

Public Safety Advisory Commission
Wednesday, September 10 2008 6:00 PM
Emergency Operations Center

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Linda Zaugg, Chair
Karen Cameron
Sharon Chamard
Mark Mew
Tony Piper

Kattaryna Stiles
Soren Threadgill (For AFD Deputy Chief Michelle Weston)

Absent and excused:
Sam O'Connor

I. Call meeting to order

- Meeting was called to order at 6:08

II. Approval of minutes for July 9, 2008

- Minutes approved with changes unanimously.

III. Reports

AFD Forester Sue Rodman

- Wildfire Mitigation report published, copies provided to the commission.
- Significant wildfire events:
 1. 5/17 caused by a burn barrel,
 2. 5/20 Eagle River brush fire. This fire was down hill – very dangerous for fire fighters - extinguished with assistance from Helicopter
 3. 7/2 ten acres in mid town Anchorage
- Grant funded program
 1. Firewise, homeowner projects are funded as well as other support projects.
 2. We have exhausted the funding for the helicopter – no budget for a helicopter for next season.
 3. No further budget for wildfire equipment improvement
 4. Budget money is allocated for forest treatment; we can continue the education aspect.

- Question was raised if there was anymore funding anticipated. We are expecting \$255K additional, and of that 150 K is to be allocated to salaries for three positions.
- A commission member asks if the city will pick up any of the program in the regular AFD budget. The strategic plan beginning with the 2001 budget laid out a 10-year timeline to bring the Municipality Of Anchorage to compliance with the Firewise program. Reaching compliance is the most expensive aspect. MOA could support the program in a maintenance capacity. We are approaching the 2011 deadline and MOA stated that, until the appropriations / grant funds are exhausted, the city will postpone financial support of the program. Wood lots could be supported by SWS in Girdwood and Eagle River starting in 2009. Private enterprise and the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District have been supporting the Anchorage wood lot. AFD does not plan to support any of the wood lot operations in 2009. To maintain the Firewise program, MOA should support the existing staff after the funding expires. At the very least, one position should be maintained to coordinate Firewise education and homeowner assistance, but this would provide minimal support for residents and emergency response regarding wildland fire.
- A commission member inquires as to what the level of compliance with the Firewise program is. It is difficult to gauge compliance throughout the MOA. Since 2001, AFD has completed thousands of Firewise home assessments. Regarding total land base "treated" for dead trees and vegetation management, AFD estimates 8-10% of public and private lands are treated. The insurance industry is also assessing policy holders, they have better compliance rates.
- A commission member asks if the MOA can compel homeowners to comply. The 2003 urban interface code was adopted by MOA, and it states you must have a defensible space. AFD modeled a policy after this code; it was held up internally likely due to its implications on private property rights. Problems arise in enforcement, AFD not set up for the enforcement aspect.

Fire Senior Captain Drozdowski

- Senior Captain Drozdowski provided the members with a copy of AFDs Standard of Cover report and answered questions about Accreditation.
- Center for Public Safety Excellence Accreditation process
 1. Self Assessment
 2. Standard of Cover Report
 3. Strategic plan
- A commissioner asked what the benefit of Accreditation is. The aim is to make ourselves better, a thoughtful process that throughout we take action to make us better.
- Identify those core competencies we have met to date and those not met make a plan.

- Senior Captain Drozdowski will return to the next meeting to answer any further questions after the commission has a chance to examine the Standard of Cover Report.

Kattaryna Stiles, Acting Director, Office of Emergency Management

- Ms. Stiles reports she is still acting Director of OEM
- Preparedness fair on September 6 was a success. It was a sunny day at the library and they saw a steady flow of people through the displays.
- Incident Management Team members had a chance to shadow a team in Redding, CA during the recent wildfires. This provided them a chance to receive position specific training.
- A week long asset management training program that was held at the EOC afforded the opportunity to have the class assess the EOC for hazards, i.e.; exposed network cables.

AFD Chief Liaison / HSO Soren Threadgill

- Mutual Aid Agreements, The AFD will be facilitating an International Association of Fire Fighters agreement to establish MOU with the emergency agencies thru out the state of Alaska. We will ask DHS to be the incident command for state wide emergencies. However the AFD will set up the MOU's with the varying response agencies thru out the state.
- Model Community, The AFD applied to the CDC for Anchorage to qualify for a model community. The parameters for a model community are to show that public health and the emergency care communities are well integrated.

IV. Old Business

- No Old Business to discuss

V. New Business

- No new business to discuss.

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

VII. Next meeting October 8, 2008