

FIRE TRAINING CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: September 23, 2019 1:00PM

ATTENDANCE: MR. ROBERT POLK; CITY MANAGER DOUG LEWIS; MR. KERRY CARTER; MS. GABRIELLE BAIN; MR. DALE KONING; MR. TIM PILSON; MR. MIKE SERVIS; MS. STEPHANIE CALVERT; MS. MARILYN BROWNE

ABSENT: MS. SANDY BROOKING; FIREFIGHTER STERLING FIELDS; MR. JOSEPH BRUNI; TRAINING CHIEF JASON HAYNES

Topic	Discussion/Recommendations	Action
Welcome/Introductions	-Mr. Robert Polk welcomed attendees and had them introduce themselves.	
<u>Additions/Deletions to Agenda</u> -Chief Robert Polk asked if anyone had any additions or deletions to the agenda	-Chief Polk said he would like to add a No. 10 under New Business. He added "Public Meeting."	-Item added to agenda without objection.
<u>Agenda Item # 1. Old Business</u> -Chief Polk gave an update on all capital projects and needs at the Fire Training Center. -He started by talking about the classrooms and office portables. He mentioned all the A/C work has been completed and new ceiling tiles have been installed. -Chief Polk then talked about the props, continuing with routine maintenance. We still have problems with the gas sensors in the burn building. Then mentioned the county will be conducting a building assessment on the Tower and Burn Building. -Chief Polk then discussed the possibility of a new apparatus. SPC is looking for funding for an engine. In the meantime, consideration is being given to returning the current lease engine back to the county as it has become an expensive maintenance	-Mr. Koning mentioned it is best to have a Class A room separate from other burns. -Mr. Pilson then said don't we still cover the sensors to help.	-Mr. Polk responded I would agree but the burn building was built by the county and we can't just rebuild it. Also the FTC does not have a large enough footprint to construct 2 separate burn buildings. -Mr. Polk responded yes when conducting Class A burns.

problem. He also mentioned having canceled the pump certification test because the engine wouldn't pass. We ended up getting a letter from a local fire department stating we can use one of their apparatus so we could get our state Fire Training Center certification renewed.

-Next was an update on the new rehab area for the students and instructors. Process is underway and construction is expected to start within the next week or two. This project is being handled by SPC with financial support from a grant from Pinellas County.

<p><u>Agenda Item # 2. Old Business</u> - Chief Polk gave an update on the Firefighter and EMT combined program. It is continuing to be a very popular program Class #56 graduated with 28 students. Class #57 graduated with 15 students which was a fire only class (EMTs & Paramedics) And Class #58 graduated with 14 which was a fire only and part-time academy. Class #59 started the fire academy on Sept. 16th with 41 students.</p>	<p>-None</p>	<p>-None</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item #3. Old Business</u> - Chief Polk gave committee an overview of the Fire Academy Enrollment. He said class #60 will be starting in January 2020 and we have just completed the PATs. Applications will be due the week of October 21st.</p>	<p>-None</p>	<p>-None</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item # 4. Old Business</u> - Chief Polk gave a report on Fire Academy Program Changes. He started by talking about the Maze drill. We have updated the maze drill by requiring students to wear their fire hood as well as changing the language to reflect the new air bottles. -He then mentioned we are finishing updating the final practical exam to align with the new State Performance Objectives.</p>	<p>-None</p>	<p>-None</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item #5. Old Business</u> - Chief Polk gave an update on in-service trainings. He informed the board of the Colorado Army National Guard training we conducted in August. The DoD spent</p>		

<p>their 2 weeks of mandatory annual training with us learning different fire ground operations and tactics.</p> <p>-Chief Polk then asked to Ms. Bain to give an update on ongoing in-service classes. She mentioned that the Leadership in Supervision Series classes don't get enough enrollment and we have had to cancel a few times.</p> <p>-Ms. Bain then talked about the online CEU classes that continue to be very popular.</p>	<p>-Mr. Koning then asked if Ms. Bain and Mr. Polk were familiar with the instructor certifications. He said he was told by the state that he can't teach minimum standards without his Firefighter 2 cert even though he has his Instructor 3 cert.</p> <p>-Mr. Koning said the way he understands it is yes that could be an issue.</p>	<p>-Ms. Bain and Mr. Polk both indicated they had never been informed of that. Ms. Bain indicated that may affect our retired fire personnel who work as adjunct instructors.</p> <p>- Will follow up with Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item #6. Old Business</u></p> <p>-Chief Polk talked about updates from the State Fire College.</p> <p>-He talked about the job task analysis is still in its second phase; Marion Vo-Tech was awarded the curriculum development process. Still hasn't been released. The IFSTA 7th edition textbook has been released and we're just waiting on the state to make the switch to the new book.</p> <p>-Chief Polk also mentioned the state has released new POs in January, but with the new textbook the release of a new set of POs is expected in mid-2020.</p>	<p>-Mr. Koning mentioned he has reviewed the new IFSTA textbook and didn't see many changes.</p>	<p>-None</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item #7. New Business</u></p> <p>-Chief Polk discussed the Perkins Funding we received. With this funding we were able to get the following: a</p>	<p>-Mr. Lewis asked how much the Perkins Grant was for.</p>	<p>-Mr. Polk responded he didn't know the total amount, only how much we were authorized</p>

