



Oakland Firesafe Council Meeting Minutes for 7-7-18

In attendance:

Jon Kaufman
Jerry Kent
Barbara Goldenberg
Allene Warren
Nick Vigilante
John Brega
Ken Cohen
Brenda Roberts
Doug Wong
Martin Matarrese

Guests:

Darin White, Fire Chief
Bill Weisgerber, Fire Marshal
Alexa Villagomez representing Natasha Middleton, District 6 candidate
Ricardo Mora representing Natasha Middleton, District 6 candidate
Loren Taylor District 6 candidate

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am

Minutes-

Treasurer's Report—\$17,112 in the bank and we received the \$2,000 Signature Properties from Claremont - For the Memorial Garden

Update upon the City's Vegetation Management Plan—Explain, how to reduce fire risks on city properties in high fire zone—future of fire safety in Oakland and Fire Marshal Bill Weisgerber met with Dan Kalb, Christine, Angela and Vince Crudele and comments received from various organizations and citizens such as OFSC will be incorporated into the plan and as needed into subsequent EIR. Update the Plan is on



The Public Safety Committee's Agenda for July 17. OFSC member Jon Kaufman said it's more than the details need to be sufficiently documented as to be able to prepare site specific budget planning estimates.

Take away from Dan Kalb meeting were that public input comments would verbatim, to extent— It was mentioned that we could and should weigh in with your elected—Chief White, reach out to specifically to staff and Horizon to ensure input and cost estimation ability is met going forward Deal with larger property, not just the extended ignition zone focus as currently drafted. (Sue Piper) Need specificity—need it for future district, will it be more project oriented than previous districts – (Ken Benson)

(Jerry Kent) Mentioned that EBRP already went through EIR, can use adaptive their model, we haven't—make sure we are prepared for dealing with issues.

(Doug Wong)—The need for more and better RAW look at same time, see difference between North and East Oakland. EBRP can be assimilated in Oakland. Need to continue to educate.

(Nick Vigilante)- Support Ken's version of adaptability and site specificity. Felt consultants were not listening and especially about importance of volunteers—tremendous difference. Consultants didn't understand the contributions of volunteer stewards and felt that we may need to mobilize volunteers to give their feedback and comments to gain serious consideration.

(Jon Kaufman)—balance reaching out and hearing anyone and getting plan done to move forward, Claremont Canyon Conservancy (CCC) submitted a five page paper 22 points on their response to the consultants.



Specificity vs flexibility-- push back on consultants, we understand to be flexibility, not a reason to be specific—situations changes, need to look at specific areas that the plan will be effective in those areas. Trees on ridgeline, treated in a way that will reduce trees being source of fire.

(Dinah Benson) Commented that state statute—public property must be maintained in a safe condition, if someone gets hurt, statute gives absolute standing to sue and therefore there is a huge liability in our parks. A lot of homeless encampments on public properties—Skirball started by homeless cooking fire. City and Plan needs to address this issue.

(Barbara Goldenberg) Reiterated the value of and need for the plan to address volunteers- other side of coin, make sure you include volunteerism as it is now, value existing volunteers, if they go away, if we age out of process, or turned off so badly that they stop then City would see a large increase in cost and effort. Oakland City Government makes it very difficult to volunteer- they often disempower volunteers.

Update on Fire Inspection Resources—Update by Chief White about steps to be adequately staffed—He and Bill met with HR 3 or 4 weeks ago, to begin the conversion of Veg to Fire Prevention bureau code inspection and assistant fire marshal civilian. Force multipliers—is underway—new individuals taking training, this week, supervision—status of equalization of salary—to code inspectors, dialog with bargaining unit—well underway with the Goal being January 2019.

(Doug Wong)—reinstate volunteers in Vegetation Management area—take phone calls, answer emails, willing to take phone calls—opportunities to access resources out of the department. Help us in the service mission; intake of complaints, establish Standard Operating Procedures; etc.

