



**MINUTES OF THE
FIFTH FIRE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2018**

DATE: November 22, 2018

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.

LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office, Edmonton

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*
Michael Walker, Chair
Allan Blatz
Michael Bos
Cameron Bardas
Joe Davis
Robbin Foxcroft, Vice Chair South
Hunter Langpap
Gary Mayorchak, Vice Chair North
Grace O'Brien
Mario Poser
Stephen Suen
Chris Taylor

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Danielle Paradis, Susan Rossmann

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Tina Parker, Liz Gillean

GUEST: Ulrik Seward (BSC)

REGRETS: Cammie Laird, Jim Robinson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sandi Orr

2019 MEETINGS: January 24, 2019, March 28, 2019, May 14, 2019, September 26, 2019,
November 14, 2019

1. Meeting Opening

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:05 a.m. and a round table introduction was held. Participants were reminded that the primary duty of all Council Members is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans.

1.1. Agenda Adoption

Robbin Foxcroft / Gary Mayorchak moved to adopt the agenda, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2. Adoption of September 13, 2018 Minutes

Chris Taylor / Mario Poser moved to adopt the minutes of September 13, 2018, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Results of Letter Ballot 04-18 FSC – Appointment of Marc Royer

The result of the Letter Ballot was included in the portal and reviewed. A brief discussion was held regarding the letter ballot process and what information is important to report back to the sub-council. It was suggested that, in addition to whether the ballot was carried or defeated, the number of votes in favour and opposed should be documented and reported.

Michael Bos / Robbin Foxcroft moved to accept the results of Letter Ballot 04-18 FSC – Appointment of Marc Royer, as information; CARRIED

2.2. Appointments

Discussions pertaining to nominations were held in camera.

2.2.1 Reappointment of Robbin Foxcroft to represent the Fire Safety Industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2022, effective February 1, 2019

Robbin Foxcroft removed herself from the meeting during this discussion. The letter of re-nomination was included in the portal and reviewed.

Joe Davis / Mario Poser moved to recommend to the Board the reappointment of Robbin Foxcroft to the Fire Sub-Council, to represent the Fire Safety Industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2022, effective February 1, 2019; CARRIED

2.2.2. Reappointment of Joe Davis to represent the Electrical Industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2022, effective February 1, 2019

Joe Davis removed himself from the meeting during this discussion. The letter of re-nomination was included in the portal and reviewed.

Michael Bos / Al Blatz moved to recommend to the Board the reappointment of Joe Davis to the Fire Sub-Council, to represent the Electrical Industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2022, effective February 1, 2019; CARRIED

2.2.3. Reappointment of Al Blatz to represent the Petroleum Industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2022, effective February 1, 2019

Al Blatz removed himself from the meeting during this discussion. The letter of re-nomination was included in the portal and reviewed.

Gary Mayorchak / Hunter Langpap moved to recommend to the Board the reappointment of Al Blatz to the Fire Sub-Council, to represent the Petroleum Industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2022, effective February 1, 2019; CARRIED

2.2.4. Reappointment of Mario Poser to represent the Building Officials industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2022, effective February 1, 2019

Mario Poser removed himself from the meeting during this discussion. The letter of re-nomination was included in the portal and reviewed.

Chris Taylor / Cameron Bardas moved to recommend to the Board the reappointment of Mario Poser to the Fire Sub-Council, to represent the Building Officials industry segment for a term ending January 31, 2022, effective February 1, 2019; CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Qualified Persons Registry (E.2.06.11)	Communicate status of registry	Nov 23/16	AMA & Council Mgmt	With the Director of Codes and Standards
2.	Learnings from Grenfell Tower Fire	Ask whether findings of evaluation of high rises in the City of Edmonton may be shared with the FSC once complete	Sep 14/17	Bardas	Nothing new to report
3.	Code Adoption and Training	Look into possibility of drafting a brief statement for AUMA and RMA so they understand there will be no financial impacts to them with the upcoming code adoption as	Sep 13/18	Orr	Still in progress

		mandatory code update training will not be required.			
4.	Changes to Alberta Fire Code Concerning Fireworks STANDATA	Members were asked to review the draft and provide feedback.	Sep 13/18	All	Completed, remove from action list
5.	Building Code as it Relates to Fire Code Presentation	The proposed presentation will be condensed to only those items applicable to the fire discipline and will posted in the Member Portal.	Sep 13/18	Parker	In progress

4.1. Fire Certification Implementation Date Update

Background was provided on the changes to the fire certification levels, particularly to the scope of their certification and transition to the new levels. It was initially determined to implement the new certification in May 2019. However, to provide a bit more time for SCOs, implementation will take place in September 2019.