<p>SCBA cylinder cart (as a local department has donated 45 cylinders and packs), TIC, child mannequin, K-12 saw, and industrial battery charger. We are still waiting on hose and nozzles, but everything else has been received.</p>		
<p><u>Agenda Item #8. New Business</u> -Chief Polk talked about the new equipment at the fire academy. We have some new ground ladders and have purchased new sledge hammers for the PAT</p>	<p>-None</p>	<p>-None</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item #9. New Business</u> -Chief Polk talked about the idea the county has of a North, Mid, and South county fire training center. Due to request from Pinellas county fire departments the county is looking at creating a North and South fire training center with the current location serving at the Mid county location. He went on to mention one idea would be the north location being at the SPC Tarpon Spring Campus and the South being at the Allstate Center.</p>	<p>-Mr. Lewis said so the college would run all three sites.</p>	<p>-Mr. Polk responded they would manage them and it's only one option they are looking at.</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item #10. New Business</u> -Chief Polk then asked about public attendance in our advisory board meetings. He questioned Ms. Browne if these are meetings that the public can attend and if so what is the protocol.</p>	<p>-Ms. Browne responded with yes these meetings are open to the public and you can either add guests to the agenda or you can ask whoever plans on attending to submit any questions they may have beforehand.</p>	<p>-Chief Polk responded that he liked the suggestion of adding guest to the agenda in case anyone attends in the future.</p>
<p><u>Committee Member Comments/Discussions</u></p>	<p>-Mr. Pilson went back to the maze policy and said since the bottles can hold 4500psi, then that needs to be the policy that all bottles be at 4500 and nothing less</p>	<p>-Mr. Polk responded that is the new policy with the maze.</p>

	<p>-Mr. Pilson responded that's needs to be the policy for everything not just the maze.</p>	<p>-Mr. Polk said that is the goal and we are working on getting every instructor on board.</p>
	<p>-Mr. Servis recommended there be more information up front for students coming in so they have a better idea what they're getting into. More than just the physical like the cancer information.</p> <p>-Mr. Servis then said he thinks the maze should be pass/fail. Mr. Servis said no it isn't the instructors help you through it. He said he felt the maze was more important than the chapter quizzes. He also went on to talk about the state test by saying, we had a student fail state on the hose portion and the state examiner blamed our instructors because of the way they taught us.</p> <p>-Mr. Servis then mentioned he and his classmates wish they had more time for extrication. It was one drill they felt they didn't have enough hands on time.</p> <p>-Mr. Servis then said that SPC has a much higher standard and is better quality then other training centers in the area. He mentioned he now works with someone that went to a different academy and they can't even hook to a hydrant.</p>	<p>-Mr. Polk asked if he meant you want to see more of what the academy is like. Mr. Polk indicated we can look up expanding the orientation.</p> <p>-Mr. Pilson responded we can show you what a return to work form looks like for a firefighter that has a lot of information.</p> <p>-Mr. Pilson responded it is pass/fail.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk said he understands there are multiple ways to complete this portion of the test and we have had much success with the way we do it, which is compliant with the State POs. However, we are looking at trying what the examiners suggested.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded the scheduled is flexible and that is something we can look at but will have to pull that time from somewhere else.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded we have heard this as well. And that some training centers are only teaching the test.</p>
	<p>-Mr. Lewis asked why we do our own PAT instead of sending the student to PTECH for the CPAT.</p>	<p>-Mr. Polk responded because the CPAT is more expensive and is only good for a year so the students would have to take it again</p>

	<p>-Mr. Servis said I know you used to allow volunteers, he said he would be happy to come out a help with PATs.</p> <p>-Mr. Lewis said it might be cheaper to send them to PTECH.</p>	<p>to apply for departments.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded we still allow volunteers but only from the current academy class.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded SPC makes money off the PATs.</p>
	<p>-Mr. Lewis mentioned he spoke with Dr. Carver and explained that he was disappointed in the college and how we're still relying on hand me downs to run the fire academy. He said this is the same issue we had when it was at PTECH which is why SPC took it over.</p> <p>-Ms. Browne said didn't you all put in for Perkins money for a fire truck.</p> <p>-Ms. Browne then asked what do other colleges do.</p> <p>-Mr. Carter stated he would find out what other institutions do.</p> <p>-Mr. Koning then mention the state fire college has an underground pump system</p> <p>-Mr. Pilson then mentioned because these trucks are so old all the technology is out dated. So we're running classes and teaching students how to run an engine with technology they'll never see again.</p>	<p>-Mr. Polk replied not that he was aware of. We are trying to find funding.</p> <p>-Mr. Lewis said other program areas of SPC have new equipment.</p> <p>-Mr. Pilson responded we don't have a fire department behind us like some others like Miami-Dade</p> <p>-Mr. Polk then stated some training centers are run by large fire departments. He then said he looks online for fire trucks and can get one for \$350,000 new or \$250,000 used.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk replied the county owns the property. We can't make those decisions without working with the county and we don't have the money to build that. It would probably be cheaper to buy a truck.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded you're right you won't go to the Health campus and see people working on 20-year-old mannequins and simulators.</p>

	<p>-Mr. Carter then asked Mr. Lewis if he meets with the other city managers.</p> <p>-Mr. Carter then said can you speak to them about a truck as a public service.</p> <p>-Mr. Lewis then said at least at PTECH the classrooms were better.</p> <p>-Mr. Lewis said that he couldn't imagine them getting rid of the academy even the new president sees the need for vocational programs.</p> <p>-Mr. Lewis then asked if the county can get us Penny money.</p> <p>-Mr. Pilson suggested going to the college with a bare bones truck.</p>	<p>-Mr. Lewis responded yes.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded the fire departments don't feel the need/urgency to give us a serviceable truck because they have no skin in the game. They don't sponsor the students. They just hire them when they're finished.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded we operate in the black which is a plus and important to insure there will be a SPC fire academy in the future.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded we've been told the county is looking into it. In the meantime, we're going to continue to deliver quality programs.</p> <p>-Mr. Polk responded and said he's done that and we're looking at a stock model. It's a continuing issue.</p>
Adjournment 2:21pm		