



Oakland Firesafe Council (OFSC) 4/28/18 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Members, invited participants, and guests present:

Anka Schvantia (sp) Emily Rosenberg neighbor

Emily Rosenberg

John Bliss, active Oakland Vol. , president of Consulting firm help public agencies

raise revenue, CalFire client, exec director of SPUR, connected with Angela, Zac

Unger of Union

Michael Kilian

Sue Piper

Ken Benson

Dinah Benson

Martin Matarrese

Lin Barron

Carolyn Burgess

Brenda Roberts

Chair pre-ambled the meeting with a brief Explanation of and history of the OFSC.

1. Minutes—approved as read

2. Treasurer's Report—15107 in the bank, no check from SunCal, PG&E, Claremont Hotel,

Benchmark Study--- general outreach, hire a graduate student, to do Benchmark study Goldman Students in the fall and this timing could ensure that they are free both to pursue the study assignment and in terms of cost to the OFSC.

Vegetation Management Plan – Council—is there something wrong and what is delaying the release of the Consultants work product.

Template process for specifics—from OWLS meeting on 4/25—also a list of bullet points of what we think should be in a Vegetation Management Plan.

Update Plant list – Lin Barron gave a report updating the sources for and the update of our OFSC Plant List.

Parking in Hills-- General discussion around the lack of follow through by the City on this topic and where it is either stalled or has begun. Then the general meeting conversation focused on flood issues and pay for improvements to reduce burdens on homeowners and how something along these lines can be used or directed at wildfire prevention and parking issues. Chair reminded the meeting that our tag line is - Parking like someone's life depends on it- .



General Discussion on CPUC and changes in Utilities approach to wildfire preparedness and prevention- San Diego Gas & Electric Outreach—CPUC pressure on PG& E and Southern Cal Electric to do the same

Read for Flag Days Discussion – Chair discussed desire to have the marketing and communications around Red Flag Days to become like Spare the Air Day messaging. Member Rosenberg asked about possible visuals like Red Triangles on a string—every neighborhood have one 14 feet so as to tie-in the - Parking like someone’s life depends on it- campaign.

Claremont Canyon Campaign—working with PG& E that will provide 30 foot clearance under wires that wrap around hotel on 3 sides, do outreach to neighbors to get them do more for defensible space. Possibly in Jan-March with OFSC walk arounds and give them Bob’s book; get plans from UC, EBRP , EBMUD and the Veg Plan, and then go to hotel to discuss alternatives and the possibilities for changing its landscape. PG&E will come up with a clearance plan for this area by end of the year, and will hold a public meeting in January.

John Bliss presentation and update—What’s happening on state level, what mechanisms for future WPAD like district funding, best way to communicate fire issues today;

State of Cal Fire protection:

LRA, SRA, FRA

Local responsibility area—every incorporated city and flat areas of state

State Responsibility area—CalFire responder for wildland fire, unincorporated and hilly, except for federal lands FRA

CalFire largest and most sophisticated Fire Department/Agency in the world—but overwhelmed in this last fire season.

City, County, special district 1000 special fire district—Moraga, Orinda, EBRPD—special park district has fire trucks—Rural California- # 1 issue wildland fire or flood control—really a wildland fire state. We need to be thinking of ourselves as wildland fire, not just earthquakes but instead in the number of response incidents.

Topography, weather not how it started, 140 million dead trees in CA, 6 years a go 1 billion a year on Cal Fire – bases fire 150 a year, 35 discount in a special district—habitable structure in SRA—800,000 different houses in SR, the SR assessment fee was the single unpopular thing in the world—Everyone hated it—cancelled the fee, changed it paid for the new cap and trade agreement at State level—



CalFire has a new arrangement, grant program, outside of SRA, this organization OFSC seems to be a perfect match for this type of funding. Met with Scott Witt on Thursday—grant applications.

CalFire learning important lessons as part of last year—improving defensible space—150,000 200,000 inspections, commercial properties, no compulsive inspections—Cal Fire looking data base application—using smart phone, penalty, need to get better with defensible space
Just in SRA, I believe with grant program, change in thinking--

Issues: CEA, 3000 grant something that CalFire embers management—physical things to do

New legislation calls for insurance companies to consider defensible space—need a standard inspections regimen and related database and CalFires defensible space inspection standard could be statewide standard. Mandatory vs voluntary—insurance hammer is best hammer to get defensible space

San Diego—County's general plan, safety element, requirements on defensible space and landscaping, new remodel and replace, but in building codes, shared with fire districts and utilities.