It was clarified that any SCOs taking the new training need to operate under the existing scopes until after implementation.

4.2. Draft STANDATA FCI Existing Fire Alarm Systems

The draft was included in the portal and an overview was provided on the changes from the previous STANDATAs which includes greater clarification. A discussion was held regarding some of the existing challenges that Authorities Having Jurisdiction are facing, including permitting requirements. Members were encouraged to include feedback on potential revisions that will help in addressing the issues.

Members were asked to provide feedback directly to the Administrator by January 2, 2019. [All]

4.3. Microdistilleries and Microbreweries presentation

Ulrik Stewart provided a presentation on how the City of Calgary is managing Microbreweries/Distilleries. The presentation was included in the portal and highlights included:

- 30 microbreweries and 2 microdistilleries, and 3 more in the permitting phase, in Calgary at present
- Brewery Processing Flow Chart was explained
- An overview of microbrewery hazards
 - Brewhouse typically not hazardous
 - Beer is not a flammable or combustible liquid
 - Equipment used for brewing operates at low pressure
 - Storing/milling grain/malt creates dust, which usually represents the biggest hazard
 - Quantities are typically small

- Dust can be controlled by regular housekeeping
- Photographs of typical brewery and distillery processing operations and equipment
- An overview of microdistillery hazards
 - Distilled beverage alcohol is a flammable liquid (Class IB if 60%-96% ABV and Class IC if 20% - 60% ABV)
 - Risk of fire from alcohol spills during distilling
 - Risk of explosion of alcohol vapours (one distiller said that 2% of the product evaporates after distilling is complete)
 - Significant amounts of distilled alcohol may be stored on site in barrels
 - Storing/milling grain/malt creates dust, but similar to microbreweries it can be controlled with regular housekeeping
- Microdistillery Processing Flow Chart
- The Alberta Building and Fire Codes do not mention breweries or microbreweries
- Distilleries classification in the appendices is considered a Group F, Division 1, High-Hazard Occupancy, but microdistilleries are not mentioned
- The fire code outlines more of the processes involved in distilleries than in breweries
- The argument often heard is that the Fire Code is intended to address larger distilleries
- An overview was provided of the different building classifications for tap rooms, tasting rooms and restaurants; these are considered assembly occupancies
- Many warehouse-type buildings do not have the necessary fire separation
- An overview was provided of separations between occupancies
- Photographs of typical microdistillery processing operations and equipment
- Flammable Liquids storage requirements (AFC 4.2.9.)
- Ventilation requirements and monitoring of alcohol vapours

It was questioned how a micro-distillery is differentiated from a distillery, and it was reported that there is no clear dividing line between a micro-distillery and a regular distillery.

There is a need to determine classifications as there is a lack of coordination between the ABC and AFC. This disconnect could create a challenge wherein the Building official has classified a facility as an F2 occupancy but the fire discipline could reject it because, prescriptively, it is an F1 under the AFC. One of the challenges is that F1 and A2 are not allowed in the same building.

It was questioned and clarified that when the micro-breweries were first created, they would have had to get permits for change of occupancy and discussions would be held about building classification.

Currently Calgary Building Officials are classifying a microdistillery, if product is stored in sealed containers, as a medium hazardous classification and work is currently being done with the Calgary Fire Department for these facilities to ensure all safety concerns are addressed. Consideration is being given to classifying tasting rooms as mercantile occupancy. It is believed that this is consistent with what Ontario is doing if serving a small number of people. Microbreweries don't appear to be as big a risk as the distilleries and the fire discipline appears to be fine without having fire separation between the operation and the tap room.

