



Minutes from February 16, 2019 Meeting
11140 Ettrick St, Oakland, CA 94605
10- Noon

Present:

Lisa Alumkal
Ken Benson
Haywood Blake
Carolyn Burgess
Janet Clark
Barbara Goldenberg
Steven Hanson
Jon Kaufman
Jerry Kent

Michael Kilian
Martin Matarrese
Robert Meyers
Sue Piper
Robert Sieben
Gary Sirbu
Elizabeth Stage
Nick Vigilante
Allene Warren

Guests:

Rafael Grillo Avila
Lisa Jacobs- Council District 1

Margot Bart—Vicente Canyon
Allman Matarrese
Jennee Kuang

1. Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.
2. **Minutes of October 15, 2016 OFSC Meeting** approved with two changes—the cost of the tree removal project at the bottom of Hiller Dive was \$30,000 and more than 100 eucalyptus sprouts were removed.
3. **Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Michael Kilian reported that we have \$25,218 in the bank.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Benchmark Study**-Jennee Kuang, a grad student at Goldman School of Public Policy, is working on a Masters project with OFSC to do a landscape analysis in California in WUIs: fire management, decrease risk, process, manage inspections, best practices, survey development as many people as possible, work on wildfire prevention issues. She is putting together a contact list, developing survey, following up with interviews, and will produce a report with

summary and recommendations for what Oakland may do at end of May.

- b. **Regional Wildfire Prevention Management Districts**—Working with Assemblyman Jim Wood (Santa Rosa), OFSC along with the Claremont Canyon Conservancy have recommended a basis for amending AB38 to create Regional Wildfire Prevention Management Districts with the ability to enforce defensible space on both private and public properties within the region. In our case, we are recommending a region encompassing Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks has agreed to co-author, Nancy Skinner lead fight in Senate. Clifford Reischaffen, California Public Utilities Commission also supports. Depending on what comes out of Sacramento, it should be similar to the Alameda County Air District. If you are involved in a local organization concerned about wildfire prevention, we could use their endorsement, as well as to contact other members of State assembly or senate to get other co-sponsors. The Board approved forming **an Ad Hoc Committee process of advocating and helping with information and outreach on Regional Wildfire Prevention Management Districts**- The Ad Hoc Committee will provide recommendations in terms of policy or approach; we are not writing legislation. Contact Jon Kaufman if you want to get further involved. Jonk@solem.com. Bob Gammon in policy analyst Skinner's office. Construct:
- i. California Home Rule State-each county and city implements how it works
 - ii. 1991 Fire, localized; since 2015—Valley, Tubbs, Thomas, Carr, Camp Fir , Wollsey Fire—multiple jurisdictions
 - iii. Fire wants fuel to burn—not just about defensible space, also structures
 - iv. Will be resistance because different, still a lot of things to be understood—state codes that exist being rolled into AB38
 - v. Cities still need to do what they are required to do under the local jurisdiction—annual inspections
- c. **Vegetation Management Plan**—we heard it will be made public in March. The City has advertised for a new Chief of Staff for the Fire Department. The Plan in its latest iteration concentrates only on City property. Because the timing of completion is delayed, we need to communicate to friendly city council staff that the City still needs to allocate funds for vegetation management in the upcoming 2 year budget cycle. Given what it takes to go out with a special district—earliest the later part of 2020— the city wouldn't see funds 2021, and the new district wouldn't be operational until 2022, so special district funding is at least 3 years away. Heard numbers being given from Veg Management Unit group only for road clearances and standard maintenance, but that covers only about 2/3 of the city's properties. Until City upholds its obligations, public is skeptical.

- d. **Oakland Urban Forestry Plan**—Martin Matarrese reported that he spoke with new senior supervisor for Tree Services David Moore. There are three parts to grant: a tree audit; tree management plan and looking forward, planting 700 new trees which would only be planted in areas that don't have trees currently and areas of concern; Audit—not audit public land in the hills, street, Tree Audit is about street trees in city right of way, not on private property.
- e. **Staff and Support of Vegetation Management Unit**—meeting with Mayor, City Administrator and Fire Chief on March 4—Marin Best Practice-- #1 listed public safety priority is Wildfire. They concertedly share planning across governmental agencies with Cal Fire and Firesafe Councils; County road department does transportation study every 3 years on every access and egress road looking at flow of traffic that would be used as a evacuation route, and sharing with other departments involved in planning for disasters.
- f. **Resolution**—meeting with Sheng Tao on February 20;- This is an executive office failure, not a legislative policy failure—execution rest with Libby Schaaf and Sabrina Landreth and department heads. Haywood Blake met with Michael Hunt re Dimond Canyon—City is resisting. Lisa—discussed with Kalb—wants to meet with Tao's office—end of March—before the budget, need to submit budget priorities by March 15. Kalb met with Sabrina—cannot advocate for another District - without Veg Management District which is going so slow. Lisa said the DOT is looking at repaving major ingress/egress routes, but she cautioned that residents need to take responsibility for reducing that traffic in an emergency by not trying to save all of their cars.
- g. **Public Safety Committee Meeting**—follow up with Noel Gallo, D-5 Councilmember who chairs the committee. Fire management unit—Joe Devries and Chief White—Fire Inspection infraction invoices for 2018—didn't get sent out until end of December cash penalties—2017 hadn't been collected and 18.

