

SUNRIVER SERVICE DISTRICT

SSD Joint Meeting with Deschutes County – Meeting Minutes Thursday December 17, 2020 8:00am Virtual meeting via Zoom

- Call to Order:** Chair Hepburn convened the joint meeting of the SSD Managing Board and Deschutes County Commissioners meeting at 8:02am
- Roll Call/SSD:** Chair Hepburn, Vice Chair Ralston, Director J. Schmid, Director Dishaw, Director Foster, Director Stephens present.
- Roll Call/County:** Deschutes County Commissioners Tony DeBone and Phil Henderson. Chair Patti Adair.
- SSD Staff:** Fire Chief Tim Moor, Police Chief Cory Darling, Lieutenant Womer, Board Administrator Debra Baker, Office Assistant Mindy Holliday. Labor Attorney Bruce Bischoff.
- SROA Staff:** James Lewis, General Manager.
- County Staff:** County Administrator Tom Anderson, Legal Counsel David Doyle, Public Information Officer Whitney Hale, Deputy Deschutes County Administrator Erik Kropp, Amy Heverly Assistant County Counsel, Greg Munn County Treasurer, Chris Doty Deschutes County Road Dept., Sara Crosswhite Deschutes County 911 Director.
- Public Input:** None

Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Hepburn welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He also gave an explanation of the entities in Sunriver including SROA, The Resort, The Village, and the Sunriver Service District.
1. Deschutes River Usage
 - Chief Darling stated there was an increase in the number of people in Sunriver this year due to COVID. Many second homeowners chose to live here during quarantine and throughout the year. Due to the closures of various amenities, the bike paths and Deschutes River had an influx in usage causing many issues such as parking in neighborhoods, generally close to Cardinal Bridge while loading watercraft.
 - Chair Hepburn said that the improvements to Spring River/Harper's Bridge helped tremendously. However, that location has become very popular this year for people

accessing the river. This influx of river users impacted all of Sunriver downstream. The SSD has been working with SROA discussing possible mitigating solutions.

- Mr. Lewis added the SROA Marina requires a pass, and those numbers using the facility doubled this year. He shared many of the livability concerns homeowners experienced this year.
- Commissioner DeBone asked about the number of river rescue incidents and if that was a concern. Chief Moor said there were no rescue calls along the river this past summer.
- Commissioner Henderson asked one the amenities were re-opened, if folks were optimistic it would take pressure off the river. Chair Hepburn said with the SHARC and other amenities open, it may decrease river usage. However, the river is so crowded in Bend, Deschutes County residents are looking for other areas. Mr. Lewis added that people not living or vacationing in Sunriver are coming to utilize the pathways and the river.
- Administrator Anderson shared that Mr. Doty will be presenting a thorough history and list of options at the SROA meeting tomorrow for Harper's Bridge. The county would like feedback to guide decision making.

2. Emergency Preparedness

- Sunriver Fire Department continues to work with multiple agencies to update the Emergency Operations Plan. Locally the Sunriver Public Works Department added signage at each traffic circle for directions for exiting to Highway 97. Sunriver is also utilizing Everbridge messaging system to reach the transient and homeowner population. This also includes partnering with the Sunriver Resort to ask guests to sign up when checking in.
- Chief Moor stated that last summer was the worst wildfire season in the state, and that he meets with local, regional, state and federal partners regularly. Sunriver also participated in several prescribed burns in the area. The goal is to complete a defensible space circle in all Forest Service land around Sunriver.
- Chief Darling added that Fire and Police departments are sending out joint safety communications to the community, via various media outlets.
- Police conducted a siren system test this year, the system which is very old, is showing signs of failure. Estimated repairs are in excess of \$20,000 and evaluation will be done to determine if it is worth fixing. At this point it is mostly functional and offers one way to alert the community. There are other newer technologies that may be more effective, such as Everbridge.
- The Police are also working with Deschutes County roads and ODOT on evacuation plans. These plans need to be coordinated with evacuation routes for the homes outside of Sunriver. It is recognized the traffic circles will be choke points in the event of an emergency within Sunriver.
- Chair Adair added that Sunriver provides 50% of the room tax revenue and she appreciated the efforts to let guests know what to do in the case of an emergency.
- Commissioner DeBone stated that the Everbridge messaging alerts software is part of the statewide initiative for alerts.

