



# Safety Codes Council

## MINUTES OF THE SECOND FIRE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2017

**DATE:** March 16, 2017

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Radisson Hotel, Edmonton

**PRESENT:**

**Sub-Council Members**  
Michael Walker, Chair  
Michael Baker  
Allan Blatz (arrived at 9:05 a.m.)  
Michael Bos  
Joseph Davis  
Robbin Foxcroft, Vice Chair  
Gary Mayorchak

**Safety Codes Council**  
Allison Karch, Erin Stroud, Danielle Paradis

**Alberta Municipal Affairs**  
Kevan Jess, Chief Building Administrator  
Tina Parker, Technical Advisor  
Don Rosland, OFC

**Guests**  
Bruce Schultz, BSC Liaison

**REGRETS:** Bruce Cummins  
Bob Boudreau  
Eddy La Rocque  
Bob Husereau  
Mario Poser

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Sandi Orr

**2017 MEETINGS:** May 11, September 14, November 23

## **1. Meeting Opening**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:02 a.m. and a round table introduction was held.

### **1.1. Agenda Adoption**

The agenda was reviewed and the following additions were made:

- 4.7. TCC Meeting Report
- 4.8. Fire investigation Association of Alberta Correspondence
- 4.9. Special Meeting Report regarding Code Harmonization

**Joseph Davis / Michael Baker moved to adopt the agenda, as amended; CARRIED**

### **1.2. Previous Minutes**

#### **1.2.1. Adoption of January 19, 2017**

**Robbin Foxcroft / Michael Bos moved to adopt the minutes of January 19, 2017, as circulated; CARRIED**

## **2. Matters for Decision**

### **2.1. Matters for Decision**

#### **2.1.1. Policy 4.60 Certification Levels – Fire (E.9.03.09)**

Danielle Paradis was welcomed to the meeting and presented the redrafted Policy 4.60 Certification Levels – Fire. The policy was included in the portal and it was explained that revisions were made based on consultation feedback reviewed by the Working Group.

The following corrections will be made to the policy:

- Remove the word “will” from 4.1
- Add “investigate unsafe conditions in all buildings identified in the Alberta Building Code” in Group B, Level 1
- 11.1. e) “only”
- 11.1. a) changed to limited to storage tank and storage tank systems with Part 4...
- 5.1. “occupational” corrected to read “occupant” load [Paradis]

The floor was opened for questions and the following was noted:

- It was questioned why Level 1 SCOs would be required to take Alternate Solutions but they don’t have the authority to accept alternate solutions
- It was questioned about ABC and AFC missing from the list of required courses and noted that parts of the codes are embedded throughout all the courses
- From an equivalency perspective, the lack of ABC and AFC courses was still expressed as a concern for applicants from outside of Alberta with NFPA 1031 or 1033

Relative to the lack of inclusion of the ABC or AFC courses, it was noted that Calgary is currently piloting the new Level 1 training and it was suggested the feedback be compiled first before making any revisions to the training in the appendices. It was also recognized that the purpose of the policy is to address those in Alberta. The Administrator of Certification is responsible for determining equivalencies. It was noted that only the body of the policy itself must be approved by the Board and, should further revisions be needed in the appendices, the revisions could be reviewed again by the Sub-Council at any time.

A brief discussion was held regarding the removal of firefighting experiences and although concerns were addressed during consultation, the Council has no justification to include this as there is no such requirement in NFPA.

**Michael Bos / Michael Baker moved to recommend to the Board, the adoption of the redrafted Policy 4.60 Certification Levels – Fire, as corrected; CARRIED**

It was noted that the above motion was made with the understanding that the appendices will be reviewed at a future meeting relative to codes and standards, and that the Administrator has discretion regarding equivalencies.

### **2.1.2. Vice-Chair discussion/appointment**

The recent resignation of Ron Schaller leaves a vacancy of one vice chair position. It was questioned if two are needed and suggested it is helpful. This is even more relevant if the Chair and Vice-chair are absent from a meeting or if the Chair needs to relinquish the Chair to provide input on a subject.

Gary Mayorchuk was nominated and respectfully declined.

**Michael Baker / Allan Blatz moved to table this agenda item until the September 2017 meeting; CARRIED**

## **2.2. Appointments**

### **2.2.1. Nomination of Stephen Suen – Architecture industry segment**

The letter of nomination was included in the portal and reviewed.

