

MINUTES
 General Employee Injury Review Board
 Thursday, October 26, 2017
 Public Meeting Room #3
 City Hall
 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bennett at 9:35 am.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Tim Bennett, Chairman
 Pennie Wolfe, Vice Safety Rep
 Candy Brown, Safety & Risk Officer

Members Absent:

Others Present: Rusty Whisenhunt, Safety Rep
 Britt Hubbard, Safety Rep
 Travis Estep, Safety Rep
 Chew Allen, Safety Rep
 Jeff Mowry, Safety Rep
 Marlon Johnson, Safety Rep
 Roy Rodrick, Safety Rep
 Jim Bonnarens, Safety Rep
 Melissa Clements, HR

Excused*

Unexcused**

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of September 28, 2017.

Motion to approve minutes by Candy Brown with a second by Pennie Wolfe.

AYES: Bennett, Wolfe, Brown NAYS: None Motion carried.

3. Old Business:

A. Arthur Griffin – Tabled – Sewer Construction (7/1/17)

Mr. Griffin was present. Safety Reps Whisenhunt and Hubbard were also present.

Bennett asked Griffin to tell the board what happened. Griffin stated he was hit by a truck. Griffin stated he was a passenger in a truck; when they pulled up to the job site, he got out of the truck. He

stated that the driver made a quick u-turn, hit him in the back, knocked him down. Bennett asked Griffin how he was doing; Griffin replied that he's not doing to good.

Bennett asked the board if they had questions. Brown asked if Griffin knew the truck was leaving. Griffin stated yes, but he thought the driver would back out or let him out. Brown asked if his back was to the truck. Griffin stated yeah, he didn't know the truck was coming. The street was totally closed off; the truck could've backed up or waited. Brown asked if the truck was moving when Griffin walked forward. Griffin stated no, but the truck clipped the left side of his body. He stated he was half a truck length in front of the truck, toward the curb. Griffin stated the driver swung wide to make the turn and got him. He stated at no time was he walking in front of the truck.

Whisenhunt asked if it hadn't been a truck, what would Griffin have been doing if it had been a skid steer or another piece of equipment, what's his responsibility? Griffin stated he would hope they (drivers) are paying attention. Whisenhunt stated that Griffin has a responsibility too.

Brown reminded Griffin that he knew the truck was leaving. Griffin stated in his opinion the truck should've backed up or waited until he cleared. Whisenhunt stated that if the truck were to have backed up Griffin would've been the ground guide. Griffin stated he wasn't asked to be ground guide and that the truck came forward real quick.

Whisenhunt stated that the driver has responsibility too, but that Griffin did too – to pay attention as a person walking on a construction site. Griffin stated that he had his back turned. Whisenhunt stated that for protection he should watch the equipment on a construction site.

Hubbard asked if Griffin could hear the truck shift into gear. Griffin stated he didn't hear anything.

Bennett asked why Griffin didn't sign the report. Griffin responded that he didn't sign the report because he didn't walk out in front of any truck and that's how the report read.

Hubbard explained the details of the construction site to the board. Hubbard told the board that Griffin does have injuries. Hubbard was informed of the incident the day after it occurred, but Griffin didn't think he needed to seek treatment at that time. Griffin didn't go see a doctor until September 6, 2017.

Hubbard stated that Griffin was struck by a vehicle and injured, but that it was a construction site and he needs to be alert/aware while on site.

Whisenhunt stated that Griffin wasn't the primary cause of the incident, but that he thinks it falls under preventable. Board agreed.

Motion was made by Hubbard with a second by Brown to rule this as preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Therese Sullivan – Tabled – IT (8/30/17)

Ms. Sullivan was not present. Safety Rep Estep was present.

Estep informed the board that Ms. Sullivan would not be present. He stated the paperwork relating to this injury is not up to standard. He stated he didn't find out about the injury until about a month after it happened and that is not acceptable. Estep stated there's no real way to know what happened, there's conflicting stories about who witnessed it and who didn't. Estep stated that Sullivan had worked for 12 hours and the motion was repetitive motion. He stated his best judgment is that he's of the belief nothing could've been done differently. Estep stated he thinks the benefit of doubt has to be given, but that we have to do better.

