



Minutes from October 15, 2016 Meeting  
33 Hiller Drive, Oakland, CA  
2-4 pm

Present: Dinah Benson  
Ken Benson  
Carolyn Burgess  
Steve Hansen  
Michael Kilian  
Gordon Piper  
Sue Piper  
Robert Sieben  
Nick Vigilante

Guests: Mark Morodomi  
Nicky Huang

1. Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm.
2. Minutes of 8-13-16 OFSC Meeting approved.
3. Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Michael Kilian reported that there is \$1337 in the account. He was asked to prepare a letter to the Claremont Spa & Resort asking them to remit their 2<sup>nd</sup> \$2,000 donation for maintenance work on the Gateway Exhibit Center.
4. Discussion with Mark Morodomi, former member of City Attorney's Office and legal staff to the WPAD at the time: Mark noted that city permission is necessary to work on city properties. Funding is a different slice—you have more flexibility if you control the funds, if the city gives you the money, you can only do what they say. If the desire is to limit the city's control, then we have to look at funding other than a tax or assessment.

Ken Benson explained that there are other models than the current WPAD: Walnut Creek created a nonprofit 20 years ago. The City acquired open space and transferred it to the nonprofit that runs it. Open space land

management was transferred to the parks department with a ranger and land management use function. Grants are run through the nonprofit. Projects are paid for through city and nonprofit. Hayward used to have this function in the Fire Department Prevention Bureau, but moved it back into Public Works and Code Enforcement. The city is obligated to maintain its parcels and manages private properties through inspections and code enforcement

Discussion—City of Oakland be responsible for defensible space on its properties and fund project work identified through Vegetation Management Plan via a different model. There are other public entities beyond the City of Oakland in the WPAD—OUSD, EBMUD, PG&E, UC Berkeley...

The idea of setting up a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) entity with Alameda County was one approach, but Mark warned that there are so many contentious parts to this and it would require setting up an entirely new entity. The group wondered if there was a way to have the City raise the funds through a tax or assessment and then give the money to a nonprofit that has the power and authority to give grants, including to the City, EBMUD, etc.? The City has turned over the Zoo and Children's Fairyland to nonprofits.

Mark suggested that wildfire prevention activists take the opportunity of the ending of the WPAD to create a report on how it worked, make findings – criticisms and recommendations—and present it to the City Council before the WPAD ends in June.

Other issues to keep in mind: if the new organization is limited to raising governmental money for big projects, it might be supported by a bonding initiative. But maintenance is still another issue.

Some examples to consider: New York's Central Park Management District, Port Commission, local Business Improvement Districts (have assessments that are managed by the BIDS and not the City.) We might set up a new "WPAD" on a BID model, but members would need to be elected by the residents in the WPAD.

Suggestion came to have OFSC push for establishing another commission to oversee the Vegetation Management Planning Process until it is complete.

## 5. Other Business

- a. Bob Sieben reported that he was able to develop a shovel ready \$30,000 project for a Diablo Firesafe Council grant removing over 100 eucalyptus sprouts at the entrance to Hiller Drive at highway 13.

- b. The Board discussed OFSC identifying potential projects for DFSC grants. Ken and Carolyn agreed to try to identify lots that need cutting, private or public.
  - c. Automatic Gas Shut Off Valves—Nick Vigilante reached out to PG&E and learned that it does provide a 2-3 hour training class that covers electric and gas safety, with a section on pros and cons of automatic gas valves. They need 1 to 3 months' notice. We discussed doing a joint meeting with NHCA and MSIC. He noted that Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association is offering a special on installing them this year-\$250 as opposed to \$560.
  - d. Outreach- Sue Piper agreed to prepare a list of Street Fairs for 2017 and will organize OFSC coverage at these events—at least for those in the WPAD. Nick added that we need to find ways to bring a younger cadre of people to these meetings to pass along the baton as we age out!
  - e. Members were reminded that Jerry Kent, former Assistant General Manager of East Bay Regional Parks at the time of the 1991 Fire, will be making a presentation at the Claremont Conservancy Annual Meeting on October 30 at the Claremont Spa & Resort.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.