

Notes Thursday, March 14, 2013  
Sprinkler Task Force 9:00 AM  
Carnegie Town Hall  
235 W. 10th St.

NOTE: There will be no video recording of this meeting.

1. Call To Order

Jim David, Legislative/Operations Manager, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Introductions

David welcomed the members to the meeting and stated he was substituting for City Council Member Kenny Anderson Jr. who will be serving as the Chair for future meetings.

The following introductions were made of the task force members in attendance:

Dan Costello, Dave Erickson, David Bixler, Ron Bell, Eric Kritzmire, Jim David, Craig Taschner, Paul Hess, John Byre, Dawn Clausen, David Van Niewenhuysan, George Hahn, and Dean Lanier.

3. Future Meeting Dates/Topics

David stated that future meetings may be scheduled for Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and occur every two to three weeks. There may be at least one future meeting held in the evening after 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., at the Carnegie Town Hall, 235 W. 10th Street.

4. Sprinklers 101

Ron Bell, Chief Building Services Official, provided background information on the history of national standards for sprinklers in apartment buildings and subsequent changes to the Uniform Building Codes.

Dean Lanier, Division Chief, reviewed the information contained in the distributed apartment Sprinkler Handbook. The handbook reviews the following information: the sprinkler history; standards for sprinkler installations; comparative analysis; frequently asked questions regarding fire sprinklers, and statistical information regarding the number of apartment fires.

David stated this task force was organized at the request of the Public Services Committee to review whether or not to include sprinkler systems for new apartments containing 3-15 units.

Members of the task force discussed the following topics: whether or not this would be grandfathered into existing structures; economic feasibility for construction costs and installation and the types of materials/equipment needed; insurance costs and savings; history on fire loss; Insurance Service Organization ratings; the costs that could be transferred to renters; the shortage of affordable rental housing; the ISO rating of the Sioux Falls Fire Department; building permit fee incentives for buildings with sprinklers; the true intent of the code being life safety issues; and affordable housing incentives from the federal government.

During the discussion, the following additional information was requested by the task force for review at the next scheduled meeting:

- Costs of sprinklers;
- Statistical information from the Fire Department as it relates to fire damage in the last 20 years;
- Cost estimates for types of materials that could offset the sprinkler costs;
- Insurance estimates on cost and if they would offset the cost of sprinklers (monthly);
- The differences between the ISO Ratings;
- Statistical information on the number of apartment fires specifically for units 3-15 instead of all the apartments in Sioux Falls; include fatality information.
- Statistics on how many fires were put out by sprinkler systems.

5. Open Discussion

There was none.

6. Adjournment

David adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Tamara Jorgensen, CMC

Assistant City Clerk