

Oakland Firesafe Council Meeting
February 15, 2023
Draft Minutes

Attending

Lin Barron, Ken Benson, Lin Barron, Louise Comfort, Joe DeVries, Jessica Feil, Barbara Goldenberg, Jen Grimm, Lisa Jacobs, Jon Kaufman, Jocelyn Mapp, Robert Meyers, Dale Risdin, Peter Seidl, Elizabeth Stage

Called to Order at 10:35am.

1. Minutes

January Draft minutes were approved as drafted.

2. Treasurer's Report (Ken Benson, on behalf of Treasurer Michael Kilian)

OFSC's current bank balance is \$19,762, of which all is unencumbered.

3. Community outreach and education (Doug Mosher)

Continuing to schedule PEP workshops, sending Biweekly newsletters. Supporting Firewise – two groups are in process. Also working on fire scaping workshops – for better information about how to landscape properties. Planning for community preparedness day in August with a focus on wildfire but also covering other preparatory activities. Buy-in from Alameda County D5 and D4 supervisors' offices as well as great support of course from Oakland's emergency department.

Asking for suggestions about anyone working in event planning that would like to work on this project please let Doug Mosher know.

4. MOU Update (Lisa Jacobs & Jon Kaufman)

No specific updates since last month. This month has been focused on raising funds. We are now moving forward with trying to get the local municipalities and agencies enter into an MOU (instead of forming a Joint Powers Agency at this time). We have engaged Hanson Bridgett, a local law firm with significant municipal experience and public policy issues. We are awaiting the draft MOU from the firm. We are working to schedule the next meeting of a 'working group' – a subgroup of stakeholders – which will be asked to review and consider the draft MOU. The next step will be to encourage all invited parties to sign the MOU which will be a vehicle to enable the different entities in the East Bay Hills to.

OFSC, via the Bay Area Council, is set to receive grant from the California Coastal Conservancy, in light of our work to build a regional collaboration, to explore the potential of offsetting the

costs of tree removal through a process to create biochar. EBRPD has a much more significant grant for biochar exploration; the Conservancy would like our project to be in line with theirs.

5. City of Oakland Wildfire Prevention Interdepartmental Team (Joe Devries)

The cyberattack last Friday against City of Oakland has disrupted much work. The good news is that Caltrans has started implementing the activities included in its Vegetation Management Plan over Highways 13 and 24 over the next few weeks. This is not being done by their regular maintenance crews – they have hired specific contractors to do this week. In addition, they are doing some work on 580 corridor even though it was left out of the vegetation management plan. For more information [see this link](#).

Budget: Interim city administrator sees value in moving the contracting for clearance of large parcels in the hills from OFD responsibility to Public Works Department. Has support also within OFD and OPW. It remains to be seen what will actually be in the budget. This may be something OFSC will want to weigh in on in the coming months.

Budget picture is not good – at least \$170 million hole that we have to fill in the most equitable way possible.

Oakland VMP is still on track to be ready for review by August.

Starting 3-day cohort for CERT this Friday – Sunday – there is still room. The workshop will be at two locations in Oakland with plenty of parking at each site. See Oakland website for information on how to sign up.

Disaster Recovery Center – for people who are eligible for FEMA grants due to damage to their homes and/or properties due to winter storms of 2023, the DRC will help with information and guidance on

Oakland CERT all-hands meeting and exercise will be in April. More information will be coming – still in planning stages. But it looks like it may focus on Tsunami since Oakland is not creating an in-person event for Tsunami week in March.

National CERT Conference will be taking place in Burlingame in June.

6. Initiative on Climate Change – Louise Comfort

This week was the kick-off meeting for this NSF-funded project at EBMUD in Oakland. One new aspect of this project is simulations and games to highlight issues people are concerned about, such as evacuations. Harnessing the simulation capacity that has been developing at UC Berkeley – the digital twin which is a computational model of the interconnect infrastructure systems – currently the focus is on water-related infrastructure, transportation and

communication networks. Looking forward we want to add electrical infrastructure, for example, by partnering with PG&E. Fire departments, emergency departments, health departments, academia, community groups such as firesafe councils, smaller neighborhood groups

7. Advocacy (Elizabeth Stage)

No new information to report on VMP other than what Joe reported earlier. No new information on local building/fire code adoption either.

There has been a leveling off of new wildfire funding from the state – both the Governor’s office and Legislature. This is not a surprise considering the different budget outlook for the state in the past year given the economy.

8. FOJMP and pursuit of CalFire Forest Health Grant - Dale Ridsen

Progress is ongoing to pursue two Calfire grants for removal of hazardous vegetation in Joaquin Miller Park and other hazardous locations in Oakland, through two different programs: Calfire Health Grant, Calfire Fire Prevention Grant. Very encouraging support from Calfire and City of Oakland. There is more definition of the structure of the project. OFSC was able to submit a letter of support for both of these grant proposals.

9. Open Forum

Update from CM Reid’s office – Calfire taking care of removal of trees from Grass Valley Fire.

10. Next Meeting

The Chair proposed and participants agreed to a regular standing meeting every third Wednesday evening of the month, starting at 7pm. A reason to cancel a meeting could be due to holidays, etc.

The next meeting will be March 15, 2023 at 7pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8.30pm