



Oakland Firesafe Council Draft Minutes – January 12, 2019

Present:

Lisa Alumkal
Ken Benson
Haywood Blake
Bill Boyd
Alice Friedman
Barbara Goldenberg
Alan Goldenberg
Steve Hanson
Lisa Jacobs
Kim Johnson
Jeffrey Kahn
Steve Hanson
Martin Matarrese
Sue Piper
Gordon Piper
Robert Sieben
Elizabeth Stage
Nick Vigilante
Doug Wong

1. Approval of Minutes of 11/17/18— Approved
2. Treasurer’s Report- Treasurer made an over statement last month—currently, \$26,548. Includes \$1375 picked up from mail box yesterday.
3. Old Business
 - a. Benchmark Study—selected a Goldman School of Policy graduate student Jennee Kuang, official starting in middle of January. First deliverable, reframe appropriate questions basis of the survey, report. Review survey with Goldman School. Report by end of May.
 - b. Status of Regional Wildfire Prevention Management District—being discussed by State Legislature—Rob Bonta, Nancy Skinner, Buffy Wickes interested in co-sponsoring with Jim Wood. Consolidations of different legislation going through Sacramento. AB38 funding for hardening, and in establishing a wildfire prevention and mitigation planning process.
 - c. Vegetation Management Plan—Doug—all the suggestions are being implemented into the plan, should come out by March. More public meetings-- when will city go out for a new district—explained “not without community advocates.” After recent fires, need to look at geography— maybe a two tiered approach (high, but not extremely high,) can’t chase after it with the same boundaries and same parameters. The source of funds as well as application of still in question (Barbara G). Ken – on budget advisory commission—no matter what Council wants to do, won’t occur in time for this two year budget cycle. OFSC will need to continue to advocate



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that the City not base hope that there will be a dedicated fund during that time. Fire Department and other departments associate right dollars for right work. Doug – CalFire does a five year plan-2020 will be new CalFire plan. Next plan should consider Oak Knoll being built or underway. Jeff— Lake Temescal—serious inspections by fire department—many people cited in a respectful, helpful way, a lot of expensive mitigation work Barbara- due to Current Vegetation Manager in Chief—has finally gathered the respect of Fire Chief. OFSC and wildfire prevention advocates will need to plan the City likely will not retain Vince Crudele-- way things are he will retire in next year (**Nick—communicated with District 4 Council—absence will impact safety in area.**) Ken—City Auditor’s office has two open items – improvements in inspections and training from Auditor’s report—City still needs to live up to Auditor’s report, we all need to put pressure on electeds and hand over to new City Auditor, so it continues. Fire Department keeps pressure on no matter.

4. Nick-s hand out re staffing-- only one full time employee in District 1, Distric2-4a vacant—inspectors converted in commercial unit; Interview process, and rating process, background checks—takes several months—vacancies will always have an impact on 2019 process- volume and timeliness—forwarded . Fire Code unit has gained 8 full time inspectors, and Vince has no desks, no equipment nor vehicles for his staff. Pretty severe problem. Goat grazing contract in place for next 5 years. Fire sent a needs request to Public Safety Committee—will let us know so we can speak about it at Public Safety. Staffing issue will drive everything that occurs with Vegetation Management this year. Loren Taylor—District 6—**Nick will contact him—Ken commented that the issues, office, space—not a push point, need to direct complaints to Libby and not the City Council. Ken, Nick and Sue to draft letter to Libby--** Lisa—commercial inspection unit very challenged—building boom and new cannabis industry, and new codes regarding sprinklers—really understaffed right now—have a subcontracting arrangement in place. Doug—every time an event, needs a fire inspector. Oakland trying to become greener but still is a need to get Vince another 4 wheel drive pickup truck—cannot go on these trails with his Prius. OFSC to go to public safety— speak up in Open Forum to bring this need out. 1221 Code Inspectors, other with 21. Nick/Ken come up with talking points and schedule.
5. **Oakland Urban Forestry Plan—Martin** – don’t have any active meetings planned at this point. Have a seat at the table; there was no plan to do anything except in the urban areas in terms of inventory or tree planting. Not that difficult to do a forest inventory—graduate students—could be done, Sudden Oak death process—getting citizens involved in doing it. Take a few measurements, stratify population, get results—more survey points, the higher the confidence interval.—Martin to come up with a draft proposal for OFSC to take this one with UC Berkeley School of Forestry. Barbara—designed for Melbourne, Australia—a map with every tree I the city with its type, life expectancy for each tree, done with LIDAR. (Laser inducted radar). Ken—not certain knows where the documents and output are within either



