



**Oakland Firesafe Council
Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2020
11140 Ettrick Street, Oakland, CA 94605
10-Noon**

Present:

Lin Barron
Ken Benson
Carolyn Burgess
Jerry Kent
Michael Killian
Martin Matarrese
Bob Meyers
Doug Mosher
Gordon Piper
Sue Piper
Robert Sieben
Elizabeth Stage
Nick Vigilante

10am called to order

1. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2020—approved as mailed
2. Treasurer’s Report - \$34767 in the bank; obligations—Cal Fire grant—to \$14,700 total unencumbered. \$15,410 Donations, CalFire, Cal Foundation, stipend Claremont Hotel earmarked to NHCA. City of Oakland provided \$125,000 matching grant but not received yet.
3. Old Business
 - a. Status of Mayor’s Proposed Mid-Year Budget Cuts to Fire Department’s Vegetation Management Program and freeze of CORE Coordinator position—No change—things could have happened since January 23—Nothing presented by fire department—staffing coming up soon—follow up with Fire Marshal—do you have succession plan—

Finance and management--all of those issues being taken as mid cycle budget adjustment—open posted to finance and management budget—won't started until late April, May and June—

- b. Resolution—actively reach out to media about the deadline as well as representatives send letters to the Mayor asking what is happening.
 - c. Status of Vegetation Management Plan release –Ken and Doug at Dimond Improvement Association meeting where Angela Robinson Pinon reported that she expected the plan to be released late spring and summer this year;, absorbing comments to EIR, follow up on that, middle of this year, time lime for finally finishing and presenting for action late summer of 2021. Gordon noted that as part of the CalFire Grant to remove trees at North Oakland Sports Field is a plan to plant with redwoods, but no water there. Also needs to be at least a 3 year maintenance plan because when you remove the trees there is usually growth of poison oak, French broom and other invasive plants.
 - d. Oakland CP&R--Neighborhood Organizing Update- Doug Mosher New website just rolled out; being enhanced, new guides; 6 former CORE trainers on our staff doing the work shop 1 and 1/2 hours long-70 groups want our workshops. Word is getting out. Running into problem generating interest. Videos of the course on-line, with pull down information. Encourage people to take the CORE class—once it is offered; get additional training—Neighborhood Watch, Workshop been wildfire centric—need to add more on earthquake. Grant is about helping people get organized. Preparing something for NNO with OPD/OFD first Tuesday in August. Maybe we can create noncolor slick versions to download—color copies are too much memory.
Engaging with Oakland Public Library to coordinate with them and Doug and Ken met with Alameda County Fire—don't have this kind of mini-Cert—interested In helping to promote through Alameda County. Doug mentioned new CORE staff now at OES, and a grant available for people trying to organize communities.
 - e. Status of Consolidation of Inspectors-Lisa Jacobs would check internally as to reason for delays
 - f. Coordinating Adopt- A - Spot with Vegetation Management Contracts – Lisa to check on this as well.
4. New Business
- a. **Co-sponsor re-mapping of East Bay Hills**—Jerry Kent shared that in 1995 the Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) did the first major mapping project in East Bay Hills. In the coming year, Professor Radke at UC Berkeley, Joe McBride and Jerry Kent will update with Lidar—a lot better vegetation mapping. He shared the 1995 maps and described what they are showing: 3rd page mapping of residential areas—wood roofs, tall vegetation too much fuel on the lot, poor streets; model fires at 20 meters a second, 4 x faster fire movement—all under diablo wind conditions it's a UC research project, may take a year. Asked if this will be submitted as part of the EIR—because fire breaks are important to protect property and lives. This study will talk about fuel breaks – Lidar 3 feet on a side rather than 30 feet. Long term hope—you will be able to model vegetation with Lidar and satellite. Understand what the hazards are in the East Bay Hills. The Oakland Vegetation Management Plan didn't deal with crown fires—focused

on ground fires. Embers going a mile and recently in Australia they were blown as far as 12 miles. Board asked Jerry to keep us updated on Lidar mapping project and then further discussion focused on Tree Division in the city and that Parks doesn't maintain—so the Vegetation Management Plan needs to have resources to maintain—and more than just trees.

