

Citizen's Focus Group Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Kevin started the meeting at 2:00pm in the FD Conference Room. A sign in sheet was passed to members to record attendance.

Present:

Andrea Gardner – City Manager
Kevin Keller – Public Information Officer
Marc Payne
Sandy Vegh
Ray Torres
Ronnie Viss

Absent:

Marcie Lowery
Tim McGinnis
Chris Mulvey
Marty Smith
Matt Russell

Also present was Chief Michael Neujahr for the Fire Prevention Presentation and department tour.

The meeting started with the Fire Prevention presentation (attached). Once the presentation was complete, Andrea took general questions and concerns from the group.

I. General Announcements

None at this time.

II. Committee Discussion / Business (Open Forum)

Sandy asked about the Christmas decorations up on the light poles in the City. He advised there are only a few decorations and they have no order or pattern. Sandy wants the City to up their presentation to the travelers and citizens in the area.

Andrea explained the spacing issue was simply because Oncor does not have an outlet on every pole for the decorations. Andrea also advised those decorations are very expensive and were cut out of the budget when funds were tight. Andrea estimated the decorations were approximately \$15,000 when they were purchased in 2007. Andrea informed the group that once there were groups that would get together and raise money to decorate the City. This doesn't happen much anymore. Sandy advised he has a meeting with Bruce Lumpkins later in the week and would possibly request donations.

The group briefly discussed the current news of Ft. Hood housing being opened to civilians working on post and retirees of Ft. Hood. Sandy says this will lead to more empty houses in the City because rental property will sit vacant. Ray says the opened housing is not beneficial to the people allowed to use it and he doesn't think many will take advantage of it.

Marc asked if the City center would be changing with all the growth occurring lately in Cove. For now, Andrea advised the center will stay the same.

Marc reminded Andrea of the light/electric poles cut off in various areas around the City. He advised there is one by Jack in the Box that hinders view when vehicles attempt to pull out of the lot into traffic.

Andrea advised the group that Copperas Cove was ranked #2 for the Ave D sidewalk project and the City received 100% funding. Also, there is someone working on the Ogletree graffiti problem.

The group discussed the recent debate over if the members of certain boards and committees live in or out of town. Ronnie said if someone is going to volunteer their time to a workgroup or committee for the betterment of that community then who cares where they live. Sandy said there are plenty of business owners who contribute to the economy of the City who should have the right to participate in the boards and commissions. Andrea let the group know that by law there are only two Council appointed boards that must live within the City and that is Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments. Ronnie advised maybe the Mayor's Office should ask what the members of each board think. Andrea thought the Citizen's Focus Group coming to express their opinion on the matter was a great idea.

III. Fire Prevention

See attached Presentation

IV. Conclusion of Meeting

The group discussed the next meeting date. Kevin will send a reminder.

Copperas Cove

Fire Prevention Division



Fire Prevention Division

- Prevention and Education
- Inspections and Enforcement
- Plans Review
- Permits
- Investigations



Deputy Chief/
Fire Marshal
Michael Fleming

Prevention Objectives



- To educate the community on how to avoid fires and fire related injuries.
- To ensure safe businesses for citizens and firefighters.
- To ensure compliance with local and State Law.

Prevention

- Public fire departments responded to 1,298,000 fires in 2014, a 4.7 percent increase from the previous year.
- Every 24 seconds, a U.S. fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 64 seconds, and a home fire occurs every 86 seconds.

Prevention

- In 2014, 3,275 civilians died in fires.
- Of these, 2,745, or 84.0 percent of all fire deaths, occurred in the home.
- An estimated \$11.6 billion in property damage occurred as a result of fire in 2014.
- Of this total, \$9.8 billion in property damage occurred in structure fires, including \$6.8 billion in property loss in home fires.