Bennett responded that he can feel the frustration and appreciates the effort. Bennett asked Estep to present some recommendations to the board for improvement and asked the board if there were any questions.

Whisenhunt stated he understood this occurred while getting payroll; he asked if it was common for that to be a 12 hour shift. Brown stated it is common for Sullivan to assist with payroll, but it's not common for her to work 12 hours.

Motion was made by Estep with a second by Brown to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

4. New Business:

A. Tracy Fife –Sewer Construction (8/24/17)

Mr. Fife was present. Safety Reps Hubbard and Whisenhunt were also present.

Bennett asked Fife to share with the board what happened. Fife stated he has 15 years with the City and it's just wear and tear over time. He stated he was lifting chains and clevis and the next day his arm was hurting. Fife stated he thought it would heal up, but a couple of month later he told Hubbard it was still hurting. Fife stated he got a shot and is much better.

Bennett asked if it hurt at the time he was working with the chains and clevis. Fife stated no, but it was right after that when he noticed it and he thought it would heal up, but it didn't.

Hubbard stated that it is an awkward hold with the heavy chains.

Motion was made by Wolfe with a second by Hubbard to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Timothy Fields – WWM (10/13/17)

Mr. Fields was present. Safety Reps Allen and Whisenhunt were also present.

Bennett asked Fields to tell the board what happened. Fields stated he was on a new job; he was there to take down fence. Fields stated he was walking through tall grass to the truck to get a t-post. He stated he never saw the tree stump; he stated he went down pretty hard when he tripped on the stump. Fields stated there was a slab of concrete in the middle that he went down on. He stated he thought he might have cracked his knee cap and that was a concern. He went on to say that he wasn't going to report it;

he was just going to go to HIS, but he was told to go through the City and so he did. He asked who leaves those stumps in a yard; he again stated it was his first time in that yard and that it was just an accident.

Bennett asked the board if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Motion was made by Wolfe with a second by Allen to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

C. Wilfred Skiffington – Equipment Maint. (10/2/17)

Mr. Skiffington was present. Safety Reps Mowry and Whisenhunt were also present.

Bennett asked Skiffington to tell the board what happened. Skiffington stated he was working on a garbage truck, using brute force when a fitting broke loose. He stated that his finger automatically curls around and he doesn't have much feeling it. He was loosening a fitting, when it came all the way loose and his hand then came down hitting the frame of the truck. Skiffington stated he could see it was split open; he received stitches and went back to work.

Bennett asked the board if there were any questions. The board had no questions. Bennett stated that hearing from Skiffington completes the picture.

Motion was made by Brown with a second by Wolfe to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) point assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

D. Brandon LeJeune – SWC (10/21/17)

Mr. LeJeune was present. Safety Reps Johnson and Whisenhunt were also present.

Bennett asked if LeJeune had been before the board. When LeJeune stated that he had not, Bennett explained that it is standard for an injury to come before the board and to tell the board what happened.

LeJeune stated that he was at Crosby Park, he was pushing on the bins while another employee was pulling on them. The dumpster shifted and his hand was smashed between the dumpster and the truck. He stated he had a slight bone fracture and his nail was ripped off.

Bennett asked how LeJeune was holding the bin. LeJeune stated that he wide gripped it and maybe he shouldn't have.

Brown asked if LeJeune was wearing gloves; LeJeune responded that yes, he was wearing gloves.

Bennett asked if the way he was holding the bin was standard. LeJeune responded that it varies, but yeah his hands were in a normal spot.

Johnson added that LeJeune had a normal grip, but the operator made a slight shift while pulling on the dumpster. He stated that LeJeune's reaction just wasn't fast enough, but it could've been a lot worse. Johnson stated that Lejeuen procedurally didn't do anything wrong.