**Gary Mayorchak / Michael Bos moved to recommend to the Board the appointment of Stephen Suen to the Fire Sub-Council for a term until January 31, 2020, effective immediately; CARRIED**

## **3. Review Matters Arising/Action List**

The list of action items was reviewed and the following status updates were provided:

Date	Action	Responsible	Status/Update
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Nov. 23, 2016	Qualified Persons Registry (E.2.06.11)	Wightman	In progress
Nov. 23, 2016	Food Trucks Guidelines/STANDATA draft for review	Jess	4.2 on today's agenda
Nov. 23, 2016	National Fire Code Change Proposal review to be added to September 2017 agenda	Karch	In progress
Nov. 23, 2016	Fireworks Discussion to be left on action list until info on the policy direction can be provided	Jess	In progress
Nov. 23, 2016	Reconfirm Care Facilities Working Group members and schedule a meeting (E.1.01.11)	Jess	In progress
Nov. 23, 2016	Provide feedback on AFC 2014 STANDATA being considered for reissuance	All	4.3 on today's agenda
Jan. 19, 2017	Use of Sea Cans as Buildings – provide something for review by the sub-council (E.3.05.14)	Jess	In progress

**4. Matters for Discussion**

**4.1. Code Development Cycle on NFC 2015**

A discussion was held regarding previous preliminary discussions on whether to recommend skipping a code cycle. The Chair reported on a motion that was brought forward at the recent Technical Coordinating Committee meeting that stated: ***moved to recommend to the Minister to skip the 2015 Building Code and to move toward the timely adoption of a harmonized 2020 Building Code.*** The Chair reported that the motion was carried and he is noted as being in opposition. The primary reason for his opposition is because neither the Building or Fire Sub-Councils have gained consensus on the best path forward and this recommendation was not brought forward by either the Fire or Building Sub-Councils. It is believed this recommendation was premature.

It was noted that AMA has not yet come up with any recommendations on what they believe is the best route. A great deal of factors need to be taken into consideration, including the implementation challenges relative to the 2011 Energy Code and a new edition already available for adoption.

After an in-depth discussion of the topic, the following decision was made:

**Michael Bos / Robbin Foxcroft moved to inform the Building Sub-Council, through the liaisons, that the Fire Sub-Council's preference would be to not publish a 2018 Alberta Fire Code based on the 2015 National Fire Code and focus toward harmonization based on the 2020 national model codes; CARRIED**

**4.2. Food Trucks STANDATA (E.7.05.15)**

The draft wording for a STANDATA for Mobile/Temporary Cooking Operations was included in the portal and reviewed. Although this initially began as an Information Bulletin, it became clear that this was an Interpretation and therefore more enforceable.

This would be a joint STANDATA would be issued by four Administrators – Fire, Building, Plumbing/Gas, and Electrical.

A brief overview was provided of discussions at regional meetings. Although each jurisdiction has the right to request a permit, inspection and business license, it is believed that a provincial approval system is needed. A similar system is in place where AEDARSA inspects each amusement ride annually upon its first installation in the province.

It was suggested that the STANDATA needs more information on the fact that each municipality has the authority to ask for a permit.

It was questioned regarding how far away each mobile kitchen should be from each other. The Chief Fire Administrator will look into this but explained that if there are no historic incidents, it will be hard to justify any additional requirements, as the code only requires a minimum distance from a building.

It was reported that once feedback is received from the Fire and Building Sub-councils, this will be forwarded to the Electrical, Gas and Plumbing Sub-council for any further feedback before publishing. Members were asked to provide any additional feedback to the Chief Fire Administrator by March 31, 2017. [All]

#### **4.3. Review of STANDATA Status**

The Fire Technical Advisor reported that there are only a few STANDATAs left that need to be put into the new format and it is hoped these can be brought forward at the next meeting.

Regarding the fire extinguisher STANDATAs, it is hoped that these can be merged into one all-encompassing STANDATA.

#### **4.4. Office of the Fire Commissioner Report**

It was reported that as of March 15, 2017, there have been:

- 52 requests for assistance
- 5 fatalities
- 20 injuries

A brief overview was provided of some of the work underway including:

- Additional contracts for Highways 63 and 881
- The burning of non-harvested crops
- Fire department survey regarding training and awards

A brief overview was provided of a sprinkler update and some of the challenges a seniors' lodge has been having with a lack of communication between the installers and the lodge.