Education

- Business (fire extinguishers, evacuation)
- Schools (fire drills, stop drop and roll, 911)
- Medical facilities
- Publications
- Station tours

Inspection and Enforcement

Approximately 550 inspections (scheduled and routine)

- New construction inspection
- Educational Facilities
- Existing commercial occupancies
- Foster homes
- Child care facilities
- Sprinkler systems
- Fixed-fire suppression systems
- Complaints
- Routine, random checks

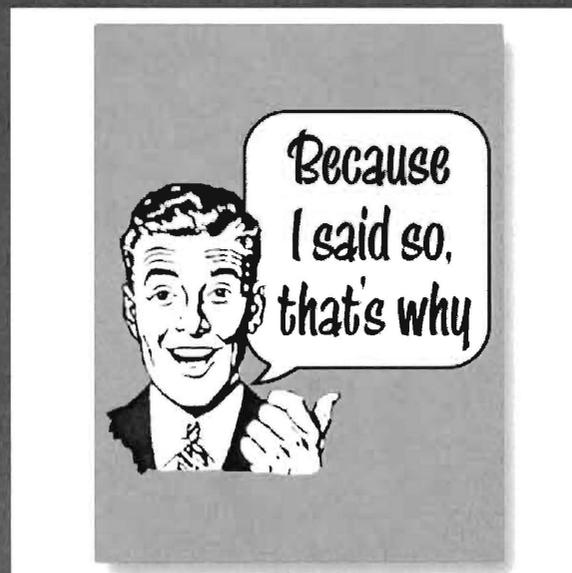
Plans Review

- Insurance Services Office
- Egresses
- Emergency lighting
- Any fixed systems
- Extinguishers
- Fire Lanes

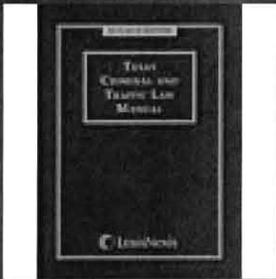
Permits

- Work very closely with the Building Official to ensure each occupancy obtains the proper permit for construction, occupancy type, and inspection.
- Plats & Plans meetings
- Foster home, Child care, and fixed-system permits through FD.

Authority?



Authority?



- City Ordinance, Chapter 7

Investigations

1. Improve Industry Safety and Standards
2. Education & Prevention
3. Improve Product & Consumer Safety
4. Pursue Criminal Prosecution

Investigations

City of Copperas Cove Ordinance

Sec. 7-22. - Investigation of fires—Required.

The fire marshal shall investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of every fire occurring within the city by which property has been destroyed or damaged, and shall especially make investigation as to whether such fire was the result of carelessness or design.

Investigations

Sec. 28.02. ARSON. (a) A person commits an offense if the person starts a fire, regardless of whether the fire continues after ignition, or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage:

(1) any vegetation, fence, or structure on open-space land; or

(2) any building, habitation, or vehicle:

(A) knowing that it is within the limits of an incorporated city or town;

(B) knowing that it is insured against damage or destruction;

(C) knowing that it is subject to a mortgage or other security interest;

(D) knowing that it is located on property belonging to another;

(E) knowing that it has located within it property belonging to another; or

(F) when the person is reckless about whether the burning or explosion will endanger the life of some individual or the safety of the property of another.

Investigations

(d) An offense under Subsection (a) is a **felony of the second degree**, except that the offense is a **felony of the first degree** if it is shown on the trial of the offense that:

(1) bodily injury or death was suffered by any person by reason of the commission of the offense; or

(2) the property intended to be damaged or destroyed by the actor was a habitation or a place of assembly or worship.

(e) An offense under Subsection (a-1) is a **state jail felony**, except that the offense is a **felony of the third degree** if it is shown on the trial of the offense that bodily injury or death was suffered by any person by reason of the commission of the offense.

(f) An offense under Subsection (a-2) is a **state jail felony**.

Investigations

- **14 Fire investigations conducted**
 - **6 Accidental**
 - **6 Incendiary (Arson)**
 - **2 Undetermined**

- **Of the 6 Arsons, 2 arrests have been made**

Questions?

