



Oakland Firesafe Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2021  
Via Zoom Conference Call

Present:

Ken Benson  
Richard Cowan  
Glen Dahlbacka  
Barbara Goldenberg  
Jon Kaufman  
Jerry Kent  
Bob Meyers  
Sue Piper  
Bob Sieben  
Elizabeth Stage  
Allene Warren

Guests:

Olga Bolotina, Council District 1  
Olga Crowe, Oakland Emergency Services  
Michael Hunt, OFD  
Jessica Feil, Oakland Emergency Services  
Joe Devries, City Administrator' Office

Meeting called to order at 10:05am.

1. Minutes May 22, 2021 approved as mailed
2. Treasurer's Report—48,000 just under—unincumbered amount—17,796, 29,900 is encumbered—Cal Fire Foundation Grant, CAL FIRE/Listos grant, monies to JPA fund, less any payments to JPA as of yesterday
3. Old Business
  - A. Regional Vegetation Management District Update-Jon Kaufman
    - 1) Moving forward—new endorsees Assembly district race in southern part of Oakland; 2 and working on a 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - 2) About to launch a website

- 3) Asking for councils and Board of Supervisors to approve resolution to discuss the JPA
- B. City of Oakland Wildfire Prevention Interagency Team—Michael Hunt
- 1) OFD Updates—Michael Hunt—1<sup>st</sup> month Chief Freeman sworn on May 17. First 4 weeks visiting every station division, to meet with every staff member of the department every shift huge priority; good reports from staff presentation is strong. First staff meeting with command staff, and division staff- priorities and 100 day plan Meeting with all key staff members
  - 2) Getting caught up on existing projects—will send
  - 3) More time in office—in last week, interviewing all of the new recruits, part of academy
  - 4) Graduation class with 13 new firefighter paramedics sworn in, huge relief to staffing
  - 5) Plans for Summer monitoring on Grizzly Peak and Skyline
  - 6) Zonehaven campaign- launches on June 15. Seeks OFSC support in passing along key messages
  - 7) Meeting with key stakeholders—in next 2 weeks
  - 8) This week—Zonehaven release June 15 rollout—starting with press conference at County EOC office in Dublin, press release Tuesday am. Berkeley got a head of it , every fire and law enforcement agency and emergency management groups. PSA released on 15<sup>th</sup> for next several months; jurisdictions, invited run their own communications operations, social media push, Nixle, Next Door, working with community partners, 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks earned media, KTOP PSA, Mornings on 2. Just get people to opt in and be aware of the zone.
  - 9) PSPS this summer and fall—convening meeting in next couple of weeks, meeting with PG&E, OFD , local officials, community input in that meeting—goal to be transparent, in person.
  - 10) VMP-We had sent responses to District 1 and 4, sent responses to those, lag on our side, consultants at Horizon, and City Attorney, and OFD, hoping to meet next week—accepting bulk of final recommendations—a couple of sticking points re language—making sure we can get to the place we don't have to recirculate EIR content. Looking at areas that may require recirculation. Goal to make sure – made public in the summer.
  - 11) ADUs-state allow ADUs anywhere without question; came back with recommendation exempt High Fire Severity Zone—did not get result we desired—choke points of evacuation and parking should not worry. Not enough specific of development in hills—we don't cap number of cars, no true parking strategy in hills—how big people can build on existing lots—OFSC meet with Joe, Nick, Michael—to work on talking with Planning Commissioners and Council—Zonehaven example from each district—I live at such an intersection and I'm not in trouble—use those as examples; widely available—Wave of attention following press release- pop those to Twitter—very compelling-- Zonehaven for making the compelling case you don't imagine what evacuation looks like from your personal view. Not wait to it gets to Council, move with our network with those clips.

12) Ken Benson--One of best practices from our study—Marin did—regularly traffic studies on potential evacuation routes and make that publicly available—need DOT.