Motion was made by Brown with a second by Wolfe to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

E. Christopher Devine – Water Distribution (9/22/17)
Mr. Devine was not present. Safety Rep Whisenhunt was present.

Paperwork submitted was incomplete.

Motion was made by Whisenhunt with a second by Brown to table the injury until the November meeting when completed paperwork is available for review.

F. Tatijana Wenderoth – Animal Welfare (10/3/17)
Ms. Wenderoth was not present. Safety Rep Rodrick was present.

Rodrick stated that Wenderoth had leave scheduled; he told her he would represent her. He stated the injury occurred while she was taking a cat into surgery. Dogs in the kennels started barking which startled the cat and the front claw got Wenderoth. Rodrick stated that he asked her questions about the incident and told her to go to the doctor because nine times out of ten it will become infected. Rodrick stated that Wenderoth did then get it checked out and it was infected. He stated Wenderoth was doing everything she was supposed to do. He stated she was just doing her job.

Motion was made by Brown with a second by Wolfe to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None Motion carried.

G. Jason Norwood – Park Maint. (9/22/17)
Mr. Norwood was present. Safety Rep Bonnarens was also present.

Bennett asked Norwood if he had been before the board before; Norwood stated that he had. Bennett asked Norwood to tell the board what happened. Norwood stated that it was the first day of the International Festival. He stated that it was a windy day; that evening he took off his sunglasses and something got in his eye. At first, he didn't think much of it. Norwood stated he thought his contact was irritated, but later noticed his eye was light sensitive and thought that was odd. The next morning Norwood went to the hospital; he was told there was an abrasion on his eye. He later followed up and the scratch had turned into an eye ulcer.

Brown asked if he let his supervisor know. Norwood stated he didn't until the follow up when it was worse than he initially thought, but that he won't do that again and will report as soon as something happens.

Bonnarens stated that goggles aren't issued to everyone just for parking cars and it is what it is. He stated the issue is really not notifying supervisor on time, but everyone hates to be the guy who turns everything in and it did happen over the weekend.

Brown stated it was a windy weekend.

Wolf stated she will recommend for clear safety glasses to be issued to everyone.

Motion was made by Wolfe with a second by Bonnarens to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None Motion carried.

H. Michael Makos – Park Maint. (9/21/17)

Mr. Makos was present. Safety Rep Bonnarens was also present.

Bennett asked Makos if he had been before the board before; Makos stated that he had. He stated that he was mowing and there was another person weed eating the area. He stated that he usually goes two to three rounds with the clippings blowing in, that day he went 2 rounds blowing in and was blowing out on his third round. Makos stated he felt something that shoot out right as he turned left, it hit the wall, hit him and didn't even cut his pants leg. Makos stated that the glass he ran over was away from the main pile. He stated he received stitches and returned to work.

Wolfe asked if he had mowed there before; Makos responded that he had probably mowed the area about seven times. Wolfe asked if the glass pile was there every time he mowed. Makos stated yes, but he was nowhere near the pile.

Bennett asked how close Makos was to the pile. Makos referred to pictures (which showed pile in/near cubby area); he stated that we (mowers) don't go in there. Makos did state that he noticed some rubber that was not in the pile; he stated that he threw it back in the pile. But, the grass was thick and he didn't notice the glass that was away from the pile. Makos stated that he's always watching now and that he came back to work that same day.

Brown stated that the area should have been walked after knowing there was debris, like the rubber, in the area. Bonnarens stated he doesn't know how it happened with the way the mower was going, the wall that the glass ricochet off of etc. Bennett stated that he doesn't know how it happened, but that in his opinion it is preventable and if he had been asked to clean up the pile, but hadn't then it would be chargeable. Wolfe stated she would like to access points to the supervisor too. Brown stated that the supervisor can't be held accountable without first having the chance to ask questions of him.

Motion made by Brown with a second by Wolfe to table the injury until the November meeting when the supervisor can be present.

5. Consider any other injuries reported: None
6. Communication/Discussion: None
7. Adjournment:
Motion by Brown with second by Wolfe to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m.