#### **4.5. BSC/FSC Liaison Report**

Bruce Schultz reported that the last meeting was held on January 26, 2017 and the next meeting is scheduled for next week. The following items are under discussion:

- Feasibility of NFPA 13D training for Residential SCOs
- With a new full-time Chief Building Administrator, progress is being made on the STANDATA updates required. Some of the STANDATAs that have been brought forward include:
  - Roof Access
  - Roof Anchors
  - Chlorine Rooms
  - Separation of Suites in Strip Malls
  - Visual Signals
- Some discussion has been held regarding food trucks
- Some discussion has been held regarding the best path to take on the next code cycle
- The Building Sub-Council was advised by AMA that municipal-wide variances can be done by the authority having jurisdiction

#### **4.6. Chief Administrator's Report**

The Chief Administrator's Report was included in the portal as information and an overview was provided on the following:

- Safety Services' reorganization
- Fire Alarm System Guide 2017 has been sent to the publishers
- Building STANDATA being issued regarding visual/visible signals
- SAFE Registry
- Challenges with uncertified people, products and companies
- In the process of consolidating all fire extinguisher related STANDATA as part of their current updating process
- Update on mobile refueling discussions with TSSA
- Drafting a Variance/Alternative Solution to clarify that existing fire sprinkler systems with antifreeze protected loops would continue to be acceptable
- Update on other STANDATAs being reviewed including those that could be worked on as joint STANDATAs that are currently only issued by the Fire discipline

An overview was provided of other work in progress:

- Codes Canada and work on the Task Force on Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction for Tall Wood Buildings – a report from the task force will be reviewed by the technical committee
- Regional Meetings
- International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA)/Alberta Fire Safety Officials Association (AFSOA)
- Underwriters Laboratories Canada (ULC)
- National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA)
- Fire SCO Training

It was questioned whether there was any further information available regarding commissioning of all life safety systems. It was reported that other than references already included in the NBC 2015, nothing further has been heard.

Background work is being done regarding care facilities that could possibly be addressed by the Care Facilities Working Group. It was noted that there is a need to ensure that any STANDATAs on the subject will be acceptable to the Minister and aligned with the Government of Alberta's broader policy direction to avoid situations such as the one that occurred relative to PDD safety standards.

#### **4.7. TCC Meeting Report**

An update was provided from the March 7, 2017 TCC Meeting:

- Builder licensing consultation
- Reminder to submit nominations for the Dr. Sauer Award
- ACT Project/Professional Development
- Building SCO Certification
- Fire SCO Certification
- Combination Heating STANDATA
- The motion presented to skip a code cycle for the Building Code

It was reported that the Elevator discipline continues to have issues with first responders evacuating passengers from elevators. With the use of mobile phone, passengers tend to call 911 instead of using the call button in the elevator.

It was reported that this is an operational decision within every municipality and not under the jurisdiction of the Fire Sub-Council. The Chair will correspond back to the Elevators Sub-Council Chair. [Walker]

#### **4.8. Fire Investigation Association of Alberta Correspondence**

Correspondence from the Fire Investigation Association of Alberta was included in the portal and reviewed.

**Michael Baker / Gary Mayorchak moved to correspond with the Fire Investigation Association of Alberta to advise that their request will be considered during the annual review of the Fire Sub-Council matrix that will take place this fall; CARRIED**

#### **4.9. Special Meeting Report regarding Code Harmonization**

A brief overview was provided of the work completed yesterday and the decisions included in:

- Part 2 - NFC15 - AFC14 Change Summary FSC March 2017 - decisions
- Part 3 - NFC15 - AFC14 Change Summary FSC March 2017 - decisions

It was recognized that 2 or 3 working groups may be required to thoroughly review some of the harmonization issues, including a joint working group between Building and Fire regarding occupant loads.

As time permitted at the end of the meeting, the remainder of the list of issues for Part 4 - NFC15 - AFC14 Change Summary FSC March 2017 was viewed on screen. These decisions are included in:

- Part 4 - NFC15 - AFC14 Change Summary FSC March 2017 - decisions

It was suggested that some time be allocated at the May 2017 meeting for continued review.

## **5. Meeting Finalization**

### **5.1. Meeting and Agenda Feedback**

There was nothing brought forward.

### **5.2. 2017 Meetings**

The following 2017 meeting dates were confirmed:

- Thursday, May 11 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton
- June 1, 2017 – AGM – Banff
- Thursday, September 14 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton
- Thursday, November 23 – 9:00 a.m. – Edmonton

### **5.3. Meeting Adjournment**

**Michael Baker moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

--- NEW ACTION ITEMS ---

**2.1.1. Policy 4.60 Certification Levels – Fire (E.9.03.09)**

The following corrections will be made to the policy:

- Remove the word “will” from 4.1
- Add “investigate unsafe conditions in all buildings identified in the Alberta Building Code” in Group B, Level 1
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**4.2. Food Trucks STANDATA (E.7.05.15)**

Members were asked to provide any additional feedback to the Chief Fire Administrator by March 31, 2017. [All]

**4.7. TCC Meeting Report**

The Chair will correspond back to the Elevators Sub-Council Chair. [Walker]

--- MOTIONS ---

**1.1. Agenda Adoption**

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