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- Fire or City Administrators files but the LIDAR data should be easy to associate GIS wise with new Accela Database. New tree guy—David Moore, head of trees.
6. **Evacuation Routes—(Lisa)** Dan city needs to have an emergency response plan—during air quality issue—will push for that – not clear new emergency services person, or Resilience Officer—OES, CORE coordinator left. Not a disaster management person. Evacuation plan – seems dismissive. Berkeley working on a plan—Doug—in 1997- idea to have egress streets and exit—citizens listen to radios—once sirens go off, listen to radio. Pre-plan, people put in their phones. Only certain routes—based on sharing best practices. At Marin County—after Tubbs Fire—one from the CAO's office in Marin, they have started doing transportation studies, know in advance, if you have certain types of emergency—will road support the traffic-- our city ought to do that. Routes are in the same place—transportation department does transportation studies, it's a planning issue.
As each year gets worse, harder when fire moves at speeds currently is moving. Part of city emergency response plan—Ryan Russo—Lisa to advocate for this with Transportation. Parking enforcement on the routes that would be used. Lisa—parking in the hills project—on phase 2, lots of issues on Alvarado road-enforcement waves—roll out in February or when it happens. Phase 3, identify more narrow streets—Upper Rockridge—Ocean View Drive—initiative from Council offices—not a neat transition when Olga left. Lisa is now helping to drive it.
 7. **Election of Officers**—Sue Chair, Barbara Vice Chair, Ken Secretary, Michael, Treasurer. Barbara would recuse if funding conflict. In Minutes of this month.
 8. **Outreach:**
 - a. **Piedmont Pines HOA**- workshop and walk through in first Saturday in May. Bob available.
 - b. **Society of American Foresters Tour of East Bay Hills-early March—Martin**—mini conference—get an update on EBRP see samples of what they have done; want to know about Oakland's plan, challenges, where is it headed; visit sites, sit down at one of regional park facilities—meet with UC Forestry Club several times a year, get students involved.
 - c. **Piedmont Pines Annual Meeting** in January—Nick and Barbara;
 - d. **Doug—DIA—Berkeley -- -- Lake Merritt Breakfast Club-- ,**
 9. **Dimond Park**—things getting done in park—City, 6 trees need to be removed and discussed with recommendation to seek a DFSC grant—Barbara to work with Haywood.
 10. **Budget Process**—talk to council members—fire season not lined up with Fiscal year, Vince is sometimes short following spring—different fire season—sometimes can't start his work. 1 year in budget of catch up; still in same place—not listening to us. Prepare for upcoming budget cycle.
 11. **Red Flag Days**—Joaquin Miller Park (JMP) closed on red flag by ordinance. In the past Fire Department didn't do it, Martin did it. Now Oakland Fire Department (OFD) pegs closure to local conditions and not regionally declared Red Flag Days. They make the call. OFD did close JMP later in last season; made larger signs in entrances. OFD has gotten in stride past season and seemed to be effective.



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Coordinate with EBRP ordinance 38 in EBRP uses a tiered system for red flag days not to close, but as season progresses, more likely closure. Lisa – look into this

12. Other

- a. Bob—OFSC voted unanimously to support the shut off—may be times when OFSC supports in concept and practice-when PG&E calls for shut off-approved. PG&E has changed course, amazingly increased definition; updated handout power failure options-- from Bob—use of drones—a lot more early information. Fumes from next fire are going to be far worse than 1991 because of all the electronics and heavy metals in that stuff, much more toxic wind—
- b. Nick—park issue—when time comes discussion, what should next WPAD look like—consider having park rangers as part of problem now with enhanced fire danger.
- c. Gordon, MLK workday west of Kaiser School—250 volunteers helping to clear 4.5 acres of fire prone French broom and coyote shrub. Cal trans agreed to bring in goats and crew on upper hill. Getting team work between Caltrans, OUSD, city providing tools—Martin-- appreciates leadership of this group.
- d. Doug Wong--Shout out to Bob—friend only one standing in Paradise based on Bob's book.

Next meeting February 16—Ken House 11140 Ettrick Street, Oakland 94605 10am till noon.

11:48 Meeting adjourned.