



Oakland Firesafe Council
Board Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2015
33 Hiller Drive, Oakland 94618
1-3 PM

Meeting Called to order at 1:20pm by the Chair.

Members Present: Michael Kilian, Dee Rosario, Barbara Goldenberg, Susan Piper, Dinah Benson, Nick Vigilante, Lin Barron, Carolyn Burgess, Robert Sieben, Gordon Piper, and Ken Benson

1. Approval of Minutes—Approved as read
2. Treasurer's Report --Given by Michael Kilian \$574 in bank; The PayPal account has been established and is up on our website—He asked the Chair to have the font and access/location increased and or bolstered – Chair will ask Barry for larger type and emphasis.
3. Fund Raising Report- Ken Benson gave report from October Meeting that the Board at that meeting had decided that we had a need to raise funds. Dee Rosario had agreed with Barbara Goldenberg to work with PG &E on the possibility that gas shut off valves could be a potential fundraising item—Dee reported that PG & E only responsible for up to the meter and the Board thought that our recommending or assisting financially with homeowner responsibilities would not make for an effective fundraiser and would needlessly increase our potential liabilities. Dinah Benson from the October meeting owned the topic of creating a fire wise home checklist—for a donation and the Board still thought that this might prove to be both an effective funding mechanism but could be additive to our education and outreach efforts. Barbara Goldenberg and Ken Benson had from the October meeting taken responsibility for looking at corporate annual giving from those like PG&E and EBMUD. Barbara reported that this was a very difficult function for other non-profits such as Friends of Sausal Creek and the Board felt before we sought annual giving that we needed to have a fundraising goal and it should be tied to our mission and goals and that we were not ready for this type of fundraising yet. SunCal- Ken and Barbara owned from October meeting seeking donating or supporting our mission and goals—VP was at NCPC Beat 35Y and Ken exchanged cards and would talk with him after first of the year. The Board then held a lengthy



review and discussion around fundraising and discussed the following areas/approaches:

- Annual Event research/community training event around pre-fire season— fund raising vehicle- (Not Ready for yet)
- Training neighbors to be pre-inspection home reviewer – Fire Insurance provide mainline carrier to provide that in CA—mail a checklist—sell it to the homeowners group, charge \$100—, presentation, first 10 inspections sign up for included, anyone after than \$25 per house—we could piggyback and or participate at and with annual meetings of homeowners associations- progressive dessert trail, each location, quick presentation by subject matter experts on how to do certain firewise and emergency response activities
- Major donors and or foundations give grants and or dollars to projects and not programs and that we needed to hone our focus before seeking major donations and grants
- Join forces with other groups—Carolyn Burgess suggested that we should look to work with and join with other active organizations like North Hills Community Association, Claremont Canyon Conservancy, and others to both get our message out and to leverage opportunities for individual donations etc.
- Nick Vigilante will research fund raising models that our group could consider—what type of model do we want—model is other firesafe councils—education and awareness—what drives participation, self interest giver perceives as a need—need to get over that hurdle, we have a passive audience and bring that information back for our February meeting.
- Michael Kilian discussed City Council and City grants and mentioned that Anne Campbell Washington, or Dan Kalb may have the ability to make small grants through City—do we need to be registered with City—Michael Kilian will make sure we are listed with the City on a list for grants, notified of these grants—Gordon and Michael Kilian to look beyond the City for other local sources.
- Venues to pass the boot—team up with CORE when they have training in Fire District 10, to be a co-sponsor of a CORE event—see Dena Gunning—can we be part of the meeting for 5 minutes—
- Neighborhood Watch Groups—Approach Joe Devries—clear statement about what we want—Nick/Ken—Jacqui and Felicia
- Bob Sieben who will be speaking in January with the Santa Clara Firesafe Council will gather additional information about how they get their



money/donations. In addition he mentioned the NHCA-conference on earthquake safety—giveaways may be necessary or something to consider.

- Bob also mentioned reduce pricing on the sales of his book as a funding vehicle.

The Board discussed NHCA/Oakland Firesafe Council—one-year membership- available but we were reminded by our Treasurer that our 501c3 status was predicated on our not being a membership organization as it might impact our Tax status.

