



Oakland Firesafe Council
Board Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2021
Via Zoom Conference Call

Present:

Ken Benson
Carolyn Burgess
Michelle Cox
Glen Dahlbacka
Jennifer Foster
Barbara Goldenberg
Jon Kaufman
Jerry Kent
Peter Lee
Bob Meyers
Sue Piper
Dale Ridsen
Dee Rosario
Elizabeth Stage

Meeting called to order at 10:05am.

1. Minutes of April 17, 2021 approved as mailed.
2. Treasurer's Report –Monies on hand \$48,378, of which \$17,283 is unencumbered. \$26,000 in JPA fund, entertaining other grant opportunities, subject to change.
3. Old Business
 - A. Oakland CP&R--Neighborhood Organizing Update- Doug Mosher
 - A. Grant fund from Oakland/EMSD approved and working out invoicing process (work on OCP&R has been dialed back until resolved)
 - B. OCP&R Workshop given to a number of neighborhood groups, several more planned coming up
 - C. Have published 51 OCP&R eNewsletters to-date
 - D. Applied for a 2nd \$125k CAL FIRE grant to continue OCP&R Phase II, adding preparedness education for small businesses and promoting NFPA Firewise USA sites among other activities

- E. Agreed on \$70k grant proposal with UC Davis/Rehearsing Natural Disasters through Games and Simulations project, waiting for approval
 - F. Completed GENOAK backup repeater, presented program to Livermore/Pleasanton CERT org
 - G. Received Listos pop-up tent, banner, give-aways and handouts in multiple languages, \$3k grant check being processed. Submitted final report.
 - H. Discussed coordination with PLACE for Sustainable Living re Community Hubs and other activities
 - I. Working with PPNA task group on pilot to create community fire/smoke monitoring program
 - J. Grant funds raised to-date: \$276k
- B. Regional Vegetation Management District Update-Jon Kaufman
 - A. Still meeting with local public officials and now starting process City Councils and Boards of Supervisors to pass resolutions to send a representative to organize a JPA.
 - B. Raising funds to support the effort; received two grants from Bay Area Air Quality Management District as well as private contributions to support the work. OFSC serves as the fiscal agent. Funds still needed. He encouraged participants to consider making a donation to the JPA fund.
- C. City of Oakland Wildfire Prevention Interagency Team—No report
- D. The LAST Savvy Homeowner in our Fire Prone Community series
 - I. Thursday, May 27, 2021, 5:30-7 pm: The Savvy Homeowner: Insurance Matters, Misha Tseitlin, 2021 Princeton Graduate and Bay Area resident presenting results of 2020 OFSC/Piedmont Pines Insurance Survey; Amy Bach, Executive Director, United Policyholders, discussing Insurance Trends here and in Sacramento and what to do if your provider cancels your insurance.
 - II. Meeting with Master Gardeners about partnering on another Savvy Homeowner Series on Firescaping in November, December, January, February.
4. Legislative Update
- A. State Activity- Elizabeth Stage/
 - I. AB 9 – provides funding for regional planning moving to floor of Assembly voted on by Senate sometime next month
 - II. ADU- very high-risk hazard zone exempted from increased housing density because of problems of evacuation—different bills have different particulars; most of bills proceeding through process have some exception for Fire Zone unless a good evacuation plan or the fire marshal says okay.
 - III. We’ve seen a challenge/opportunity with CalFire is for the State Responsibility Area—most of us on this Zoom and in Alameda County and Contra Costa County, Local Responsibility Area—tend to fund in SRA; AB 1255 it seeks to blur the lines been SRA exclusivity to at least count LRA that work with CalFire or adjacent to CalFire. A ballot measure—S Cal dominates to detriment of Northern California
 - IV. Made stronger contacts with Sen. Nancy Skinner, Assembly member Buffy Wicks and at least 2 candidates for Rob Bonta’s seat.
 - B. Local—
 - I. City of Oakland because of federal money, but in worse because of all the efforts to add to homeless, mental health services—big ticket items pressing on the city with the windfall—Vegetation Management Budget not what it needs to be—will hire another inspector—

cross trained for building and fire prevention. But budget only did 80% of city own property—we need more money to do 100%—in Mayor’s budget only \$1.1 million—2 years ago, we ascertained we needed \$2million a year – we got \$3 million over 2 years; now 2 years of extreme drought – higher risk of fire. First counter proposal from Council includes Dan Kalb—he immediately recognized that was too little. Also need funding for the Interdepartmental Wildfire Prevention Task Force. Price of one inspector you can own 60-80 goats. New Fire chief lives in the hills, Nick Luby lives in the hill. Ken—from Budget Advisory Commission—VMP woefully understated; whole pieces understated. With CARES act money at least we can consider. One time source of funds—recommended look at priorities (wildfire safety is one), commitment to stabilization, look at new revenue sources. Finally, time for Mayor, City Council—look at what is coming as ongoing revenue from PORT of Oakland—5th busines port for containers, 3rd largest in US, growing in rapid rate, and amount of transfer not changed in 20 years.

- II. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan—Economic impact in the hills—loss to the timber industry—Chair put together 45 public comments and timber industry—this has to be a living document it would be remedied before City Council next month—how often will you updating—annually—pass it on to council now, you come update us in a year and tell us how it is going with the living document. Jerry Kent—LHMP required by FEMA, not carefully written in terms of fire; Santa Clara Unit of CalFire—includes Alameda and CC—list of concerns, Diablo Fire Safe Council—list of concerns, not a real plan. EBMUD, and EBRP—cities don’t have plans—only operate under zoning. The plan that is missing is JPA. Plan deficient, inconsistent lists.
 - a. Dale: Maintaining Joaquin Miller Park is a daunting task of getting grants to deal with dead trees-- Joe DeVries looking for volunteer mitigation efforts to prevent fires—2 acres, Willow Glen and Woodminister-- inundated silvery Acacia—thin trunks, so invasive, always arbor day events in appropriate trees, they have died. Proposed get a volunteer led group, if the city allow us to use battery tools--- trained—cut down one day, follow up take the trees to dumpster on JM—dumpsters free—proposed conservation corps to drag tree trunks down. Between Abbey downhill to first home—One of top critical areas—Not heard back—Deidre Matin encouraging, Sheng Thao’s office in favor-- Woodminister Theater – on red flag days—barred—if we have fire monitors – how do they cancel performance—Local stations KPIX, KTVU give localized information.
 - iii. Oakland’s ADU ordinance—OFSC weighed in at the Public Safety Committee and Planning Commission meetings and successfully persuaded planning staff to exempt ADUS from our WUI. A postcard was sent to WUI residents alerting them to a Planning Commission hearing June 2 at 3 pm. OFSC members were encouraged to weigh in on the Zoom call at that time.

Next Meeting
June 12 10:30 – Noon

Adjourned 11:22 am