5. Outreach

- a. **Piedmont Pines Homes Association**—Nick, Barbara, Ken- a page of sign ups, what is city doing, why is Veg Management so short staffed, insurance coverage
- b. **Northwestern California 2019 Community Wildfire Resiliency Gathering**—Bob Sieben--February 8-10; 50 participants—Loosely constructed; well organized good information.
 - i. **San Benito Firesafe Council**—home hardening; evacuation planning
 - ii. **Monterey Firesafe Council**—county overrides all the rules - regulations
 - iii. **Klamath**—prescribed burns, fire breaks
 - iv. **Younger generation**—pushing for home hardening

- v. **Mostly rural**—urban ones—Diablo Firesafe Council, Santa Clara Firesafe Council and Marin County Firesafe—meet quarterly
- vi. **Everyone complained about funding, problems getting volunteers**
- vii. Going to be plenty of money coming through different channels from State—people taking this seriously
- viii. 90%-95% suffer from wildfire are started by embers—don't need gutters on most roofs;
- ix. Building homes wrong—if a home catches fire, multiplying the amount of fuel by 5 to 10—500 to 1000%. Homeowner taking care of own ignition zone. Small amounts of money can do great good. Problem motivating homeowner
- x. PG&E power outage—will be turning off power more frequently—fill up car with gas with Red Alert
- xi. Hiller Phase V—a 18-page plan for Phase V; big trees fall down. Becoming a major problem. Pruning to balance the tree. \$15,000 – next year asking \$20,000 budget. Hippocratic oath- do no harm.
- xii. Use different construction materials
- xiii. Animals know how to survive.
- c. **Marin Conservation League, February 15**—Ken, Jerry and Sue met with a study group on wildfire planning and prevention. Gave them an overview. They were worried about CWPP and Calfire Programmatic EIR—bring environmental community along when you develop a plan (Jerry). After 1991, recommended a Joint Powers Agency—became Hills Emergency Forum—issues are complex, regional
- d. **Society American Foresters** – Martin Matarrese (treasurer of Bay Area chapter) of a professional society for people with degree in forestry from accredited school. March 2, at Trudeau Center—bring together on regional basis, Calfire, EBMUD, UC, EBRP, and cities—this year's work plan and challenges in implementing their long term vision. 12:30 after Lunch touring – North Oakland Sports Center-Caldecott Park, Signpost 29, East Bay Mud Site at Grizzly Peak and [Claremont---MartinMatarrese@gmail.com](mailto:MartinMatarrese@gmail.com)
- e. **Wildfire Technology Innovation Summit March 20-21**—Barbara Goldenberg may go with Sue
- f. **Piedmont Pines National Wildfire Prevention Day workshop, May 4**—morning workshop on personal and neighborhood efforts; walkabout by OFSC in afternoon
- g. **Budget Process—March 15—survey from citizens done by Budget Advisory Committee**—wildfire prevention was high priority. You can educate in both directions beginning now with Council staff and mayor's staff. Wildfire prevention is top of list for

Dan Kalb (D1) and Sheng Tao (D4). Elizabeth Stage—what you have 10,000 people's stories to tell. Story telling—poignant stories to tell.

6. Other

- a. **Barbara Goldenberg**—Urban Forest, and tree survey—Melbourne, Australia, willing to provide information—Lidar—life expectancy of the tree, a code for diseased trees, urban forest visual, to monitor the health of their tree. Send an email re specific trees. Many trees receive poems and letter of appreciation. Can drill down to individual trees.
- b. Barbara Goldenberg attended a meeting with Stan Dodson and CalFire to learn what other funding for forest fuel reduction within confines of the City with grant through Diablo Firesafe Council. DFSC is now rethinking what can be done as big projects. CalFire criticized DFSC's CWPP and Vegetation Management Plans are so general, they can't fund them.
- c. **Bob Sieben**—satellite before and after how home was unprepared
- d. **Carolyn Burgess**—Nick and Carolyn speaking at Public Safety Committee. NHCA Public Safety Committee on February 28—home insurance and home hardening. City DOT contacted Carolyn meet with neighborhoods re next year's paving schedule. Barbara Goldenberg suggested videoing the presentation and posting
- e. **Dan Kalb**—re parking in the hills—Officer Sullivan—inability to get engines up the street. Vince can give out parking tickets.
- f.

Next meeting: Saturday, March 16 Ken Benson's house at 11140 Etrick Street