- Commissioner DeBone asked if many residents of Sunriver still have shake roofs after reviewing the CWPP. Mr. Lewis stated it is a very low number, and that when property changes ownership roof renovation is common and homeowners are required to meet current standards with renovations.

3. COVID Impact

- Chief Moor said they had three hands on cases that were determined to be COVID patients. COVID has impacted daily operations and how Sunriver Fire interacts with the community. The focus is to keep staff healthy and various precautions have been implemented.
- Chief Darling agreed with Chief Moor, and summarized how Police began to limit contacts with community. However, calls for service overall in 2020 increased from 2019.
- Mr. Lewis shared statistics on property sales that 400-450 homes will be sold this year, which is roughly 10% of the total inventory in Sunriver. This will put demands on SSD and SROA.
- Chair Adair shared COVID statistical information for Deschutes County and the number of tests conducted has dramatically increased as well as positive results.
- Commissioner Henderson shared that the county received numerous emails from disgruntled Sunriver full time residents and asked if they were the vocal majority or minority? Chief Darling said the police department responded to many of those same complaints and he assessed they represented a vocal minority.
- Mr. Lewis shared statistics on rental homes, second homes and full-time residents. The SROA supported the Commissioners decision last spring to shut down short term rentals, however, many residents were confused if they could still utilize their second home.

4. Building Needs

- Director Ralston gave background on his architectural experience. He described essential building requirements and said neither the Sunriver Police Department nor the Fire Department meet these requirements. The District is looking at a combined public safety building, either a remodel of the existing Fire Station or a new building. He provided preliminary cost estimates in the range of \$11 - \$17 million.
- Chief Moor described some of the significant concerns of the Fire Station to include structural deficiencies, HVAC in bays with vehicle exhaust, no decontamination area for staff exposed to hazardous materials, including blood and other biohazards and other issues.
- Chief Darling described safety and security concerns for the Police Department. Anyone walking into the front door could have immediate access to the entire department, they have no interview rooms, no ability to secure suspects, inadequate evidence storage, no auxiliary back-up power, and other issues.
- Chair Hepburn added the District leases both spaces from SROA. The SSD is renewing its strategic plan, and have a dedicated work group on this subject.

5. Police Department Update

- Chief Darling gave an update on the calls for service, COVID policies, staff trainings, health and wellness screenings, and staffing changes. He added that the department is working with the DA's office to fill a Domestic Violence investigator position. This is a grant program, and the county reached out the Sunriver Police to provide an officer to fill that position.
- Chief Darling shared that the department is utilizing the Eight Can't Wait (#8cantwait) program to bring policy changes to current standards and best practices.
- The SROA Rental Registry Task Force is creating a database of rentals in Sunriver.

6. Fire Department Update

- Chief Moor shared statistics on service calls and the SSD Board will be approving the CWPP at the Regular Meeting this afternoon.
- He also shared that Sunriver Fire changed providers for their communications to FirstNet, a public safety priority service. He stated that this has made a huge difference in coverage. In addition to their response area inside Sunriver, they have an additional 350 square miles of Ambulance Service Area.
- Sunriver Fire participated in statewide wildfire suppression efforts, and sent crews to four conflagration fires. The Deputy Chief is on a leadership team and was deployed to seven different fires.
- The department hired 2 additional full time firefighter paramedics, which will help with emergency deployment and reducing overtime costs. The Reserve Program and Seasonal Paramedics have also been crucial in helping staff needs.

Chair Adair asked if the building needs and financial options are in the immediate future or more long term. Chair Hepburn answered that it is too preliminary to look at sources of funding, and he just wanted to make the Commissioners aware.

Director Foster shared that the SSD Board, as are other public entities, is seeing a severe impact to the increasing cost of PERS and health insurance.

Hepburn closed with good things to say about the chiefs and SSD Board. He thanked Commissioner Henderson for his support of the SSD and wished him good luck.

Chair Hepburn adjourned the meeting at 9:27am

SSD Board Chair, Bill Hepburn
Office Assistant, Mindy Holliday