1. Tubbs Fire—fire insurance trucks showing up, employees, Allstate, gear—looking at new model
2. Defensible space at Tubbs has an imperfection
3. Evacuation communication—a complete failure in Tubbs, isn't a good answer—fire proof cell fires, bull horns,
No traffic studies to know what kind of traffic loads roads can handle in an emergency—have to designate emergency routes, have to do it on a situational basis. In Marin County, they have evacuation routes on line

Funding: State for a local services not easy:

- Benefit Assessment/special assessment Prop 218 Assessment—set of steps to use for local funding:
 - Landscaping and Lighting, flood control, fire
 - 50% threshold—of property owners - tend to be more conservation
 - weighted by proposed assessment amount
 - Abstract legal arguments, registered civil engineer, write reports argue special event-unlikely to use it
 - Court Cases—leave a cloud of vulnerability



- Special Tax—traditional-2/3 registered voters;
- Mello Roos—bringing in 2020 a parks maintenance parcel tax particular, pre built of a special tax, has a negative connotation because Developers selling homes in Central Valley—community facilities district (CFD) appealing to Oakland—traditionally—if a jurisdiction a tax over subset of boundaries—a City can always have a tax in subset. City more comfortable with CFD (Rockridge Library tax is one)
Can't just put to run operations, must bring service above and beyond-- Fire department basic level in first --99% are set up by developers before homes sold—occasionally used in existing . 2/3 registered voters, a particular number of resolutions, map, and new services, Many City attorneys more comfortable with CFDs.

Weird movement with Parcel Taxes—have to have a uniform rate—charge same amount, Alameda County School District—it all parcel tax—CFD, legal different rates)

Vacant, Single Family, Commercial—government parcels are exempt

Creating a special district LAFCO—long and painful process, likely impede process.

What Existing agencies—taxing authority—EBRPB—expand what you do , run a tighter ship than City of Oakland, Air quality Management District, Alameda County Water District

General approach and political landscape discussion:

Go through City, Council can vote and put it on the ballot. It will be a 2/3 vote, restricted fund, special tax to certain properties in defined-- becomes an equity issue within city—full city wide issue—homeless live in parks, evacuation—

Air BnB—parking evacuation more severe more than 25 years ago Wildland fire, all resources , nothing left for rest of city—

Messaging very clear, from beginning we in hills understand wildfire start in our area, we step up, economic costs involved with wildfire— it is perfect subject for state legislation—create a new model that people can use across the state—John thought that Alameda County fire department- too hard a fight.

Communication: Post Tea party effect-2010 losing measures we should have won, a change in voter expectation, peak in cynicism, idea of authenticity and need to better justify an assessment.



Messaging more rigorous—project lists, have to have the study, rigorous financial and planning—CEQA—evacuation planning, project, face to face, authentic—1/3 of way, these are the 5 things we did wrong in WPAD—focus is trust

Most Oaklanders can afford , low level of confidence—go down, twist arms at city, I need 35,000 to do a survey, through whole city—messaging, should include inspections, City have pay for the costs of election, hire consultant,

\$100,00- 150,000 investment, city incentivized to higher level of service, permanent resource for specific tasks,

Santa Barbara has a Benefit Assessment—more than 50% of people know term of defensible space

Survey only 62% look at benefit assessment—
CPI and Sunset—do not have a sunset + 1 or 2% has to be 9 years—horrible,

House parties, face to face—know how money is explained.

Performance Audits in initiatives---- authentically get buy in from voters.

CPI—need a CPI necessary, costs-- not more than 3% linked to consumer Price Index- 5 years no CPI 1 time adjustment,
Do a survey, support levels 70 and 75% -- go out with CPI, and no sunset—voters feel nickel and dimed, one time.

Control rate, CPI and Sunset, and level of effort and timing—look at June of 2020 or November 2020- Parks measure can help-- LLAD your park bill—

SCI—do not work with City of Oakland—pro bono, advice to us, work with different consultant

City Auditor's report On Measure Q

Chief in June, and Nick Luby— next meeting Bensons tentatively June 2 10am-12pm