



Oakland Firesafe Council
Board Meeting
August 18, 2017
33 Hiller Drive, Oakland 94618
10:00 am- Noon
DRAFT MINUTES

Members present; Mike Kilian, Ken Benson, Dinah Benson, Gordon Piper, Bob Sieben, Steve Hansen, Carolyn Burgess, Martin Mataresse, and Allene Warren

1. Approval of Minutes- Minutes Approved

2. Treasurer's Report- \$2,545 balance—\$2,000 check from Signature Properties—no mention of Demonstration Garden with their check.

3. Old Business

Wildfire Prevention Budget and discussion of 2017 inspections— Survey of North Hills indicates possible compliance problems on both public and private properties and general discussion followed:

- Why can't fire fighters—do the second inspection-- they could follow up on complaints—reviewing the standards, done right it could work but historically the firefighters are inconsistent;
- Citation Process is so long—staffing shortfalls are a concern
- Hiller Highlands training and follow up inspection worked
- East Oakland—first time post inspection—more teeth this time around (heard at National Night Out, neighborhood meetings) first time in years that seems to have more teeth and homeowners removing dead and dying trees.
- Oak death in East Oakland—Vince Crudele has done an excellent job to pursue private parcel owners re removing trees and inspecting the work.
Then Board discussed doing similar survey in another part of the former WPAD like North Hills.
 - City's zoning map—can get parcel numbers for an area
 - **Use current fire inspection form**, study training package—make it a statistically valid survey—5%==26,000 process—400 to 600 parcels—96% confidence.

Concern about blow back—several Board Members did not want to be in contention or seen as auditing the Fire Departments inspections of parcels. Some members thought the City could provide a van and Keep Oakland Beautiful drive around to see help some of addresses; pictures—and try and do similar but not be worried about statistically valid survey.

The Board asked that Steve Hanson look at Fire Code criteria and see how he might simply make it more parcel owner 'friendly', useable and understandable. Board discussed the proposed purpose of the secondary area to be subject to review as:

- Education
- Get City to focus on its processes to make us safer—compliance process, training and follow up inspections
- Include in vegetation Management plan—not just city properties—what's next to it.

Motion was made and seconded to perform an observational survey in at least one other section of former WPAD, and then make a report to Public Safety Committee with suggestions for strategies the situation. This passed with 7 yes and 2 no votes.

Other Old Business:

- a. Collaboration with United Policyholders & Diablo Firesafe Council- minor update given by the Chair.
 - b. Vegetation Management Plan—Expected informational release later in September.
 - c. Parking in the Hills/Evacuation Routes- Nothing new no update.
 - d. Oakland Fire Chief Search- Steve Hanson on the review committee and he discussed the 3 finalist in general terms.
4. Continuing Discussion on Structure of a New Wildfire Prevention District- This was not discussed in any detail

Other- Visioning Oakland Berkeley Hills where we want to go in terms of fire safety, vegetation management and what it will look like down the road. Gordon contacted Joe McBride, Professor emeritus at UC Berkeley about doing a vision process in Oakland.—Demonstration projects—

Graduate students – what we would like to see develop plan-vision and programs—going for funding and partners. Any connection to UC would help us, urban forestry and fire science would be helpful. Do no harm--

Educational Outreach: California Native Garden Foundation—resources, develop a more fire resistant garden—natives, or succulents and programs or opportunities---- In planning—how to apply in the field

Dinah's proposal re promoting legislation

- SWIMMING POOLS—Moraga Fire District doing it as redundant source of water – if it is locked, how close should fire be before you break the gate;

Only thing we cannot do, advocate on specific legislation in the public hearings-501c3—and like with a New District re: can advocate until once it is on the ballot, then can only do it as a political action committee or through an action committee and not OFSC directly.

Future business or fundraising Board Discussion:

- Insurance Charitable Foundation funding for disaster preparedness—grant – board member with the Foundation; and come up with a grant.
- Educational program-- Cost-- of distribution for book—2 per copy without the mailing cost

Carolyn Burgess brought up Claremont and its planned development project—Signature Properties—Vegetation Management –open not aware about Vegetation plan for Eucalyptus— not sure neighbors above started—

Board discussed concerns with inspector levels and staffing not meeting recently passed City 2017-2019 Budget and related Fire Inspector Priorities. Meeting week of 9/11/2017 with Mayor and City Administrator to discuss inspectors, hiring and part time practices and share our concerns.

Gordon Piper discussed North Oakland Sports Field—EBRP \$1 million for trail; deadline for using this million dollars to build trail; Civic Corps possibility to log out junky vegetation at Sports Trail and take advantage of million that's sitting there. Get a crew to work in North Oakland, do trail project, fire resistant landscaping; who in city is the point person, what work have they done in planning this, -- Leslie Estes—find out who's done work, what is the deadline? Is it possible to get access and potential vegetation removal funding from this funding source?

5. Next Meeting: September 23, 10 are at Sue's House 33 Hiller Drive.
6. Meeting adjourned.