SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
CAT – Citizen Advisory Team
Station 68
March 25, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 1800 hours with Commissioners Thompson and Freitas present. Commissioner Gates was excused. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Art Brown.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
There were no Commissioner Comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

Chief Church welcomed everyone to the meeting tonight adding that he promised to end the meeting on time so everyone can go home and enjoy some time with their families, we then went around the room with everyone introducing themselves.

A/C Plumlee noted that at the last meeting our crews displayed some of their skills and what it takes to get crews to the scene of a fire. At this meeting we are going to demonstrate what is involved in a CPR call. Lt. Soper, FF Williams and FF Werner came into the room and performed CPR on a mannequin and then there was some discussion on performing CPR and its importance in saving a life.

The group then helped themselves to dinner as it was a working dinner meeting.

Chief Church then discussed the departments Strategic Leadership Planning committee and its importance to the department, our future and how it continues to be a living document that is driven from the bottom firefighter to the top, that being Chief Church and the Board of Fire Commissioners. He added that the group meets quarterly and continues to update the plan. Chief Church facilitated a SWOTT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats and Trends) Analysis related to our communities of Des Moines and Federal Way and the fire district. Here is the list:

Strengths

Community

- Transportation infrastructure from Federal Way to airport
- St. Francis
- Diverse Community
- Well educated/knowledgeable community
- Programs like Advancing Leadership in Federal Way
- Relationship between municipal and organizations
- Still have green trees
- Light rail

Fire

- Involved community
- Chili
- Community likes fire department
- Network of care systems
- Board of Fire Commissioners
- Knowledge of tax issues
- Opportunity for other mergers
- Merger of King #26 & 39
- Good will in community
- Personnel
- Reputation
- Integrity
- Best equipped fire department this size
- Community does not have major chemicals and explosives
- Class 2 insurance rating
- Support of senior community such as Wesley Homes
- Prevention and public education in schools with seniors
- Stations located throughout community and strategic responses

Both – Community and Fire

- EOC – Emergency Management
- Outreach and communications and planning

Weaknesses

Community

- Jobs?
- Des Moines is a transient community with no businesses
- Less common culture or common values
- Don't understand the values or culture
- Undercurrent of negativism and name calling (newspapers)
- Loss of economic vitality and businesses
- Inability to pay more for big government
- Bedroom community with people leaving during the day - hard to communicate
- The media and other entities "put down" Federal Way and Des Moines
- Tons of empty building
- No room for industrial department
- Cities not actively engaged with gangs
- DMPD cutting officers

Fire

- Diversity in the fire department culture
- Lack of printed messages out of fire department
- Departments basketball players

Both- Community and Fire

- Lack of water at District 54 - Des Moines
- No residential fire sprinklers

Opportunities

Community

- Port property in Des Moines
- Are we doing enough re: suicide prevention (parents)
- Change of superintendent and strong Mayor in Federal Way
- The media and their entities have underestimated Federal Way & Des Moines
- Marketing for jobs
- Ability to access international jobs and communities
- Tons of empty buildings

Fire

- Hospital district withdrawal
- Means to address the needs of the diverse culture
- Residential fire sprinklers and class 2
- Patient transport
- Information for seniors on being safe in their homes
- Opportunity for other mergers
- Division of fire/EMS
- Fire Department personnel in the Lions

Both – Community and Fire

- Lack of water at District 54
- Neighborhood NET programs
- Celebrate the community center and offer services and classes…especially seniors

Threats

Community

- Gang activity and domestic violence
- Change of Superintendent and strong Mayor in FW
- Lack of affordable housing and homelessness population
- Tons of empty buildings
- DMPD cutting officers

Fire

- Patient transport fees
- Hospital district pro-rationing
- Potential division of fire/EMS

Both – Community and Fire

- Increase demand for services
- Lack of funds
- High-rises
- Education system being tasked to do more with shorter day – lack of time for fire prevention programs
- Big earthquake
- Major airplane incident

Trends

Community

- Diverse community
- People do not have funds to pay for more "stuff"
- More being asked of service clubs with less younger involvement
- Lack of affordable housing and homelessness population

Fire

- Elderly community using the 9-1-1 system and growing
- People without insurance are calling fire department instead of going to physician
- Calls for service
- Technology

Both – Community and Fire

- Education system being tasked to do more with shorter day – lack of time for fire prevention programs
- Be frugal…don't spend as much money

Commissioner Fossos arrived at 1905 hours. Chief Church noted that we now have a quorum.

The discussion on the SWOTT continued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1945 hours.

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CHAIR/COMMISSIONER VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

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COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER

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COMMISSIONER

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BOARD SECRETARY