

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
698 Second Street, Room 102

The audio recording has been uploaded to the FC Website at:
http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=23954

President Evans called the meeting to order at 4:11 PM.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Andrea Evans	Present
Commission Vice President	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Ray Guzman	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Jeff Myers	EMS	
Dale Carnes	Airport Division	
Ken Lombardi	Support Services	
Shane Francisco	Homeland Security	
Richard Brown	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Rex Hale	Division 2	
Tom Siragusa	Division 3	
Staff		
Mark Corso	CFO	
Jesusa Bushong	Personnel Officer	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

James Green read a thank you letter he sent to Steve Kawa, Chief of Staff for the Mayor. The letter is attached http://sf-fire.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Fire%20Commission%20Support%20Documents%202015/James_Green_letter_to_Steve_Kawa.pdf

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- a. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 24, 2015.

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the 9/24/15 Minutes as amended with adding Chief Siragusa's timeline of the Valley Fire. Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes as amended was unanimous.

b. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on October 8, 2015

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to approve the 10/8/15 Minutes. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

4. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department, including Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budgets.

Taken out of Order as Chief Hayes-White arrived late due to a mediation conflict.

Chief Hayes-White's report covered the period since the last meeting on October 8, 2015. She officially welcomed to the San Francisco Fire Department family, Olivia Scanlon who was hired as the Communications Outreach Coordinator. Olivia introduced herself and stated she has worked with the Board of Supervisors for over 12 years. She was the longest serving aide there. She added that she hopes that she can bring to the San Francisco Fire Department and the Commission, all the experience she has gained at City Hall.

Chief Hayes-White touched briefly on the budget and the hiring plan. She acknowledged CFO Mark Corso and stated that they have decided to reconvene the Budget Committee. She stated that they anticipate starting the 119th Academy on January 19, 2016 with 54 members, 12 of which will be from Station 49. She added that they are continuing interviews for H-8 applicants. She gave a brief EMS update, 150th Anniversary update, Strategic Planning update and Fleet update.

She stated that on October 11th there was good participation at the Italian Heritage Parade. She added that everything went smoothly for Fleet Week. On October 14th she and Commissioner Cleaveland attended the Geary Boulevard Merchants Luncheon, where she selected Irene Ibarra and Michelle Estrada to be recognized for their outstanding service. On October 15, 2015 she reported before the Government, Audits and Oversight Committee regarding the Department's response to the Civil Grand Jury report. On October 17, 2015, NERT celebrated its 25th anniversary and they had a full day drill.

Chief Hayes-White concluded by respectfully requesting adjournment tonight in memory of active member Richard Faust, who passed away on October 14, 2015. He was a valued member since 1994 and most recently was assigned to Station 18.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked the Chief for making it to the meeting and providing her report. He commended her and Mark Corso for putting together the Budget Task Force that brought a lot of department brass together to talk about the budgetary needs and what is needed in every aspect of the Department.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked the Chief for her presentation. He asked questions about the 119th Academy class that is to tentatively begin on January 19, 2015 and when the list will be

available and what type of criteria she will use to pick potential candidates off the list. Chief Hayes-White anticipates receiving the list sometime next week and thinks there are about 3300 people on the list. Chief Hayes-White explained how she will apply similar criteria as she did for the 118th academy class. Commissioner Nakajo asked if it was recommended that recruits retake the test that don't fall within that criteria, as far as scoring. Chief Hayes-White stated that there is no easy answer, that it is a competitive list. If you retake the test and get a lower score, the first score gets thrown out.

Commissioner Hardeman expressed his excitement on the hiring of Olivia Scanlon. He added that everybody who hangs around City Hall knows that she is dynamo and knows how to treat people respectfully and she knows how to get the job done.

Commissioner Hardeman stated that Chief Hayes-White did a very good job in responding to the Civil Grand Jury report.

Vice President Covington thanked Chief Hayes-White for coming to the meeting after her long day in an arbitration. She also welcomed Ms. Scanlon and asked what her responsibilities will be. Chief Hayes-White stated that Olivia will assist with special projects including the 150th Anniversary Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee and governmental liaison work over at City Hall.

President Evans asked if the Rescue Captains at Station 49 will be working a 12-hour or 24-hour shift. Chief Hayes-White answered it's a 24-hour shift. President Evans wants to encourage the Chief, the way she did the last time, to have an interview process. She added that the committee will discuss the department's plans regarding recruitment, all the way through, hiring, training, and promotions. President Evans thinks interviews are a good opportunity to get a sense of how a member might perform that might not be captured from test scores.