- b. New Board members—the Board approved the addition of Robert Meyers, representing Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association, and Martin Mataresse to the Board.
- c. Election of officers – Reapproved the following officers:
 - i. Sue Piper, Chair
 - ii. Barbara Goldenberg, Vice Chair
 - iii. Ken Benson, Secretary
 - iv. Michael Kilian, Treasurer
- d. Annual review of Conflict of Interest Statement—Board members reviewed; Board members will be asked to sign and date the statement at the next meeting.
- e. Independent Contractor Agreement—Approved.
- f. Vegetation Management Support—expand OFSC's program to include matching grants to help Firewise candidates and OWLs with vegetation management and creating fire breaks. not just grants but plants. Some of these groups need resources-- \$\$, volunteers, plants, dumpsters, etc. Salesforce—1 million volunteer hours and millions to nonprofits-- \$5,000 a work day.
- g. AB 2367—shared information--
- h. Collaboration OFSC MNC, NHCA, creation and production of Park like someone's life depends on it Design and produce lawn signs—several community produce and market them—Access to Oakland matching grant---consider that as part—who do we network with groups already active. What value in getting message across—How is that effective—needs to be educational piece—have a subcommittee to work on educational, marketing plan—Chairs of organizations to talk about how to collaborate on this—path find an approach to flesh out the details—implement.
Where our desires and promotional interests where that aligns with the others—figure where those Venn diagrams are-- Sue will follow up with other groups. Bob, get rid of the bad stuff, good stuff comes in naturally. Cut stuff, put in habitat piles. After the goats—good stuff took off. Ken—likes about it, this is a fund raising vehicle. Need to empower city to do a better job—this type of a thing—to help them do a better job with the 10 year vegetation management plan.
Barbara—group in Kensington—for 12 years started doing similar things. Right of entry to EBRP becomes homes abut—after first 10 years, City of Kensington Fire Department matching any cash that neighbors put in—administered through Diablo Fire Safe Council, because of OWL like person, find four other “elves” coordinate their little area and raise money—now dedicated to their effort. It's a spark, get a neighborhood focused on this—people can contribute—I see the value to me and my neighborhoods—building that neighborhood community. Putting out the knowledge and message that we know works, gathering people to stand up in their own neighborhoods. Motion to study this further and keep it going passed unanimously.

- i. Bob—walked the Orinda fire break—incredible – that is where the North East wind hits. Didn't plant anything.—Barbara—positive—the Fire Chief of Moraga Orinda Fire District – has been explaining what is happening—they have 6-or 7 Firewise Communities because they saw the value in the effort. Involvement of Fire Chief important and they have a paid coordinator.
- ii. Diablo Fire Safe—in May update of Alameda Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan—meetings at Trudeau and in Castro Valley—I will represent us. Last time update in 2012—County didn't endorse it at time, but important for Federal Grants. Carolyn, to have the pictures Bob took—showing what is going in other parts of region—to encourage cross pollination of energy. Cal Fire just approved statewide programmatic vegetation management EIR—probably in litigation—key actors CalFire regional Director—a lot of grant.
- iii. Nick--PG & E major trimming in Shepherd Canyon this spring—amenable to meeting with other neighbors, block groups- to look at problem solving met with Vegetation Management Coordinator
- iv. Gordon--Opportunity to work with state agencies in making a difference—Caltrans
- v. Ken—PG&E CPUC just had their wildfire audit report—told Federal Judge and PG&E have to improve before June—plan to reorganize and come out—state opposed it. Your performance metrics for improving safety and vegetation management—need to watch what happens.
Multiple county supervisors are up for election—Scott Haggerty, Nate Miley and Keith Carson have people running against them. Nate has made wildfire prevention and planning front and center, ER preparedness—window opening to broaden—communicate with supervisors
Elizabeth Echols appointed to EBRP board—runs CPUC rate payer program—in Sacramento and SF dealing with fire safety.

5. Outreach – via OCP&R

- a. Alameda County Emergency Preparedness Day—Saturday, February 29 8-Noon
- b. County Meeting for Emergency Preparedness Managers—Thursday, March 5
- c. Maxwell Park Prep Day – Saturday, March 14 8-Noon—Melrose Leadership Academy
- d. NFPA's Wildfire Preparedness Day—Saturday, May 2

6. Next Meeting

Saturday, March 21 10am at 11140 Ettrick Street, Oakland.CA 94605

Adjourned at 12:10pm