Global Asset Protection Services Guidelines for both Breweries and Distilleries will be included in the portal. [Seward / Council Administration]

The City of Calgary Building Officials believe there is a need for a province-wide strategy to determine a line between when a facility is treated as a high hazard vs a medium hazard occupancy. It was suggested a Province-wide Variance could be considered to determine the size and quantity that creates that distinction.

The Building Sub-Council approved a motion to recommend to the Fire Sub-Council that a working group be established including Fire, Building, and industry to clarify how the Alberta Building and Fire Codes should be applied to microbreweries and microdistilleries. The floor was opened for discussion regarding the creation of a joint working group.

Any known dust explosions have occurred in extremely large facilities and are highly unlikely in smaller micro-operations. A brief discussion was held regarding considering alternate solutions and not relaxations of the code. Concern was expressed regarding using only quantities of alcohol to define the hazard, as even small quantities can create very large explosions. If professionals are already involved, it was suggested that they continue to be looked at on a site by site basis. At present, it is up to each AHJ to make the decision regarding occupancy and what they are willing to accept. The challenge is that some SCOs may not fully understand the operations and its risks in order to make a decision.

The Administrator clarified that in response to any request the department has received for an interpretation, the opinion given is that a distillery is a distillery and no special consideration is given to micro operations. The AHJ must be the one that considers an alternate solution. This will remain unchanged unless direction is provided at the national level. It was questioned whether the City of Calgary had already requested an interpretation from NRC about the difference between a distillery and a micro-distillery and it was reported that they had not. It was suggested that more information be obtained from the national level, as Alberta is likely not the only jurisdiction having these discussions.

It was suggested that there is a need to gain consensus between the Building and Fire disciplines on occupancies, including F1 vs F2 and A2 vs mercantile occupancies. Concern was expressed that people who work in the facility understand the risks much greater than the public who are there for a tour or tasting without any safety orientation.

After an in-depth discussion of the issues, it was believed that there are far too many factors to take into consideration to come up with a province-wide solution.

Some suggestions on a path forward included consideration of a Safety Notice to heighten awareness that both the Building and Fire disciplines need to work together to determine classifications and possibly the creation of guidelines of all the factors that should be taken into consideration if an alternate solution is going to be considered. It was suggested that we may end up facing similar issues in the future with cannabis operations.

Consensus was reached that this item be deferred to the next meeting for further discussion.

4.4. Occupant Load Working Group Report

The Working Group Chair provided an overview of the discussions held at the last meeting:

- It is clear there is a lack of consistency and the goal is to gain consistency
- Specific issues are being reviewed
- The Working Group believes that a STANDATA is still needed

It is believed that there is still need for additional participation from the Building discipline. This led to a discussion regarding the discussions at BSC about this working group. It is believed there has been miscommunication regarding code harmonization and whether it will address the occupant load issue.

Clarification will be included in the portal to confirm that the upcoming code cycle will not be harmonizing relative to occupant loads and it is unlikely to be harmonized for the NBC 2020.

[Parker / Council Administration]

It was suggested that discussions be held between the two Chairs and the Council.

[Walker / Dessario / Rossmann]

The next working group meeting will be held before the next BSC meeting. It was clarified that guests can be invited. The most important thing is that the right people are at the table.

The revised Terms of Reference was shown on screen. It was requested that Mike Baker, AMA be listed as a resource/guest, not a member. The remaining list of members was reviewed.

Cameron Bardas/ Gary Mayorchak moved to approve the amended Terms of Reference, as corrected; CARRIED

4.5. SCO Continuing Education Working Group Report

The Chair read Cammie Laird's written report from the first working group meeting:

- The first meeting was held November 6, 2018
- Reviewed Terms of Reference and mandate of the working group
- The program will commence on January 1, 2019
- More information will be provided when available
- Program information is available on the Council website at:
<http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/SCO/ConEd/Pages/default.aspx>

It was reported that regular communications have been sent out to SCOs and their employers. More communication will be going out next week. The Council believes the continuing education points are easily achievable. What activities SCOs take is determined by themselves and their employer.

