



Renton Regional Fire Authority  
18002 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Renton, WA 98055  
Office: (425) 276-9500  
Fax: (425) 276-9592

## **MINUTES**

### **RFA Governance Board Regular Meeting**

10:00 A.M. – Monday, July 10, 2023

Fire Station #13 – 18002 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Renton

---

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Governance Board Chair O'Halloran called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **Governance Board Members Present:**

Kerry Abercrombie, Vice Chair (Fire District 25)  
James Alberson (City of Renton)  
Valerie O'Halloran, Chair (City of Renton)  
Ruth Pérez (City of Renton)  
Andrew Schneider (Non-Voting Advisory Position, Fire District 40)

#### **Governance Board Members Not Present:**

Sean Cook (Fire District 25)  
Marcus Morrell (Fire District 25)

#### **Administrative Staff Present:**

Fire Chief Steve Heitman, Chief Administration Officer Samantha Babich, Fire Marshal Anjela Barton, Deputy Chief Mark Seaver, Deputy Chief Dan Alexander, Cpt. Mark Dos Remedios, Facilities Manager Scott Murphy, Site Reliability Engineers Wyatt Humphreys and Javier Esparza, Board Secretary Samantha Vergara, and RFA Attorney Brian Snure.

A **MOTION** was made by Board Member Alberson and **SECONDED** by Vice Chair Abercrombie to excuse the absent Board Members from this meeting. **MOTION CARRIED (4-0)**

### **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were no agenda modifications.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

There were no announcements, proclamations, or presentations.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of minutes from the June 12, 2023, regular meeting and the approval of vouchers.

A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Abercrombie and **SECONDED** by Board Member Alberson to approve the consent agenda for July 10, 2023. **MOTION CARRIED (4-0)**

## **GOVERNANCE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**July 10, 2023**

**Page 2 of 3**

### **SIGNING OF VOUCHERS**

The Governance Board Members signed the Voucher Approval letter for July 10, 2023.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Board Committee reports.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Heitman presented his report.

Board Member Alberson asked for an overview of the accreditation process. Chief Heitman explained that the details of our processes are being analyzed; how our policies support our strategic plan. Board Chair O'Halloran asked the reasoning for our due date being moved up 30 days. This was to accommodate the peer-assessor teams after the change in the conference date.

Regarding the training academy at the consortium, Vice Chair Abercrombie asked about putting more candidates through each class. Chief Heitman shared that each participating agency is allotted a certain number of slots and next year our allotment goes from 5 to 8 candidates. Vice Chair Abercrombie inquired about whether the other agencies are experiencing the same attrition rate. Chief Heitman confirmed yes – on both the retirement side and academy side.

With regards to Prop 1, Vice Chair Abercrombie asked about Local 864's participation in getting the word out. Chief Heitman confirmed firefighters are involved and have plans for sign waving. Board Chair O'Halloran shared Lt. Krystofiak has reached out to the City Council and the Mayor.

### **DIVISION REPORTS**

Each of the division managers presented an overview of their respective division reports. Deputy Chief Alexander presented the EMS/Health & Safety report on behalf of Deputy Chief DeSmith.

After the Administration report was presented, Vice Chair Abercrombie asked that communication be sent to all board members to ensure a quorum on key dates. Board Secretary Vergara will follow-up with this request.

With the Office of the Fire Marshal report, Board Member Schneider asked for an update on significant events related to fireworks and whether there has been a downward trend over the years. Both Fire Marshal Barton and Deputy Chief Seaver provided information. Fire Marshal Barton noted the significant fire event at The Landing that was caused by fireworks on the roof and resulted in substantial water damage to three businesses.

Board Member Alberson inquired about the increase in the incendiary fires and if fire investigations have found a common theme. Fire Marshal Barton noted they are tied to the transient community, explaining that an illegal activity is considered as an intentionally set fire.

Board Member Alberson asked about the penalty for illegally setting off fireworks, such as M-80s. Fire Marshal Barton shared that Renton Municipal does have fines that Renton PD may issue, but the challenge is police must witness the action. The Fire Marshal's Office no longer participates in the enforcement side due to high-risk to staff from confrontational public behavior.

After Deputy Chief Seaver presented his report on Response Operations, Board Member Alberson inquired about the proposed lithium battery storage facility in Covington, the impact to fire response and if training has been conducted. Deputy Chief Seaver shared that although this is outside our

**GOVERNANCE BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

July 10, 2023

Page 3 of 3

jurisdiction, we will answer a mutual aid call and our Hazmat team will be included in a response. It was noted our Hazmat team has been preparing/training.

Fire Marshal Barton shared that in the proposal to build the plant in Renton, RRFA asked the City of Renton to pause any approval until adequate fire codes and requirements would be implemented. Chief Heitman stressed the fact that there is no way to put out a fire at a storage facility containing lithium batteries because they burn under water. He is concerned of any impact to the communities.

Board Chair O'Halloran inquired about the fire service reaching out to Olympia to express these concerns. Chief Heitman shared that the State Fire Chiefs and State Council of Firefighters brought this issue to the Legislature.

Deputy Chief Seaver added to his report that our Renton Hazmat team has been assisting Seattle's Hazmat team to cover the MLB All-Star game in monitoring for terrorist type substances and radiation explosives.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business presented.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

There was no good of the order.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Monday, July 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Budget/Finance Committee Meeting, Video Conference
- Monday, July 24, 2023, 10:30 a.m., Operations/Capital Committee Meeting, Video Conference
- Monday, August 14, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Governance Board Regular Meeting, Fire Station #13 (18002 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Renton) / Video Conference

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair O'Halloran adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie O'Halloran, Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Noddings, Board Secretary