



Oakland Firesafe Council
July 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes
By Zoom
10-Noon

Members Present:

Ken Benson
Chris Cullander
Jennifer DeGraaf
Jen Grimm
Jon Kaufman
Jerry Kent
Doug Mosher
Gordon Piper
Susan Piper
Robert Sieben
Elizabeth Stage
Nick Vigilante
Douglas Wong

Guests:

Lisa Jacobs
Dan Kalb
Louise K. Comfort
Olga Crowe
Rebecca Sanchez
Thomas E. Maiorana
Kenichi Soga
Nick Luby

Meeting called to order at 10:07 am

1. Approval of minutes June 20, -Add Elizabeth Stage on the list of Members Present on the Minutes from last meeting and by voice vote this amended approval of minutes passed.
2. Treasurers report: in bank \$186,22.81 \$3,402.30 encumbered for CalFoundation Grant, 51 cents to round up in bank statement and Treasurer updated form 990s June 2020 based on emails . Sue raised \$425 on Facebook



3. Presentation from OCP&R –Doug Mosher noted that the website now posts an update on Covid-19 impact. The OCP&R team is focused on distributing the 20+ Guides, securing virtual meetings, and messaging. OCP&R is making good progress; please check the website—www.oaklandcpandr.org The content is pretty complete with 20 detailed guides and a few more in development; four short videos in lieu of instructor-led workshops; 1 hour Zoom workshops are also offered ; social media sites, Facebook and Instagram, Constant Contact emails—tips and information , preparing for wildfire season and a bigger push in marketing and outreach.

4. Presentation on research projects involving community recognition of risk to wildfire and other hazards by Kenichi Soga, School of Engineering at UC Berkeley, Tom Maiorana, UC Davis Professor of Design, and Louise K. Comfort, UC Berkeley, who lost her home in 1991 Fire. Kenichi—started off with describing gaming theory and approach and then the work with the community of Bolinas California on evacuation simulation.
Comments:
 - A. Jon Kaufman--Results of game – conclusions would be helpful to share with public—how long it takes to evacuate
 - B. Ken Benson—successful about leaving early, what does that change—how our messages go on red flag days, results would be helpful
 - C. Louise Comfort—game will reinforce notion of neighbors take care of one another. Need to know all of the ways out of a neighborhood.
 - D. Jerry Kent asked how much fire modelling—physics-based model; cluster 1—statistical approach
 - E. Elizabeth Stage asked about and commented on keeping focus and interest in earthquake—Lawrence Hall of Science—had to plan as if on an island—preparation for evacuation and it may and would be different in an earthquake over a fire.

They requested a letter of collaboration and support from OFSC and the members unanimously passed a motion for President Piper to draft that letter.

5. JPA- Jon Kaufman explained that the effort is moving ahead. The Sierra Club is now officially on board, and the team had a very good meeting Mayor Schaaf and Councilmember Dan Kalb. The Mayor is on board and she confirmed we can use her name, reaching out to other mayors in Alameda County. The team is submitting a grant application as seed money to hire someone to do organizing local governments. Raise funds—Mayor Schaaf to assist in raising money—local government to fund it. OFSC unanimously passed Jon Kaufman’s motion and Ken Benson’s second to raise seed money to support the JPA effort and initial staffing, and passed focused fund raising.



Ken Benson and Sue Piper committed to donating \$100 each to the effort and asked others to consider doing the same.

6. Councilmember Dan Kalb gave overview on City Budget noting that the City is finishing mid cycle revisions and that he doesn't see any problems right now. The big effort will be next year when full 2-year budget will be back on the table and our lobbying efforts should resume in January. He added that he is working with Joe DeVries on interdepartmental coordination about wildfire prevention. The team will be working on resolution after dealing with Grizzly Peak
7. Lisa Jacobs pointed out that City's Equitable Climate Action Plan had more detail around wildfire and the need to complete the Vegetation Management plan as one of action goals coming to the city. OFSC Chair and group discussed and told Lisa and Dan Kalb that the City needed to truly make it a priority—
8. OPD—those who like OPD to be present at city council meeting the coming Tuesday be there to push for increased patrols around high fire danger sites like Grizzly Peak. Question is how much and how quickly to reduce the budget. Come on line—reevaluate structure of public safety response, alternate or additional ways for people to request assistance in ER or not, as one ramps up alternatives—that is when you ramp down and reallocate \$\$ as long as ability to make a call for service, and still an emergency response to respond. Some want to reduce quickly others are more understanding of doing it in a measured approach over time.
9. Open Forum:
 - A. Bob Sieben—Evacuated a year ago—moved to Rossmoor. DO what Lafayette is doing re fire prevention, no one able to come to our area because of Pandemic, can't count on usual resources. Hire unemployed young people, train them as fire fighters, take them off the unemployment rolls (limit to Oakland and Alameda County) , trained to help fire fighters, do public services, some of vegetation management; tie into the ex-cons who worked on fire prevention and cannot get work anywhere. Less unemployment counted against us. Give us public servants—paid volunteers as a resource
 - B. Gordon: some of Caltrans properties that are fire risks. Put on line service requests in past worked quickly; Wanted to share that this year Caltrans only has 4 crew members for all of Alameda County. A steep hillside between Gateway and Firestorm Memorial—pampas grass, broom and Caltrans properties west of homes on Hiller Drive -- west of Gateway—nothing being done for months—we need to be



working to get the State to be doing a better job. Not take care of fire risk on Caltrans open space -- high grass not being taken care of—we are at risk.

Next Meeting to be virtual via Zoom and set for August 22- 10am to noon- Meeting adjourned at 11:47am.