President Evans stated that regarding the fleet, in addition to the meetings with Kate Howard, they have also reached out to the Supervisors. She added that there is certainly more work to be done and they had a very supportive meeting with Supervisor Wiener. He is interested in at least considering legislation that would require the City to be consistent with NFPA guidelines. The legislation would not require City funding, but at least it would be on the books that we should be able to retire our vehicles after 10 years. She has also talked to Supervisor Breed about it and will continue outreach efforts.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status, Finance and Support Services within the Department.

Taken out of Order as Chief Hayes-White arrived late due to a mediation conflict.

Chief Guzman presented his Administrative Report for the month of October, 2015.

He mentioned that Support Services Division remains very busy managing the ESER Focus Scope projects. He is hopeful that the shower projects at Station 13, 26, 28, 40 and 41 are near completion. He anticipates the fuel tank project at Station 17 to be completed by the end of November. He added that work continues to be done at Pump Station 1 and will continue until March of next year. He touched on Station 16, Station 5 and the bid for the new PPE with Morning Price turnouts. He stated that the RFP for two new rescue squads have been extended

to October 23rd. He added that they are aggressively striving to reduce the profile of the new apparatus design, in alliance with the Vision Zero concept.

Chief Guzman stated that they are on track for the 2016 Health and Safety Bond for June 2016 with a placeholder for about 44 million dollars.

He touched on the Division of Training, which most of the focus is on the 118th recruit academy, as well as the one year testing for the 117th recruit class. He touched on the ongoing training of the H-8's under the direction of Section Chief Melanie Brandon.

He talked about the good work of Captain Colombini and his staff out at Treasure Island.

Chief Guzman acknowledged Chief Williams, Chief Francisco, Battalion Chief Thompson and Chief Hayes-White for attending the NERT drill that was conducted on October 17, 2015 along with 250 NERT Volunteers and 25 instructors.

He stated that acting Captain Sheila Hunter of the Investigative Services Bureau conducted 30 random alcohol and drug tests, eight of which were conducted during nights and weekends. All results were negative.

Chief Guzman gave a brief update on the Fireboats and shared photos of the continued work being done. He was informed that there may be a three to four week delay on the delivery date.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked for clarification on the reduction of the current academy class size. Chief Williams stated that some had resigned and others acquired a number of deficiencies that added up to a release.

Brief discussion ensued pertaining to the Fireboat and discussions with Vigor and Jensen Marin. Jensen is the construction management team that is watching over the project and the possible delay of the delivery of the Fireboat. Vice President Covington asked that he keep the Commission updated on a weekly basis regarding the Fireboat.

Commissioner Nakajo asked where the fireboats will be docked. Chief Guzman stated that Pier 26 is going to get some modifications to dock the boats while Station 35 gets remodeled. Chief Lombardi stated that after Station 35 is completed, all three boats will fit on Pier 26.

Commissioner Nakajo announced that he received a flu shot from Dr. Terraza's Office and noted that they are very busy. He inquired about the nurse practitioner's position and Jesusa Bushong confirmed that the position is still vacant and that they are having a difficult time filling it because of the required specialty of the occupational health component. Ms. Bushong stated that they are preparing to advertise in specific nursing and occupational health journals in the coming weeks. They are also thinking of modifying that particular specialty.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked Chief Guzman for his detailed report. He was sorry to hear there might be a delay in the delivery of the fireboat but he was happy about the station showers getting updated and being on schedule.

Commissioner Cleaveland expressed his concerns of being able to maintain the three fireboats. He suggested having a conversation with the Port to make sure the maintenance is budgeted for three boats.

President Evans also agreed with Commissioner Cleaveland that if we need three fireboats we need to convince the Port to pay for all three or we set aside money in our own budget to maintain the third one. She added that we need to figure out a way to fund it and sooner rather than later.

