



Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals Approved Minutes

**Board Meeting
February 27, 2019**

The Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals convened in a Special Called Meeting on February 27, 2019 at the Development Service Building at 5202 E. Ben White, Bldg. 2, Ste. 300

Vice Chair Brasfield called the meeting to order at 1:47 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Aubrey Brasfield, Ben Abzug, Alicia Jones, Pieter Sybesma, Alan Schumann, James Wilsford and Bobby Johns

Board Members Not in Attendance: Matt Hart, Frank Haight, Darryl Pruett, Ben Hammer

Staff in Attendance: Rick Arzola (DSD), Richard Anderson (DSD), Kelly Stilwell (DSD), Marlin Hartmann (DSD), and Mark Baker (AFD).

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The May 23, 2018 minutes were approved as written by Board member Sybesma motion second by Schumann for a 6-0 vote.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION

a. WUI-Wildland Urban Interface: Mark Baker with the Austin Fire Department (AFD) Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) briefs the board with additional links in regards to proposing an amendment to the Land Development Code (LDC) Technical Codes Chapter to add a division titled Wildland-Urban Interface Code. With that briefing, Mark and AFD have met with the Home Builders Association (HBA) and has been given an approval of the proposed amendments but the HBA has requested WUI to look into the permitting and inspection process as well as the costs of those services. Also, since the last board meeting, AFD has finalized a map that shows where the WUI areas are in the Austin City limits and where the technical building codes would apply. Mark and his staff are hoping by early spring to have this adopted. With question from board staff regarding the growth of the City and its annexation and de-annexation based upon the current WUI areas, Mark informs the board that a chapter in the fire code that pertains to the WUI areas will be updated every 3 years by the WUI model code. Board member raises concerns on the width for private driveways only being 20ft wide according to the draft model code. Leaving a narrow escape passage for citizens to evacuate and engines for brush trucks enter. In this WUI area, board would like to see wider streets as well. Board also raises the thoughts of construction of new homes and alterations, on whether these homes would be required for retrofitting in the WUI areas. DSD staff informs the board that if you have an existing structure that does not meet the current fire separation requirement and that if you add on to that existing structure, the new addition would then be required to meet the new code. The modifications that WUI staff made for ignition resistance construction would require ignition resistance walls, doors, windows only in the proximity to significant wildfire wildland fuels. Also WUI staff will re-worded the draft to not require variations in fencing if there is not flammable surfaces where the fence connects to the structure.

b. 2019 Board Schedule: Board approved the 2019 Schedule with no scheduled conflicts. Board member Alan Schumann approved the 2019 Board schedule and board member Ben Abzug seconded the motion 6-0

4. **ADJOURN** – Vice Chair Brasfield made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:49 p.m. Board member Sybesma seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.