



MINUTES

FIREWORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: February 14, 2002

Meeting Location: Walt Disney Studios
Burbank, CA

Members Present:

Bill Carmack, Chair, Division Chief Fire Engineering Division
Ben Ho, SFM Fireworks Program Coordinator
Al Adams, Technical Assistant
Lisa Dowdy, Staff/Program Assistant
Craig Canfield, Burbank Fire Department
Don Martin, Universal Studios Hollywood
Jon Belyeu, ASEPO
Kevin Brueckner, Fireworks America
Gary Brown, Pyro Spectaculars (for James Souza)
Linda Hass, Big Bear Fireworks
Tad Trout, American Promotional Events
Larry Shipp, Los Angeles Fire Department
Gary Rosenfield, Aerotech, Inc
David Macklin, Lantis Fireworks (for Ken Lantis)
Harold (Mickey) Aronson, Disneyland Entertainment
Cal Acord, Warner Bros. Studios
Ron Waddle, City of Manteca Fire Department
Dennis King, AMPTP
Chuck Hughes, NBC Studios
Manny Chavez, Walt Disney Studios

Members Absent:

Kermit Johnson, Pasadena Fire Department
James Souza, Pyro Spectaculars
Ken Lantis, Lantis Fireworks

Guests:

John Tennant, State Fire Marshal
Nancy Wolfe, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Pat Sanchez, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal
Frank Kosdon
Reuben Goldberg
Kam Cooney
Paul Nichols
Tom Newman

CALL TO ORDER

Bill Carmack called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum established.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bill Carmack introduced himself as the new Division Chief of Fire Engineering and Chairperson of the Fireworks Advisory Committee. Also introduced were State Fire Marshal John Tennant, Assistant State Fire Marshal Nancy Wolfe and Program Coordinator Ben Ho. Self-introductions by committee members and guests followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from September 20, 2001 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Correspondence was received from Steve Stavrakakis with regards to air show pyrotechnics. Steve will be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled Fireworks Advisory Committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Update on Current Regulation Process:**

Al Adams announced that the new regulations for theatrical experience was submitted to OAL but had been sent back for clarification of terms (i.e. log entries, theatrical experience, etc). Al announced that he had since met with the SFM regulations unit and made the necessary clarifications. The package should be re-submitted to OAL by the end of February and if accepted will be open to a 15 days comment period to those who had make previous comments only. Once the 15-day comments period is

completed and no further action is required by OAL the regulations will be passed and adopted.

Ben Ho announced that the regulation package for the Basic Commercial fee increase and Registration/Classification fee had been approved and became effective January 28, 2002. Ben also provided copies of the new Safe & Sane regulation changes to the committee members and requested they review them and submit their questions, comments and input within two weeks.

2. **Public Displays for Motion Picture/Television**

The SFM, ASEPO and the AMPTP had previously come to an agreement on public display licenses for motion picture/television productions and would like to reopen the issue. They have voiced concern over vague and ambiguous language in the agreement. Bill Carmack tabled the issue, as it appears the current policy needs further interpretation and clarification. SFM staff will look at the policy and it will be brought back to the next meeting for committee review.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Reference Letter Subcommittee:** Al Adams discussed that the subcommittee would like to redraft the reference letters and clarify the current regulatory language. Jon Belyeu explained that the subcommittee would like to change the reference letter requirement for Special Effects 3rd Class and Theatrical Trainee to two letters of recommendation from an individual who has employed or supervised them. He also discussed making the letters more class specific and incorporating precise questions on tasks they may have completed. Reference letter requirements for upgrades will remain the same. The subcommittee also announced that they would like input from the performer and rocket licensing categories.

The subcommittee was given approval to re-draft the current reference letter.

2. **Unlicensed Assistant Subcommittee:** Al Adams announced that the subcommittee had drafted and submitted new language to the committee at the September 20, 2001 meeting. The subcommittee felt that the new language would allow the pyrotechnic operator in charge to choose their working crew but not interfere with the SFM licensing program.

The subcommittee recommended that the committee move forward with the language previously submitted.

3. **Mighty Mite Mortars:** The subcommittee announced that this issue is more complicated than thought and would like to continue their review of Mr. Weeth's

proposal as some discrepancies were found between his data and current NFPA specifications. The subcommittee will continue looking at Mr. Weeth's reference material and data associated with reload time and mortar thickness. The subcommittee agreed to reject Mr. Weeth's methods for use but not the idea of allowing the use of molded/fiberglass mortars in California.

It was agreed upon that the subcommittee would contact Mr. Weeth and have him propose a test plan.

OPEN FORUM:

1. Reuben Goldberg voiced concern over the recent Basic Commercial fee increase and why he didn't receive notification of the second administrative hearing. Nancy explained that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) sends out the notices for those hearings and we have no control over who is noticed. Reuben also suggested that the any responses to public comments be posted on the website. He also requested that on a regular basis the SFM start issuing abstracts and posting information to the website with regards to changes in the office, investigations and regulatory issues.
2. Tad Trout voiced concern over illegal fireworks being brought into California and that enforcement is at an all time low. Industry is increasingly being approached by local jurisdictions stating that they want to ban the use of Safe & Sane fireworks hoping it will elevate some of their problems even though the majority of their problems are associated with illegal fireworks not state approved devices. He explained that in the mid 80's there was a task force in place and would like to see it implemented again. Chief Tennant explained that there is interest from the local fire jurisdictions and is supportive of a zero tolerance program. A fee increase for Retail Fireworks licenses was suggested to offset some of the cost of the task force.
3. Gary Rosenfield and Frank Kosdon discussed the high power rocket licensing issues. They voiced concern over high power rocket manufacturing and import/export fees being lumped in with the fireworks licenses. They explained that the process to obtain a separate fee structure has been going on since 1992 with little results. Ben Ho explained that the regulation changes have been received by our office and will be submitted to the regulations unit for submittal to OAL.
4. Craig Canfield spoke about fireworks seizure and what local jurisdictions should do with seized product. The issue is currently being worked on the issue and researching the purchase of a disposal trailer. The issue was tabled and will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next meeting will be announced.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.