment.
- b. Sworn Fire Inspector Recruitment – Recruitment is open. We are hiring additional sworn inspectors to fill existing vacancies in Fire Prevention and potentially for the new Wildland Urban Interface Division.

9. Division of Training Property – We are in discussions with three property owners in North Richmond with regard to purchase or lease.

ii. Implementation & Metrics

- 1. **Outdoor Warning System** – Contract is the final stage with COB. Waiting on BUSD to send MOU with signatures.

iii. RFP Updates

b. Program Specific Reports

i. Defensible Space Inspection Updates

Vegetation Management Inspections – Annuitants
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October 18, 2021 – November 15, 2021

Inspections	Violations	Re-Inspect Req.	No Violations
629	106	106	523

ii. Other

2. Measure GG Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview

- i. RFP Updates – In the early stages of developing an RFP for an Evacuation Time Estimate Study for the City of Berkeley.

3. Department Activities

- a. Interviews were held the second and third week of November. Conditional offers were mailed to 12 candidates. Prospective candidates’ names have been sent for background checks.
- b. Grants – the Fire Department is working on two separate items within this category. We are pulling a team together that will identify available grants and apply for those that we

are able. The second part is to provide the community with the information about Cost Sharing Assistance through the Diablo Firesafe Council. These are dollar-for-dollar matching funds where 5 or more residents apply for vegetation management assistance.

4. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
October 19, 2021 – November 28, 2021		
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	31	
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	13	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	2	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	1,078	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	127	
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)	135	
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	113	
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	241	

Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	10	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	1	
TOTAL	1,751	

Unit Utilization	Apparatus Count	3,802
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Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of October 27, 2021*

Motion to approve the minutes as revised: Dean

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Degenkolb, Dean, Bradstreet, Stein, Rader; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: Cutler, Simmons; 0 Abstain:

Action Items

3. Revisiting the Commission’s Recommendation to Use Measure FF Funds as Intended by Voters for Firefighting, Emergency Medical Response, 9-1-1 Communications Services, Hazard Mitigation, and Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness; to Not Reduce General Fund Allocations Towards Fire Services; and to Support Effective Commission Oversight* (Bedolla)

Motion to resubmit the report as revised to recommend that Measure FF going towards services described in the Fire Department’s 5-year implementation plan, including:

- Wildfire Prevention and Response
- Training and Development
- EMS Operations
- Dispatch

: Dean

Second: Bedolla

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Degenkolb, Dean, Bradstreet, Stein, Rader; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: Cutler, Simmons; 0 Abstain:

4. Criteria for Use of a Portion of Measure FF funds for Vegetation Clearance on Private Land (Rader)*

Moved to Discussion.

5. 2022 Commission Meeting Schedule

Motion to set the commission schedule: January 26, February 23, March 23, April, 27, May 25, June 22, August 3, September 28, October 26, December 7: Bradstreet

Second: Dean

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Degenkolb, Dean, Bradstreet, Stein, Rader; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: Cutler, Simmons; 0 Abstain:

Discussion Items

6. Providing More Budget Details for Measure GG vs General Fund Allocation for Overtime (Bedolla) Hold to next month
7. Timeline for Input for the City's Budget Cycle (Dean)
8. Policy on Eucalyptus trees removal and suppression (Dean)
9. Definition of Defensible Space (Dean)
10. Home Hardening in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Rader)
11. Possibility of Recording Commission Meeting (Staff)
12. CERT and Related Preparedness Programs (Bedolla)
13. Grant Programs for Disaster Preparedness and Response (Bedolla)
14. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Dean

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 6 Ayes: Bedolla, Simmons, Dean, Bradstreet, Stein, Rader; 0 Noes; 2 Absent: Cutler, Degenkolb; 0 Abstain:

Adjourned at 9:09p