**B. Joe Devries**

- 1) DU—look at process with the committee and full commission—originally went forward with just the S-9 zone—planning didn't understand significance of evacuation route—had to get planning on board—mailer to every house in the WUI on the vote downtown—not surprised at backlash—refined proposal—more surgical look-
- 2) Oakdot and Chief Luby on Grizzly Peak drive through—upgrade signs- no stopping on red flag days, large signs hinges- flip open or shot re red flag day, main points Grizzly Peak at entry points. Better reflector delineators on the logs; Plan to close grizzly Peak on July 4, Interagency team met on Thursday. Interplay with Lawrence Hall of Science reopening. Good about the plan for the summer—Not seeing large gatherings; up to a dozen cars on any evening. MOU—Berkeley, Oakland waiting for UC Berkeley—other partners at table
- 3) Submitted PWA for 900,000 for Cal Fire grant-- \$600,000 out of the grant process—tree removal along Skyline Blvd that might block the evacuation route
- 4) Caltrans—two good meetings on fire issues in past 3 weeks—State headquarters online, Reassessing Caltrans risk in WUI, covering more of their area; changed their standard for 4 feet road clearance, to 8 feet on either side. Caltrans look at beyond the roadway—all of property they own.
- 5) Die off—EBRP—we need team approach—should lead that approach—big ask of state --

**C. Olga Bolotina—**

- 1) preference to resolve before they come to council—ADUs ahead of Council meeting. Bigger issue than Council members—approvals where we build and how we build in the hills from fire perspective. Not capacity to have that conversation now. Going through the Budget—Dan part of budget team—all council members understand Vegetation Management and Fire Prevention—hoping will be elevated in the budget.
- 2) ADUs, organizing part will be with constituents from community

**D. Glen Dahlbaka—**encouraging the options to go to ground—root cellars—safe havens for short period of time—starting to develop that opportunity—tornadic research in FEMA—no position yet. Look at Australia—Glen to coordinate with OFD.

**E. Jessica Feil—**OES plan, made a presentation—designed to be read, understood prior to an event:

- 1) Protection-
- 2) Prevention-acts of terrorism
- 3) Mitigation—lessen impact of loss of life
- 4) Response-
- 5) Recovery—bring city back to normal operations in timely manner

Technically always active—short term goal to restore vital services as quickly as possible, long term to restore to pre incident annexes in the document

First public comment period—closes June 30, next open July 26 closes August 17, report to Public Safety October 12, Council approval October 19 My ask review the plan—what is necessary, email address

[emergencyplan@oaklandca.gov](mailto:emergencyplan@oaklandca.gov)

Elizabeth Stage asked what a kind of community input? Jessica asked for recommendations of resources that they aren't identifying for response and recovery—build outreach with community partners to support those actions—what community partners not integrating into this process.

B. Advocacy issues

- 1) **State issues—Elizabeth Stage**—By the end of the month finish state budget by Tuesday, and all bills on governments desk by end of month.
- 2) Bill establish Regional Plans—continuing to make progress through the Senate—restricting building in fire zone without having fire marshals, or evacuation plans to make it safer-.

4. New Business

- a. Approved two new Board members
  - 1) Elizabeth Stage—North Hills Community Association representative
  - 2) Steve Mendelson—Crown Ridge Representative
- b. Members unanimously approved OFSC moving forward with North Hills Community Association and the Oakland Unified School District to facilitate a pilot project to develop a vegetation management plan at the former Kaiser Elementary School Site as a neighborhood fire break, working with surrounding property owners and the school district to develop the plan and implement it through individual efforts and grant funding, if necessary.
- c. Jerry Kent reported that the Moraga Orinda Fire District is looking at schools as shelter in place locales. Jessica said that her office is finding locations emergency respite, temporary evacuation center and shelter—refuge in event of fire—send those to Jessica—mass care shelter

5. Next meeting scheduled for July 17, 2021 at 10:30

6. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.