



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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Fire Code TAG DRAFT Meeting Minutes December 15, 2011

The meeting was scheduled as a conference call with a conference bridge and two monitor locations: the 1500 Jefferson Building in Olympia, and the Spokane Fire Station # 1 in Spokane.

TAG members present: Dave Kokot, Chair; Allen Spaulding; Corey Thomas; Daniel Shier; David Nelson; Diane Glenn; Hank Teran; Jim Kambietz; Joe Puckett; Margie O'Brien; Michael Montgomery

TAG members absent: Lance Talley; Lee Bailey

Staff present: Joanne McCaughan

Also present: Angie Homola (Council member); Bob Eaker; Brenda Larson; Kraig Stevenson; Shawn Shepherd

1. Welcome and Introductions: Dave opened the meeting with introductions. A quorum was present.
2. Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved, with a modification to add "Chair's Report" so that Dave could inform the group of some actions by the Council and other news. It was moved and seconded to approved the agenda as modified; the motion passed unanimously.
3. Chairs's Report: Dave noted that there is a lot of work ahead for this TAG; there will be homework assigned as we begin the process, both for the existing amendments and for reviewing the 2012 IFC. He explained that the goal of our amendment review process is to eliminate existing amendments whenever possible, for example, when the IFC has been changed to reflect the intent of our amendments. Legislation can also come into play, as noted in the issue around barbeques on decks from several years ago. Some TAG members noted they remembered that issue very well, as it was quite controversial, and it illustrates how the state code may differ from the model code. Dave discussed logistics and scheduling for 2012, noting that we will reach consensus on any issues possible, where that is not possible there will be a vote. Amendments proposed by March 1, 2012 will be considered by the TAG will be brought to the Council, then sent to public hearing next fall, and would go into effect July 1, 2013.

Dave also reported out on certain actions from the November 18, 2011 Council meeting. Several items of note had come through the TAG previously. One was the issue of the I-4 child care egress; the Fire Marshal had requested the Council consider changes to the building code and fire code to require additional protection in terms of smoke alarms for this occupancy group. The language was adopted by the Council.

The Council also adopted permanent rules for Carbon Monoxide Alarms. Dave was appointed to chair a special TAG late last year to deal with the issue; the group worked through early 2011 to come up with acceptable language for rulemaking. The Council approved some minor amendments to the proposed language at the November meeting, and adopted the rules. Staff will prepare the filing for the Code Reviser. Dave noted that it was challenging to ensure that the proposed rules correspond to the legislation enacting the requirements for residential CO alarms. These rules impact the building, fire and residential codes.

Another issue Council addressed in November was the proposal regarding photoluminescent egress path markings for existing buildings. The proposal was originally generated by the Seattle Chapter of the AIA, but was modified by the TAG. The Council decided to follow the TAG recommendation to extend certain exceptions that were inadvertently missed in the adoption of the model code and in the subsequent amendment to Chapter 46 of the Fire Code; these changes were adopted as emergency rules. Council heard testimony from several parties during the meeting, and Dave noted we may see additional proposals to amend this section in 2012.

4. 2012 Fire Code Structural Changes: Joanne informed the group that there will be some major changes in the structure of the Fire Code. First, the ICC process led to a reorganization of the model code, with several chapters being moved to new locations, and many chapters reserved for future use. When we review our existing amendments we will note the new locations and any changes to chapter names. Joanne also discussed the way the Fire Code amendments are currently organized in the WAC, and how we will be moving away from using WAC 51-54 for this code. We will need to identify a new WAC number, most likely it will be WAC 51-55, if that has not previously been used. Taking on this task will mean that the Fire Code will be much easier to amend in the future. Under the current structure it is necessary to open up the entire chapter even for very minor changes, which is very cumbersome.

Dave noted that it is difficult to do the work of reviewing the code without access to the 2012 IFC; he asked if staff has been able to obtain any courtesy copies from ICC. As Kraig Stevenson was on the conference call, Joanne asked if he had any information he could share with the group; she had earlier corresponded with him about the possibility of being provided copies of the book or the electronic versions of the codes to share with the TAG. Kraig noted he had requested consideration of our need for the material, but has not yet had a response from the organization; he clarified that for the purposes of code review only, that it would be acceptable for SBCC staff to provide TAG members with relevant sections of the code and other materials as needed. Staff and a few of the TAG members have copies; copies of the various chapters will be made and distributed by staff as needed. It was noted that everyone has had access to the URL provided by ICC to access the codes, but that the version is cumbersome, since it cannot be searched, printed, or downloaded.

5. Review of Current State Amendments: Dave asked the group to turn to the 'Existing Amendments Review Table,' a tool for tracking the current amendments and any associated TAG actions. The TAG has the option to retain, modify, or delete existing amendments, and to review and make recommendations on new proposals. Joanne noted she had taken a preliminary cut to identify where there might be some amendments we would retain, and others that would be modified or dropped. The rationale is associated with what is contained in the new 2012 IFC, and whether any of our current amendments were incorporated into the new code. The group was provided with a copy of the existing amendments, and each of these were given an initial review and recommendation to

either 'retain, modify or delete' them; several were tabled for further review. See the attached Review Table for details of the discussion.

6. Assignments: Dave explained that there will be a more extensive review of the existing rules; these will be assigned to TAG members as needed, and he will also be participating. However, he encourages TAG members to volunteer to take on various rules, based on their technical expertise and areas of interest. Any new proposals received by the March 1, 2012 deadline will also be considered. Sub-groups may be used to initially review more complicated chapters such as Chapter 9 and Chapter 46, with further discussion at each TAG meeting. The TAG as a whole will discuss each of the rules, to reach consensus and/or vote on recommendations, which will be forwarded to the standing committees and the Council for further review and action as necessary.
7. Meeting Logistics and Scheduling for 2012: Dave recommends that the TAG meet monthly in January and February, with bi-monthly meetings in March and April. He also suggested they have at least one 'in-person' meeting during the process, but no date was specified. The next meetings are scheduled for January 20, 2012 and February 17, 2012; a request was made to have the location 'near the airport;' staff will look for a suitable location. Dave will send out assignments, and reminded everyone that he encourages all the TAG members and interested parties to remain engaged and participate throughout the process.
8. Adjourn: Dave thanked the group for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m..