(Jerry Kent and Jon Kaufman) covered CCC issues—EBRP—not an adaptive management plan, specific plan with detailed polygons,



detailed descriptions, detailed management—FEMA grant—lawsuit, UC law suit—CCC wants to sit down and talk about the professional aspects in the plan, people are ready to file lawsuits—don't want to cut eucalyptus down—will be a law suit---- personally terribly disappointed in Hills Emergency Forum (HEF)—EBRP and Oakland Park founded it but now it has become an internal group that won't meet anyone from outside.

We want Oakland and all of agencies (UC, EBMUD, EBRP, and CalFire) to come to some level of agreement of how protect people in the WUI.

(Jerry Kent) Make sure these plans hook together and not going in different directions. No budget—needs to be boots on ground coordinating agency—make sure we have a fire prevention plan that HEF members serve and fully support.

(Ken Benson)—Recent fire seasons, and lessons learned in CA—better coordinating in prevention and planning—changing modality of mutual aid-- every physical asset was totally deployed last fall and now the State is looking at pre-deployment and coordinated prevention- they realized that CalFire doesn't go far enough—seeing legislature - OPR network with local agencies. First time perfect storm—great enabling legislation, surpluses, what do we put our money into what is more effective. HEF is emerging as the right model—fire doesn't care about boundaries. (Jerry Kent)—take a deep breath—find out if the plan is what you need for the future, before consultants go ahead, give stake holders a chance to talk

(Chief White) Gave an update on this year's inspections process—OFD migrated from pen and paper, handwritten forms, to electronic mobile device use in the field, take photos, upload information into Acela. Some challenges in early part of May—with connectivity—but now works like City gov apps—See Click Fix—works out beautifully- using tablets, 3 to 4 week period delayed by engine personnel—inspection staff were able to do their inspections—almost done with first round of inspections Generate notices, sent out directly from prevention or revenue.



Initial success—feedback from staff—challenge with one of stations with connectivity issues. Has to expand for commercial and code inspections—use same devices on these.

23,482, inspections—as of 7-06-2018, 15,655 completed,— 800 to 1,000 a day—11 engines companies 7 days, 4 inspectors going out 5 days a week should complete by end of July. 13,280 of the 23,482 were in compliance and 2,375 non-compliant out of the 15,655 done so far.

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(Brenda Roberts)—PG&E—is OFD going to coordinate with PG&E re communications County Fire Department – gave us a point of contact to regional director, to connect her with Vince Crudele—Vince already in touch with their subordinates—to talk about vegetation clearances—power shut down, don't have answer yet?

Legislative outreach by OFSC—brief description provided by Sue, Dinah, and Ken on legislative outreach and what we've learned so far, when it comes to inspections, areas where there are no inspections—and then where there are inspections those are on the sliding scale from voluntary to somewhat compulsory. There does not appear to be an emerging inspections best practice.

(Loren Taylor)—Mentioned that local youth are looking for employment opportunities—ways to incorporate them into brush clearing-- Recreation summer job program, youth aid program, and a similar program allowed Chief White when an Oakland teen to work with the Port of Oakland.

Update on the Goats- finished King Estates day after 4th, about a month late, notice to proceed on May 2nd, missing Council meeting month late but approved a 3 year contract so going forward this should be smoother in terms of scheduled clearances. Joaquin Miller Park next, overlook at Castlemont and Skyline before July 4th, down Sunset Trail,



Dunsmuir House and Gardens and Ridge completed after Joaquin Miller Park , new areas never down before Malcom more properties behind Marshall, going south. And then Sheffield Village, North Oakland Sports Field late August.

Update on parking the hills—a lot has been down over last two years—neighbors more mindful of minimum clearance see project continue to engage the community in outreach. No more new locations added to project. Individual in City DOT to respond to complaints and there is a need for someone to work with Vince and OPD, we could find volunteers willing to paint curbs, follow ups, pinch points. Effort will continue.

Meeting adjourned 12:15pm

Next meeting was approved to September 15 10 am—at 11140 Ettrick Street.