

City Safety Committee Meeting Minutes for 10/5/11

Present: Mike Dufour, Mike Dreis, Mark Cahill, James Brunette, Scott Wennhold, Glen Kadrlík, Bill Gunter, Mary Jo Kiewel, Pat Gerlach, Ron Hauth, Lynn Waldorf, Jean Karpe, Jan Mead, Tom Bosman, David Schuler, Lorrie Brown

*Discussion of meeting notes from subcommittees – we did agree @ Sept meeting that we should try to read subcommittee meeting notes prior to meeting dates. Pat Gerlach recommended that subcommittee meeting so we have additional time during meeting times.

August 3, 2011 General Meeting Minutes Approved

September 7, 2011 General Meeting Minutes Approved

J Blackstone again recommended that meeting start at 8:30 am and end in 45 minute time period

Committee agreed to address this issue in December meeting.

P Gerlach suggested that the committee think about options of meeting once every 2 month or every 6 weeks. M J Kiewel provided history of the City Wide Safety Committee from 2009 to present day. Committee stated concerns about OSHA city wide issues and how important safety is to the City and that the issues of importance may be dropped if regular meetings are not scheduled monthly. M J Kiewel stated that all City Depts have done well in setting up department safety committees. But concerns were noted by some larger departments still have sections that do not pursue safety meetings at all or not regularly. Maybe only 25% of Parks comply on a regular basis or in a timely manner. Some sections are meeting but again do not supply the City Wide Safety Committee with notes from the meetings.

New Committee Members introduced: James Barnette, Teamsters Local 120, Scott Wennhold, Labor Local 132 and Jane Mead, Police Dept.

M J Kiewel: Does the committee wish or willing to schedule another Dept tour before the cold weather sets in for the year? No response

M J Kiewel will update City website so that meeting sites are correct. New Member expressed concern over not understanding where current meeting sites are, and was informed that changes are forwarded on emails sent out prior to the meetings..

Discussion of OSHA training for City Employees and Committee members and City OSHA Compliance:

- Tom Bosman: expressed there are ways to fund OSHA training

- Concerns were expressed by many committee members that by being members of this committee they would be considered as the OSHA expert for their Depts for the City.
- Committee members still believe it would be in the best interest for this committee and the City if a Safety Specialist were hired.
- Committee expressed concerns that currently committee member do not begin to understand OSHA compliance and standards.
- The question was raised: Is Sandra Bodensteiner the go to person in the City who can answer our questions relating to OSHA.
- S Wennhold suggested hiring an “industrial Hygienist” either as a consultant or permanent City employee.
- M Cahill suggested that we collect figures from Fire, Police and all other Depts to find out what OSHA fines have already been levied and what they could have evolved to.
- Bill Guther: We should be about creating a safety culture for the City. (expressing what the role of the current committee.
- J Blackstone: Currently, 8 million yearly the City is paying injured employees. If the Mayor says safety is important and we agree – but we need resources available to us and need someone familiar and knowledgeable with OSHA.
- L Waldorf: If Sandra Bodensteiner is the City expert on OHSA then the need is great for her to come to these meetings.
But we all understand she is very busy and her time is limited.
- T Bosman: Subcommittee is putting together a letter to the DOD’s to propose the importance to the City of investing in a new position. This subcommittee will request Sandra B to assist with letter.
- J Blackstone: Remember What we have accomplished in the committee. Let continue working on letter to present to DOD’s for 2013 City Budget.
- S Wennhold: Word has to get out to City employees that we all need to work smarter not harder, safety will not make money but it will save you money!
- G Kadrlik: With 4000 City employees and the City is already paying 8 million for injuries currently we have the funds to pay for this position right there. The City needs to make the investment and we all need the resource. Hard to build a house without tools. Safety will cost money to invest but this will save money tomorrow.
- S Wennhold: Commented that where he works they started a safety committee and they recommended the purchase of a Tommy-lift. They had reports that employees where lifting very heavy equipment and the purchase was recommended to save employees from future injuries. The Tommy-lift was purchased with the help of the safety committees recommendations.
- Burnette: Commented that you always have to have funds for safety.
- M J Kiewel: reiterated that the subcommittee will get together and re-write the current letter for the DOD’s and bring it back for the safety committee approval before it is submitted to the DOD’s.
- T Bosman: FYI, MSDS – Public Works putting sheets online for all employees to easily obtain sheets.

- Safety Notes: Each section or Department could contribute to Safety City Wide e-mail blasts for Safety highlights for the month.
- Parks trained Libraries in CPR this month.
- Brown from Water is trained to do assessments on Ergonomics.
- New business: Come up with new or updated on Safety Committee Objectives for 2012, form subcommittees for 2012.

Note taker: P Gerlach and Lynn Waldorf

Revised: Sandra Bodensteiner and Mary Jo Kiewel