



Oakland Firesafe Council  
Conference Call Meeting  
March 21, 2020

Present:

Lin Barron  
Ken Benson  
Haywood Blake  
Rene Cameto  
Debbie Foster  
Barbara Goldenberg  
Jon Kaufman  
Jerry Kent  
Michael Kilian  
Martin Matarrese  
Bob Meyers  
Michael Petouhoff  
Gordon Piper  
Sue Piper  
Emily Rosenberg  
Ruthie Snyder  
Elizabeth Stage  
Nick Vigilante  
Doug Wong

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

1. The minutes of February 22, 2020 were approved as mailed.
2. Treasurer's Report—
  - a. OFSC has a bank balance of \$36,431 as of today. Encumbrances total to \$20,957 consisting of amounts due to/held by OFSC for the Oakland Community Preparedness and Response Project and the North Hills Community Association (Gateway Exhibit Center). Free and clear is the result of \$15,474.
  - b. Members approved transferring Claremont Donations earmarked to the Gateway Exhibit Center to North Hills Community Association Garden Committee, which is the designated Adopt-a-Spot steward for the Gateway Garden

### 3. Old Business

- a. **Status of Mayor's Proposed Mid-Year Budget Cuts to Fire Department's Vegetation Management Program:** Email From Lisa Jacobs: "Dan Kalb did want me to let you know that regarding #4 below several weeks ago he discussed with Adam Benson the \$600K that the Mayor had wanted to remove from the vegetation management budget because of a potential cannabis tax income shortfall. That risk is no longer in place. However, the COVID-19 shutdown will cause income reductions in Oakland and we don't know yet the impact of the shutdown on the mid-budget review and the budget picture next year."
- a. **Management Program and freeze of CORE Coordinator position**—Nick—communication with HR on status, he didn't know anything about it. The Emergency Operations Coordinator is no longer with City of Oakland.
- b. **Status of Vegetation Management Plan** release—next open session—EIR to be determined, release of plan not scheduled late summer 2021  
Shows that at best the City of Oakland is not in a position to manage this, Mike Petouhoff disappointed in Mayor's leadership of this and that it has gone on so long.
- c. **Oakland CP&R**--Neighborhood Organizing Update- approved \$1000 for video contest that engage young people, Doug Wong send description to all members to push and Debbie Foster suggested engaging the high schools. Members asked to help spread the word.
- d. **Status of Consolidation of Inspectors**—Nick Vigilante reported that 3 weeks ago, OFD intends to utilize commercial building inspectors to help out with vegetation inspections, not fill any remaining vacancies in vegetation management unit.  
Doug Wong added that he talked to Fire Marshal Orlando Arioloa who said he was moving inspectors into one classification – level out the playing field—and was sending people to Sacramento to take the inspector classes to make them eligible. There was lengthy discussion about what might or might not be happening. *(On April 13, OFSC learned that the two classifications have been merged, and that 5 inspectors who had previously worked in Vegetation Management have been assigned to focus on the City's vegetation management inspections and contacts for 2020.)*
- e. **Coordinating Adopt a Spot with Vegetation Management Contracts**—PWA does some vegetation management work -- asked for clarification, will only be working outside of WPAD. Parks frequented with larger numbers of – political view- open spaces old folks in hills. *(On April 13, OFSC talked wit OFD Vegetation Management staff and developed a process whereby Adopt-a-spot volunteer leaders would flag any major areas that they wanted to protect during OFD contractor work, provided the volunteers maintained the area within the flagged zone. OFD asked volunteers to do this work by April 27, because contracts for vegetation management would be going out quickly after that date. OFSC notified all Oakland Wildland Stewards (OWLS) on April 14.)*
- f. Annual review of **Conflict of Interest Statement** board members must sign & date
- g. **Vegetation Management Support Program**—
  - a. Met with OWLS, mostly interested in funds for contractors for trees and other things that volunteers can't do. Strayer suggested purchasing a use Kubota- tractor for support.. Applying for pollination project get \$1000, matching grant from Claremont Canyon Conserving Board—launch program-- Jon have to think about insurance and legal angle. Ken—a-g either Alameda County or City Council has in fact certified Measure Q—66.5 needs 66.7% --66.9% last Friday.
- h. **Meet with Acting City Administrator**--Elizabeth Stage contacted Acting City Administrator Steve Faulk, prior to his induction as City Administrator. He responded positively but since

then Oakland lost a Police Chief, Fire Chief and then Covid-19 arrived. She will, try again when dust clears.

- i. **Measure Q need for Wildfire Prevention Priority**—Gordon Piper noted the need to restore staffing for open space—put resources on ballfield maintenance. Improve their liaison with adopt a spot

#### 4. New Business

- a. Covid 19—should we be putting out messages—anything on our website?  
Need to be meeting with public works director after shut down.

#### 5. Outreach – via OCP&R

- a. **NFPA, Earth Day** – Ken Benson noted that these events will probably be doing virtual outreach on May 2. OFSC through OCP&R should rely on social media to give people information what they can do with their properties to pass the upcoming inspections—work in your own yard with your family without interact with social distancing.

#### 6. Regional District Efforts

- a. A uniform request for toward an East Bay Wildfire Prevention Vegetation Management Agency— Jon Kaufman explained that the Claremont Canyon Conservancy hasformed a committee--Glen Dahlbaka, Elizabeth Stage and Jon to promote using a Joint Powers Agreement for Vegetation Management in the East Bay Hills. The Claremont Canyon Conservancy has endorsed this. OFSC members unanimously endorsed the concept in memory of Dinah Benson, who was an early supporter of a regional approach.  
geographic area?
- b. **Diablo Firesafe Council** Lost its funding from CalFire—is it possible to maintain it? Where is OFSC on supporting continued existence? Members approved a motion to send a letter to Diablo Firesafe Council the support of OFSC to continue the maintenance of the program.
- c. Approved sending a thank you letter to outgoing Fire Chief Darin White on behalf of OFSC.

#### 6. Next Meeting

April 11, 2020 10; – Conference Call (*Cancelled. The next meeting will be May 16, 2020*)