

## Minutes

### Fire Protection Advisory Meeting

11/6/2019

In Attendance- Steve Baker (Plymouth Fire), Dan Diederling (District 287/Minnetonka Fire), Becki White (Retired Eden Prairie Fire/Consultant), Eric Zimmerman (Mdewakanton Fire), Tom Pitschneider (Shakopee Fire)

HTC Staff- Anne Mathiowetz (CTS), Matt Leaf (Dean CTS/Law Enforcement), Dr. Leanne Rogstad (VP of Academics), Jack Myers (Faculty), Eric Skinner (Adjunct Faculty), Jake Johnson (Associate Dean), Rhonda Allen (CTS)

#### **WELCOME**

Dr. Rogstad welcomed attendees. Introductions were made by each in attendance indicating their role.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for approval. Steve Baker provided the first motion to approve with Jack Myers second.

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS/ENGINE COMPANY OPERATIONS/TRUCK CO. OPERATIONS**

Eric Skinner spoke on the development of some new classes that would become Supplements to FFI & FFII. They would contain hands on heavy scenarios and be run like an actual Fire Department shift.

Emergency Response Operations would contain many scenarios of real life calls with the alarms, suit up, load a go situations. It would test how they handle stressful real time situations and test response/timeliness, preparation, execution of skills given the environment of that call etc.

Engine Company Operations- Set up and maintenance of Rigs specifically to the standards of trucks in the Metro. Running hose and maintaining equipment etc.

It was suggested moving away from Engine and Truck Company titles as Fire Departments in the metro do not follow the Engine Company or Truck Company model. Their firefighters can hop on any truck when responding to a call. He did agree with the hands on approach of really working and mastering the basics. Teach one skill set for working with a team or group of the same people every shift (Team based or crew based), and another skill set for jumping in with those who are not always your partner or team member. How do you work together?

Anne mentioned the need to move away from the academic heavy and find a more hands on approach or skill set.

Others made mention of the need for an Advanced Fire Fighter program and that these new class suggestions would work as an interim between FFI, FFII and the Advanced.

FFI, FFII, Hazmat, Train the trainer or Fire Instructor programs, and Leadership courses focusing on the Business aspects of budgeting, Personnel relations, business management etc. as well as and focusing on fundamentals was a common theme in conversation. It was suggested a good balance of Hybrid

classes should be offered with an in person/Online mix rather than solely Online with no personal interaction. This led to discussion about the issues and problems experienced with the d2L Online system and Dr. Rogstad assured those issues are being reviewed.

Also mentioned, was a Building Construction Course taught by a building contractor/Fire Fighter as another area they would like to see us covered. How does fire relate to the structure of a building and how it is built/Fire behavior? A person who understands both sides would be best to lead such a course.

This led to a conversation on the need to bring in the best qualified or subject matter experts. Dr. Rogstad asked, are their subject matter experts they could help suggest to HTC?

Jack Myers talked about the need to still offer a degree program but understands we need to teach and be good at the basics as well. We need to continue to bring in enough instructors to maintain a 5 to 7 student/instructor ratio and explained the process of how they currently divide and teach groups of students at various stations.

It was stated if we can build a solid program focusing on the basics the rest will come and fall in to place, however there needs to be a commitment from HTC that to get started we will run classes with fewer students and not cancel for low enrollment as we may need to take the hit, before it really will build upon itself and get going. If you build a quality program, they will come, there is a need and it is not being filled currently.

In addition discussion was had on the need for more flexible scheduling, an easier or smoother Admissions Process, more engaged and knowledgeable counselors or Advisors etc. This has been a source of great frustration in the past that has turned many potential students away. Dr. Rogstad assured them that these issues are being addressed.

Through open dialog and conversation the other items on our agenda fell in to place and the meeting was adjourned.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Work on the development of new curriculum and class offerings.

Seek qualified subject matter experts to help build and teach additional courses.

Set up meetings to seek additional input

Set up the Next Meeting and communicate once determined.