

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday December 2, 2020

Present: Annie Bailey, Ruth Grimes, Gradiva Couzin, Jose Luis Bedolla, Paul Degenkolb, Robert Flasher, Toby Simmons, Toni Stein,  
Absent: Shirley Dean  
Staff: Keith May, Khin Chin, Stacie Clarke, David Brannigan  
Public: 5 Attendees

**Preliminary Matters**

Call to Order

G. Couzin called meeting to order at 7:00pm

J. Bedolla arrived at 7:01p

Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Acclimation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Richard Thomason said he is a district 5 resident. Looking down into Cerrito Canyon and noticed a lot of vegetation that appears that it could be a fire fuel load hazard. He would like to learn more about what can be done about this possible hazard.

Chris Cullander said he's a district 8 resident and would like to hear updates on Zonehaven implementation, Grizzly Peak turnout patrols, and Cal Fire's very high fire severity zone and relation to fire insurance.

Toni Stein said that FEMA has a new comprehensive preparedness guide that might be of interest.

Jose Luis Bedolla said he is interested in how fire department services are being impacted by apparent increases in homeless populations.

Robert Flasher said that the Planning Commission has been working on limiting parking requirements for new developments. This presents a challenge for hills residents.

1. Fire Department Staff Report Including Measure GG Budget Update

Several significant fires over the last month including on a multi-agency response for a fire on University Ave that burned for almost 6 days, a fatality fire on 8<sup>th</sup> street, a fire on Delaware and on Etna.

Fire Chief David Brannigan and Stacie Clarke provided an update on the Measure GG budget and expenditures.

**Consent Items**

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of October 28, 2020\*

Motion to approve minutes as submitted: Couzin

Second: Flasher

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

**Action Items**

3. 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule

Motion to schedule the 2021 Regular Commission meetings on January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 22, August 4, September 22, October 27, December 1: Couzin

Second: Stein

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

4. 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\*

Motion to recommend that the Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) 19.34.040 be modified in accordance with the Referral, with the following changes:

Do not allow excess flow valves to substitute for motion-activated shut-off valves as a way to comply with this ordinance.

Clarify requirements for excess flow valves and motion activated (seismic) valves:  
Flasher

Second: Degenkolb

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

5. Recognition for Pam Grossman for Her Contributions to Disaster Preparedness

Motion to send a certificate of recognition to Pam Grossman for her service towards  
disaster preparedness: Couzin

Second: Flasher

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

**Discussion Items**

6. Discussion of the City's Wildfire Evacuation Plan, Pre-Evacuation Decisions, and Public  
Communications

J. Bedolla left the meeting at 8:58p

7. Public Safety Power Outages

8. Future Agenda Items

**Adjournment**

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Couzin

Second: Flasher

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

Adjourned at 9:02p