President Evans asked if there was an expectation going forward as to what the usage of the H-8's looks like. Chief Guzman explained that they will be used for daily operations, last minute sick calls and training purposes. He added that they are currently moving into phase two of the H-8's which is screening additional applicants to get the pool up to 50 personnel. Mark Corso explained how the H-8's work into the budget. President Evans asked what the evaluation process is to make sure they are meeting the standards that are required. Chief Guzman answered that there are three phases. The first is they are evaluated rigorously to make sure that they're meeting minimum standards in their initial training phase with the Department and the Division of Training under Section Chief Brandon. The Second phase is once they go out into the field, there is a standardized evaluation process for getting county accreditation and receiving your paramedic right to work in this county. The third phase is during their first 240 hours they are employed as a per diem, they have a task book which, based on their previous training, either a field preceptor or field training officer has to sign off on to ensure competency has been met in general areas. He added that they also identify on a daily basis through Section Chief Molloy who the H-8's are working that day and ask that these on-duty Rescue Captains increase their presence on the calls to welcome them aboard and give them a hand making the transition into the system.

There was no public Comment.

5. UPDATE ON THE FUTURE OF THE TREASURE ISLAND TRAINING FACILITY

[Discussion]

Update from Assistant Deputy Chief Ken Lombardi on the future of the Treasure Island Training Facility

Taken out of order.

President Evans welcomed Chief Lombardi and Mr. Beck from TIDA. She stated that she asked for this particular presentation as it was one of the big issues raised by the Civil Grand Jury and she thought it would be appropriate for the Commission to get an update on where things stand with the Treasure Island training facility.

Chief Lombardi introduced Mr. Robert Beck and Captain Jeff Colombini, Captain of training at Treasure Island. Chief Lombardi gave a comprehensive report on the history and future of the Fire Department's training facility on Treasure Island. His presentation is attached: <http://sf-fire.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4173>

Mr. Beck added that they are ready to begin development activities on Treasure Island, which consists of demolishing some of the existing structures on Yerba Buena Island and implementing the redevelopment of Treasure Island. He added that they want to work with the Fire Department to make sure the City's needs and the Department's needs are met and they are open to exploring what would be required if they were able to accommodate the training facility. Any changes to the plans would require the consent of the developer.

Chief Lombardi explained how the Capital Planning Department works and how projects get funded. He mentioned that the Director of Capital Planning has offered to attend a future Fire Commission meeting and give a presentation on how capital funding works. He added that neither the Fire nor Police Departments have representatives on the Capital Planning Committee.

President Nakajo asked for clarification in terms of options for a replacement training facility. He also suggested that we get a representative on the Capital Planning Committee to advocate for the Department on this very important issue. Chief Lombardi stated that the Chief has been

advocating since 2003 to stay at Treasure Island, when she was in charge of training, and when the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor said we are not staying there, and they came out with the development plan, the Department has been advocating for a new facility in San Francisco every year. Commissioner Nakajo concluded by thanking Chief Lombardi for the update and Mr. Beck for his support including his work on the temporary Station 48 as well as his suggestions made in regards to the training facility.

Vice President Covington stated she was very discouraged with the options for the training facility and the appropriation of the 132 million dollars that has been budgeted for a new facility. She doesn't think the 132 million dollars in three or four years is going to be enough, and she thinks we'll need at least 150 million. She asked who the developer for the TI project was. Chief Lombardi answered that it was Treasure Island Community Development but the principals are 50/50 partnership between Wilson Meany and Lennar. She suggested approaching them about these matters. Mr. Beck added that if they were to try and rebuild on the existing side of the Island, the Department might be without a training facility for three years while the work went on. He said it might make sense, even if it were to remain in the same area, to rebuild it next to where it currently sits and then tear down the existing facility after completion. Vice President Covington stated that that we cannot be without a facility for three years. It would be devastating to the program. She stated that the Department is finally at the point where they have enough academies in the plans and will have the personnel available, but they need a training facility to make sure that each of the classes are totally familiar with the situation that they will encounter. One thing the training facility does, is it gives the members a very realistic idea of what their job will be. She added that they must figure out a way to keep the facility and time is of the essence.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked Chief Lombardi for his presentation. He stated that he appreciated Mr. Beck and Captain Colombini for sharing their thoughts and knowledge. Captain Colombini also shared his observations after visiting some newer and more modern training facilities. Commissioner Cleaveland asked if we have ever discussed creating some sort of regional training facility that other departments in the area could benefit from. Captain Colombini stated that they have had those discussions but it always comes down to lack of funds.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked Mr. Beck and Chief Lombardi for all their work. He acknowledged the Board of Supervisors for sticking up for the Department and for saying they would like to have the Fire Department Training Facility stay on Treasure Island. There was brief discussion about the 2020 ESER Bond.