4.6. BSC/FSC Liaison Report

Ulrik Seward reported on topics of discussion from the last BSC meeting regarding:

- Electromagnetic locks
- Presentation from the HVAC-R regarding gaps, permitting and the Fernie fatalities
- Venting for firefighting
- Tiny houses and how prescriptively the code is not set up for those types of buildings
- Still watching SLALA homes (group homes for persons with disabilities)

Further discussion was held regarding venting for firefighting. The Administrator advised that an interpretation was given by the Building duty officer at Municipal Affairs in July 2018 that patio doors cannot be used for venting as they do not meet the intent of the code. The Administrator read the interpretation given. A site-specific alternate solution would have to be considered by the AHJ.

4.7. TCC Report

The Chair reported on topics of discussion from the last TCC meeting regarding:

- 2019 Meetings: March 5 and October 29
- Discussion regarding refrigeration systems: no decisions made, link to Fernie Arena incident videos sent out, matter is still being reviewed, most operators of small arenas don't understand the complexity and risks
- CEO report was provided
- Council Connect was launched
- The Council Chair, Bob Blakely, has reached his maximum number of terms and the Minister will be appointing a new Chair
- Highlights from some the sub-councils including:
 - Elevators – work being done relative to shutdown guidelines
 - Electrical allowing GenerLink devices
 - Amusement Rides – the ASTM code is supposed to come in force on December 1, 2018 but there are concerns regarding new patron-powered devices included in the code that have never been regulated in Alberta (e.g. trampoline parks)
 - Gas – concern regarding products being sold that are non-CSA equipment
 - Barrier Free – would like to have the Barrier Free Design Guide available for no charge as people still use the old one
 - Plumbing – dealing with addressing cisterns as they are not referenced in code
 - With an increase in variances, municipalities are looking at jurisdiction-wide variances rather than site-specific
- Reviewing entry qualifications for Building, Plumbing, Gas and Electrical

Further discussion was held regarding CSA-B52 and it was reported that the Standard is referenced in the Building Code and provides minimum requirements for design, construction, installation, inspection, and maintenance of mechanical refrigeration systems.

4.8. AMA/Administrator Report

The Administrator reported the following:

- No firm update on the adoption of the codes
- Inspection reports from the OFC are not anticipated until the second quarter of 2019

It was reported that the STANDATA list is in the portal and the list includes the status review and recommendations from AMA on whether to retire it or update it to the new code. A few require further review to ensure retirement doesn't impact something else.

A word version will be added to the portal.

[Parker / Council Administration]

If a STANDATA is marked for retirement and a member doesn't agree, feedback and rationale for why it shouldn't be retired must be provided to the Administrator no later than January 2, 2019. When providing feedback, include initials in the comments so that the Administrator can speak to the member about the comments if needed. If a member wishes more discussion at the next meeting on a particular STANDATA, they are encouraged to ask for this. [All]

It was clarified that those STANDATA not being retired will be brought back at future meetings for review.

4.9. Chair Discussion

With the sub-council Chair's final term expiring on January 31, 2019, a brief discussion was held regarding a replacement. There were no volunteers at today's meeting.

Elections were deferred to the January 2019 meeting.

4.10. Council Updates

The following update was provided:

- Correspondence was included in the portal and reviewed on screen
- The 2019 Meetings calendar in the Portal is up to date, including training
- An Open House will be held at the Council Office on December 5, 2018
- Effectives Meeting workshop will be held on March 25, 2019
- Appeals training will be held on March 26, 2019
- Council Awards are now open for nominations, deadline March 29, 2019
- The Council Conference will be held on May 29 to 31, 2019

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Meeting and Agenda Feedback

Nothing further was brought forward.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for Thursday, January 24, 2019 at the Council office.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

--- NEW ACTION ITEMS ---

4.2. Draft STANDATA FCI Existing Fire Alarm Systems

Members were asked to provide feedback directly to the Administrator by January 2, 2019. [All]

4.3. Microdistilleries and Microbreweries presentation

Global Asset Protection Services Guidelines for both Breweries and Distilleries will be included in the portal. [Seward / Council Administration]

4.4. Occupant Load Working Group Report

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--- MOTIONS ---

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