

OFSC Minutes Final for August 21, 2024

Attending

Elizabeth Stage, Ken Benson, Doug Mosher, Joelle Fraser, Jen Grimm, Dale Risdien, John Brega, Lin Barron, Lynn Buckingham, Kyle Trambley, Nick Zamarano, Barbara Kruger, Doug Wong, Steve Mendelsohn, and Robert Myers.

Meeting called to order 7:05pm

Chair asked if there were any changes to the Draft Agenda and there were no changes made from the participants. Chair mentioned several new participants this month.

1. Minutes

The Draft minutes for July 17th were accepted without correction unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance was \$46,000 and an outstanding check to the consultants on the Regional Wildfire Coordinating Group of \$9,000 leaving \$36,000 and then the Treasurers Report accepted as read.

3. Old Business

a. City of Oakland. EMSD update – Kyle Trambley - Gave update as to calendar and upcoming trainings and CERT presentations. Handing out loads of materials and then using August to regroup. He mentioned July Fire watch and the EMSD Truck being converted via a grant to an incident command vehicle. Will attend the October 5th Preparedness Fair. Responded to questions and made commitment to follow up on upcoming training dates. **Wildfire Prevention** – In the absence of Joe DeVries and Michael Hunt, Chair reviewed the restrictions on City staff and elected officials getting involved in political activities; they are allowed to share information but not participate in advocacy. The upcoming Wildfire Prevention Zone campaign is off to a slow start, but submitted the argument in favor of the measure in mid-August and is preparing a rebuttal to the argument against this week. The chair reported on her conversation with Adam Ball, OFD Vegetation Management Supervisor; OFD is reviewing current inspection procedures so they can be improved next year.

b. Community Preparedness and Neighborhood Organizing – Jen Grimm, Joelle Fraser, and Doug Mosher

Doug Mosher gave an update on the planning and progress on the October 5th Preparedness Day at Ed Roberts Camus in Berkeley. GenOak radio continues to grow and is quite active in assisting with radio networks. Jen provided the link to the latest OFSC newsletter in the Chat for the latest OFSC Newsletter, reminded participants to forward the link to their List Serv's and networks, and encouraged everyone to send her newsworthy items at outreach@oaklandfiresafe.org. Joelle Fraser reported that she is the busiest she has ever been and there's continuing strong interest in Firewise recognition. She is working with at least 8

groups and 5 recognized Firewise neighborhoods and 1 additional neighborhood on their potential application needs. She mentioned that several are nearing final submission and will work with OFD on those final efforts. She is currently working with Doug Mosher's Skyline neighborhood group and all these efforts are going quite well. It is exciting news. Received Grant from California Firewise on her recent submission. Congratulations were given.

c. OWLS update – Lin Barron

Lin mentioned that there wasn't much to report but did mention that Friends of Knowland Park were very unhappy with the OFD grading of the fire trails at Knowland Park. There is a lack of communications/coordination between OWLs and the Fire Department on site based projects. There was a fire in Montclair and the Fire Department responded quickly. Concern is that there is a large amount of eucalyptus bark and debris in that specific location. Dale Risdien updated work and conditions in Joaquin Miller Park.

d. East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Agency Groups Update – Elizabeth Stage

There will be a meeting in September. See the chat.

e. Neighboring Wildfire Groups – Nick Zamarano

He gave an update for El Cerrito and on the inspections there and next steps. More are being brought in to compliance. Apparently too many gray areas on what is the criteria for passing inspections and they hope to work with Fire Department to get this made clear.

4. Open Forum

Chair asked Lin Barron if she and Doug were working with UC and the Smarter Connected Communities Group on Evacuation Planning and Lin gave an update and mentioned that there is a meeting with them planned for September the 9th. She further discussed the various evacuation scenarios and community responsiveness. General discussion regarding the support efforts and volunteers needed for the Ballot Initiative.

Next meeting September 18, 2024, 7pm on Zoom

Meeting adjourned by President/Chair Elizabeth Stage at 8:44 pm