President Evans thanked them for their presentation. She acknowledged that it is very complicated and difficult. She asked if there were any other aspects of the plan that are being reconsidered. Mr. Beck confirmed that on October 6th, Supervisor Kim introduced a resolution requesting to see if they can increase the affordable housing percentages in the Treasure Island redevelopment agreement. President Evans suggested that if it's going to be reopened for any reason, she would like to be kept abreast on how it is progressing. She added that in the absence of another site, we need to try to keep the Treasure Island site. She stated that although it is a huge task, she thinks the Chief needs to put whatever resources she has available on this issue, and if it's not going to be on TI, the sooner we find that out the better so that we can start looking for an alternative site. She continued that she doesn't think that they can afford to lose a training facility as valuable as what they have. It's too important to the members health and safety.

6. FURTHER DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TELEVISIONING FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS AT CITY HALL [Discussion and possible action]

(Discussion and possible action to move Fire Commission Meetings to City Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday's of the Month)

2nd Wednesday: We have room 416 – Start time? 8:30?

4th Wednesday: We have room 400 – Start time? 4:30?

Brief discussion ensued on starting times. Commissioner Cleaveland made a motion to start the meetings start at 9:00 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and 5:00 on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Vice President Covington seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

[Discussion]

Vice President Covington gave the following update on the 150th Anniversary Committee from the last three meetings:

She stated that the Chief has appointed Dave Ebarle of Guardians of the City, Dave Franklin, Assistant Chief of the Department and retired Chief Ed Phipps as co-chairs of the Committee. There are also former chiefs of the Department who are on the large steering committee. Former Chief Tabacco is in charge of the Finance Committee and Chief Demmons, Chief Phipps, and Chief Postel are all very active in the committee and they have attended the meetings and they have a lot of good ideas. The reason for the 150th anniversary celebrations is really to commemorate the Department; to acknowledge the contributions of those who have come before; to give the citizens of our city a chance to know more about the Department's history in detail and to celebrate our storied history. There are a number of things that are being planned. The fireboat commissioning is going to be one of the key kickoff events along with the annual gathering at Lotus Fountain to commemorate the 1906 earthquake. That will take place April 18th, 2016. There will be a San Francisco Fire Department Film Festival, the San Francisco Fire Department History Panel, and the former Chiefs of the Department panel, where the former chiefs will talk about their tenure and the challenges they faced and how they met them. They will also take questions from the audience. She added that a lot of the members of the department might be interested in being able to ask them questions because some of them served quite a while ago and they might have a very different take on what was happening while they were actively involved in the Department.

She touched on other planned events that included Children's Olympics, Sunday Streets, EMS Week, Volunteer Day, Lillie Coit, NERT, Parade and Muster, WTC 15th Anniversary, Police/Fire Mass, Fire Prevention Week, 27th Anniversary Loma Prieta Earthquake and the 150th Gala on Saturday, December 3, 2016.

She concluded by saying Chief Hayes-White has been very involved with all of these details and meetings and is very enthusiastic about all of this going forward, as she is. She added that she is looking for more participation on the part of her fellow commissioners because it's a big undertaking but it's very exciting and there is no way we can let the 150th year go by quietly.

8. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

[Discussion]

President Evans gave the following overview of the Strategic Planning Committee: We've had several smaller group meetings to date, and we had a very productive first meeting where we got through only a third of the agenda because everyone really had a lot to say, which was great. We spent a lot of time at the first meeting talking about training and health and wellness issues and getting the department at a higher level and more consistent approach to some of those issues. The next meeting we will focus on operations. Once we get through the core elements we will divide into subcommittees and incorporate some of the recommendations into a plan. We have a meeting in early November that will focus on partnerships, the agencies we work with, NERT, City College, etc. We're hoping to have a plan by next spring. In the interim, though, we will certainly be in coordination with the Budget Committee so that as our ideas bubble up and we see funding strings that will be attached, we can share that with the Budget Committee. We will make sure that it all gets incorporated into our budget request for 2016-2017 budget cycle.

9. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the November 5, 2015 regular meeting.

Please note that the November and December meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

- Surf Rescue
- Transportation Advisory Committee/Vision Zero
- Acknowledgement of MTA Folks for work on Ambulance Bus Project
- Narrative and update on Bayview Hunter's Point/Candlestick Park

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting in memory of deceased member Richard Faust at 7:10 PM.