4. **Gateway Demonstration Update**—Need for a horticultural/botany student to do landscape plan, Leslie Piels selling succulents, Merritt, ongoing maintenance sponsor, exhibits up in March—Board discussed a need for and a desire for a Press Conference in the Spring—Gordon Piper mentioned that Chevron may have interest in funding ongoing maintenance. Board thought that this does need further study and review.
5. **Parking in the Hills/Evacuation Routes** –Addressing this; map from 1992, streets should have no parking on 14 feet of clearance for fire truck—street must be 20 feet wide. Board took assignments to work their areas of the Hills Fire District over the months of December and January to review Parking and Evacuation Routes and related issues and report back at our next meeting. Here were the assignments by Council District:
 - District 6 Dee and Ken
 - District 4 –Barbara and Nick
 - District 1- Sue, Carolyn
 - District 7—Ken/Allene/Dinah

The Board asked if the City can ticket motorists for parking in restricted areas if there are no curbs. And, then can we create painted curbs for non-curbed streets in the hills and Sue and Carolyn were to seek reactions to this from staff at both Anne Campbell-Washington’s Office and Dan Kalb’s as part of their on-going parking and evacuation routing efforts.

Deadline on survey, criteria someone will need to check with Fire Department TBD



6. **FEMA Grant— RFQ Update** –no permanent list of qualified inspectors, takes two years to fill position no plan to fill in and Board thought that this could be addressed next week when Sue and others meet with *Sabrina (City Administrator)*--- ask about status of RFQ, and plan B for staff. No matter whether Federal funds for finishing fire break, needs to be done, no matter who funds it. They are liable no matter what happens to the funds, still City based property. What will happen if we default—what will FEMA do if we default—expiration date in expenditure of the funds drop dead date if so That EBMUD can use the funds—better to be wise and forth coming rather than to just walk away—will cause guffaws, ability to attract federal money at stake.
7. **National Fire Prevention Day May 7—dedication of Gateway on May 7 Which the Board thought would also potentially make for a good Press Conference Day for the Gateway Demonstration Garden site.**
8. **OFSC’s role in 25th Anniversary of the Firestorm—co-collaborators—same place—Gateway as locale. Board thinks we need to participate in the planning for the 25th.** Rotary Community Service Committee Gordon Piper thought they might be a funding source for maintenance. Ken commented that OFSC did not yet meet the 3 year in existence criteria for the ORC’s Community Services Committee and thought that the Landscape Committee or another 501c3 needed to approach the Rotary- the Board thought this should be handled by Gordon and did not need OFSC Board action as it would not be OFSC funding.
9. **WPAD Items—full funding through 2017;--look to other city’s other kind of public safety elements for in preparation for that—Dinah discussed the pending General Plan Safety Element and that the City may take 2 to 3 years to actually address this part of its General Plan. Board thought we should seek to better understand what was in the current Safety Element. This needs further research. TBD**
10. Push for tree management plan—dead tree removal—state, federal, local funding—proposing priority AB C. No action taken by the Board at this time.
11. Other—Bob Sieben gave a brief presentation on the tour given by CalFire in Lake County. He will be speaking January 21 in Santa Clara.—What about the houses that survived and why (mainly due to good vegetation management and property hardening tactics), extremely variable winds, extreme dryness, the fire went on for 4 days. Defensible space was a big issue, CalFire doing controlled burns now, wide



paths along the road, cutting back trees to preserve access; Middletown embers were the major problem that hit houses—Bob heard from CalFire that when they cleanup a completely burned property/house, \$30,000 per lot to sterilize it (asbestos heavy metals, lead batteries, bones, PVC) wear masks, covered suits, spraying down, dust toxic, take it down 8” and test to see full of toxins, test it.

New houses looked unscathed, he gave an example of a house for sale; no wood decks, very interesting. School survived, but CalFire cleared space around it, school survived. – January meeting; people who wouldn’t leave; steal things in house, going back into areas, toxins; use social media to communicate—in Australia (burned 20 days—used social media to communicate. New information as they discussed what to consider and address like the toxics in prevention issues; what to do with the junk in your house—furniture and old paint as an example. Lesson learned was that social media is a growing mechanism for outreach and communications.

12. Issues—Dinah—Fire trails and fire roads—City does not have an accurate plan—assignment to complete plan to someone in fire department (just discovered two more trails that no one knew about)—how to approach it. Who, when is it to be finished. Evacuation Stairs are maps, some never built (designated)—City dust off those maps, survey which one exists—part of safety element of general plan—this could be discussed with Sabrina next week.

Cite City for being in violation of their own fire code, but our fire inspectors feel they can’t cite the City.

Citation for dead trees on public property; (see click fix) Use it for the record.

Reopen equestrian Center – goat grazed for first time in 7 years, how did it fall off the list—This too could be mentioned to Sabrina next week and the Board felt that Dinah could draft a letter to the City on these items and route it for review and add it as item on agenda for our next meeting.

Push with WPAD, pressure to get it out CALTRANS-- Contact Mark Grissom where are things with and on Roadside visibility.

11. Next Meeting Saturday, February 13, 11 am.



Meeting adjourned at 3:29pm