



# Safety Codes Council

## MINUTES OF THE FOURTH FIRE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2020

**DATE:** November 19, 2020

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Videoconference

**PRESENT:** *Sub-Council Members*

Michael Bos, Chair  
Allan Blatz  
Joseph Davis  
Richard Friesen  
Robbin Foxcroft, Vice Chair  
Mark Heiderich  
Cammie Laird  
Hunter Langpap  
John Penzo  
Stephen Suen  
Marc Royer  
Chris Taylor  
Richard Friesen

*Safety Codes Council*

Kathryn Derkach, Jennifer Johnson

*Alberta Municipal Affairs*

Tina Parker, Cindy Yan

**REGRETS:** Cameron Bardas  
Gary Mayorchuk, Vice Chair  
Jim Robinson

**GUESTS:** Rick Gratton, Colin Belliveau, BSC Liaison

**RECORDER:** Jennifer Johnson

**2021 MEETINGS:** January 21, March 18, May 20, September 16, November 25

## 1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A round table introduction was held and a safety moment was provided.

### 1.1 Agenda Adoption

Hunter Langpap/Mark Heiderich moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

### 1.2 Adoption of the September 10, 2020 Minutes

Robbin Foxcroft/Hunter Langpap moved to adopt the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

## 2. Matters for Decision

### 2.1. Closed Session

Marc Royer/Robbin Foxcroft moved to go into closed session; CARRIED.

Robbin Foxcroft/Stephen Suen moved to come out of closed session; CARRIED.

#### 2.1.1. Reappointment of Cameron Bardas to represent Professional Engineers

Chris Taylor/Marc Royer moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Cameron Bardas to the Fire Sub-Council to represent Professional Engineers for a term ending January 31, 2024, effective February 1, 2021; CARRIED.

#### 2.1.1. Reappointment of Chris Taylor to represent Building Owners

Cammie Laird/Hunter Langpap moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Chris Taylor to the Fire Sub-Council to represent Building Owners for a term ending January 31, 2024, effective February 1, 2021; CARRIED.

#### 2.1.1. Reappointment of Hunter Langpap to represent Alberta Fire Fighters

Marc Royer/John Penzo moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Hunter Langpap to the Fire Sub-Council to represent Alberta Fire Fighters for a term ending January 31, 2024, effective February 1, 2021; CARRIED.

## 3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Qualified Persons Registry (E.2.06.11)	Communicate status of registry	Nov 23/16	Orr	Ongoing
2.	Exiting to a Public Thoroughfare	The Building Liaison will bring this item to the Building Sub-Council at their next meeting and request that a	Nov 14/19	Taylor/Gratton	BSC feels nothing further can be done

		response be provided from the BSC Chair.			from their perspective however, discussions regarding accessibility are happening at a national level which may help resolve this issue in the next code cycle.  Would be enforceable under the building code however emergency response requirements would still apply.
3.	Fire Variances	Members reported that it would be helpful to compile variances from Jan 1, 2020 and spanning the next few years. Info regarding reasons as well as expiries would also be helpful.	May 13/20	Administrator	Ongoing. Can be removed. Administrator will provide updates as it moves forward.
4.	Fire Inspection Reports	Members to review the documents and if acceptable the Administrator requests Council to post on their website and supply as part of training	May 13/20	Blatz/Laird	No update. Administrator awaiting approval to forward documents to the Council.

**4. Matters for Discussion**

**4.1. Trade Off for Sprinklers BSC working group presentation**

This working group was created to review the NBC and complete a document review of all areas where fire sprinklers provide a current trade off for the other safety construction requirements. A proposed code change request was developed to allow for residential construction allowances where fire sprinkler systems are installed. The recommended code change request was presented and the following was discussed:

- BSC members raised concerns at their meeting about the possibility of a garage within proximity of an exit so an additional comment has now been included to address those concerns
- Plan to submit early next year for inclusion in the 2025 national code

- FSC members are asked to review the document further in depth and supply comments directly to the working group chair [All]

**Cammie Laird/Joe Davis moved to support the intent of the code change request proposed by the Trade Off for Sprinklers working group with comments; CARRIED.**

## **4.2. Working Group Reports**

### **4.2.1. Code Review**

The following was discussed:

- Work has started on a portion of the items on the list: there are a large majority which the group is suggesting to keep in some form, approximately 6 where they agree on harmonization, and approximately 5 that have no consensus
- Aim to have finalized the review by the next FSC meeting
- The Administrator indicated that there is a tight timeline with little room for turnaround time, will need to have the recommendations no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### **4.3. BSC Liaison Report**

The BSC Liaison reported:

- Using Stopped Escalators as Stairs working group presented their report and found it cannot be done safely, they recommend building owners go to manufacturers if they want to explore the topic further
  - Sprinkler Trade Offs working group presented and received very positive comments overall
  - Discussion regarding farm buildings and the ongoing concern regarding the misuse of the designation. FSC members agree this is an issue and are happy to provide any necessary assistance on the topic. The Chair requested the Administrator to provide any statistics on fire losses in rural areas
- [Parker]
- Presentation was given on alternative solutions for soffits which included a good video featuring a burn test, interested members can find it on the BSC portal
  - PowerPoint presentation on encapsulated timber construction available on BSC portal
  - Interior Stairways for Roof Access working group is looking for a fire representative to provide input, Hunter Langpap volunteered to assist

[Langpap]

### **4.4. Administrator/AMA Report**

The Administrator reported:

- Administrative penalties for safety codes infractions are now in place, work with your QMP manager to enforce
- STANDATA for fire suppression and exhaust is being revised to include ventless fryers
- STANDATA for use of containers will come to members for review in December
- Occupant Load and Qualifications STANDATAs are still being reviewed internally
- Screening underway for the vacant Public at Large seat

- While there was a title change at the office of the fire commissioner, the work is ongoing and there have been no changes in service delivery

#### **4.5. Council Updates**

A written report was included in the portal and updates were provided on:

- Office is still closed to the public and staff are currently working from home again
- New website has launched, being updated regularly and programs and services are being offered remotely
- 2021 meeting dates are in the Member portal

### **5. Meeting Finalization**

#### **5.1. Round Table**

- Farm buildings were discussed further, the Administrator explained that this is a very passionate group and it would be good to start stakeholder meetings sooner rather than later. Cammie Laird suggested RMA be included in discussions, as well as rural elected officials. The Farm Code is available online through the NRC. The Chair advised the topic should be added to the next meeting's agenda

[Council Staff]

- The Chair asked the Administrator to look into any available statistics on reported fires on farms, which municipalities they occurred in, dollar losses per capita, and injuries/fatalities

[Parker]

- Cammie Laird expressed her appreciation at working with the Trade-off for Sprinklers working group and reminded members to provide their feedback
- Chris Taylor expressed that building owners are struggling with COVID 19 related items including occupied vs not occupied buildings, as well as items like fire extinguisher maintenance

#### **5.2. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was reconfirmed for January 21, 2021 via teleconference at 9:00 a.m.

#### **5.3. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

**4. Matters for Discussion**

**4.1. Trade Off for Sprinklers BSC working group presentation**

- FSC members are asked to review the document further in depth and supply comments directly to the working group chair [All]

**4.3. BSC Liaison Report**

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**– MOTIONS –**

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**– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –**

<b>WORKING GROUP</b>	<b>WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)</b>
Code Review	<b><u>Chris Taylor</u></b> Gary Mayorchak, Jim Robinson, Marc Royer Municipal Affairs: Cindy Yan