

## OFSC Minutes Final Approved for January 17, 2024

### Attending

Elizabeth Stage, Ken Benson, Lin Barron, Kyle Trambley, Joelle Fraser, Nancy Rader, Jen Grimm Joe DeVries, Stan Weisner, Ed Orre, Dale Ridsen, Lisa Jacobs, Susan Silverman, Paul Glasner Martin Matarrese, Robert Myers, Mary Payne Norcross, Sheryl Drinkwater, Louise Comfort, Sue Duncan, Jerry Kent

Meeting called to order 7:06pm

### 1. Minutes

Moved by Dale Ridsen, seconded by Joelle Fraser, the minutes were approved as submitted.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance on January 16<sup>th</sup> was \$17,638 which was an increase over prior month and unencumbered was \$12,300 with \$5,628 encumbered within the MOU fund. Lisa Jacobs mentioned that OFSC could expect an additional \$20,000 soon from the California Coastal Commission. Ken Benson mentioned that Michael Kilian was working with Olga Crowe and City of Oakland EMSD on the \$12,000 still outstanding from our October invoicing. The report was received and accepted as reported through the chair for the Treasurer.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. Oakland – City update – Joe DeVries

12/19/2023 The City Council unanimously authorized the City to enter into the MOU.

1/16/2024 The City of Oakland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CalFire for their work and assistance in brush removal and fuel load reduction at Joaquin Miller Park.

Work will be over the next several months and CalFire crew will consist of National Guard Reservists.

Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) will soon be coming back to City Council for Final presentation and approval. City Budget Office is working with Joe and the City Administrators Office in doing the revenue per parcel planning for the pending Wildfire Prevention Assessment District covering the High Fire Severity Zones/parcel within the Oakland Hills. Target is for a voter initiative on the November ballot and Joe felt that there would be more details for consideration during the next month's OFSC Meeting.

1/16/24 City submitted a Grant Application to CalFire for additional Emergency Corridor vegetation clearance work along Skyline and evacuation corridors. President Elizabeth Stage mentioned that OFSC had sent a recommendation letter to CalFire in support of the Grant.

#### b. EMSD Report – Kyle Trambley

City has added additional staff now to EMSD and with some re-organization; all Community Outreach will now be overseen by Kyle. EMSD has now completed its Draft Integrated Preparedness Plan – a 3 year plan to be coordinated with all City Departments. They will have a focus on Wildfire Prevention and with a Wildfire Evacuation exercise within those 3 years.

Gave explanation and overview of CERT vs. CORE (no longer an Oakland Program replaced by CERT) and now over 400 residents have received CERT certification training.

**c. Community Preparedness and Neighborhood Organizing – Jen Grimm and Joelle Fraser**

OFSC Outreach and Preparedness team is working with Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson's Office for the planning for a Preparedness Day scheduled now for October of 2024 with more details to follow.

Joelle reported that Kaiser Neighborhood submitted their application for Firewise Certification and OFSC Firewise and Joelle are working with Adam Ball the City of Oakland Vegetation Management Supervisor on two more potential Firewise neighborhood. She also reported that the two certified Firewise Oakland Neighborhoods had successful renewals.

12/11/2023 Joelle worked with Sheryl Drinkwater and Diablo Firesafecouncil (DFSC) on a Home Hardening demonstration to a Skyline neighborhood and they covered 5 Easy Actions to Harden the Home. Sheryl mentioned that DFSC would likely be doing more of these Home Hardening Demonstrations in 2024.

**d. OWLS update – Lin Barron**

Lin solicited updates from all the OWLS and received an update from Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FOJMP). Dale Riden of FOJMP commented that with the news from the City of the agreement with CalFire that they are looking forward to working with them to reduce the fuel loads further.

Lin mentioned that City Council District 4 was planning an appreciation event for OWLS at the Joaquin Miller Center on 2/3/24 10:00am to 11:30am.

**e. Goat Grazing Contract – Martin Matarrese**

The updated Goat Grazing contract with the City of Oakland needs now to go to the City Council for approval and should happen over the next several weeks. In the contract, the Goat Contractor and Martin will work with the OWLS and with Oakland Fire Department Adam Ball Vegetation Management Supervisor on grazing per site and what native plant species may need to be protected and how long the goats graze at each site with Fire Prevention as the highest priority. Martin mentioned that he would be training someone on his duties and processes so that there will be a smooth transition if and when he does retire.

**f. Neighboring Firesafecouncil updates –**

West Contra Costa County Firesafecouncil (WCCFSC) has scheduled the ALCC Wildfire Hazards and Wildfire Risk to Structures Zoom meeting for 1/23/24 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Ed Orre from CalFire who will be participating in the ALCC Wildfire Hazards and Wildfire Risk to Structures Zoom meeting gave brief background on Fine Resolution mapping and its application in land use and wildfire prevention and fire response planning with highlighting the 3d vegetation typing and mapping capability allowing for better visualization of potential Ladder Fuels. He gave the web location [www.pacificvegmap.com](http://www.pacificvegmap.com) and mentioned that all the data is free and publicly accessible.

El Cerrito Firesafe – Sue Duncan spoke recently to their City Council in favor of the City of El Cerrito signing on to the Regional MOU. They worked with City Staff and prepared a grant application in response to the recent CalFire Wildfire Prevention Grant but at the last moment the City of El Cerrito chose not to apply. Sue is working on getting a meeting to understand why they chose not to pursue the grant.

DFSC – Sheryl Drinkwater mentioned the Pilot Home Hardening Demonstration on Skyline in December of 2023 and that they hope to have more in 2024. They are planning a Communications Roundtable next week and Jen Grimm from OFSC will be participating.

#### **g. Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) update – Lisa Jacobs**

Lisa updated all that the effort now should be known as Regional Wildfire Prevention Coordination Group (RWPCG) Update and that the work going on now is for the signed-on jurisdictions/members to identify their representative. Once identified the RWPCG will work with the outside consultants PlaceWorks about scheduling a meeting of those identified representatives. Lisa commented in reply to a general question that at this time the role for the community is still to be determined. Lisa and Jon continue to work with the RWPCG participants to meet with them 2 to 1 and see how they can move forward and likely this summer or fall there will be the Group's initial establishment meeting.

#### **h. Initiative on Climate Change – UC Study Group update – Louise Comfort**

Interviews were conducted May through December with key preparedness and prevention players and she reported that OFSC was recognized as a key organization for information and exchange of ideas regarding community preparedness and wildfire prevention and preparedness. The study is now moving to the Digital Twin and she mentioned that the study's website was up and available at <https://geomechanics.berkeley.edu/scc/> and thanked OFSC for participation and support.

#### **4. New Business**

No new business to report.

#### **5. Open Forum**

Stan Weisner of Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association (PPNA) spoke about the current planning for a May 2024 PPNA Wildfire and Emergency Preparedness Event and that he and PPNA were working with Doug Mosher and team on this effort like in the past. He asked about the new efforts for a new WPAD for Oakland and was given the update provided earlier by Joe DeVries. He mentioned that PPNA would be supporting that effort.

Question from Nancy Rader (BFSC) regarding the value of the effort to be certified Firewise. Joelle Fraser responded that it could reduce costs of those certified with their homeowners insurance but the higher value comes in neighborhood coordination, education, and evacuation planning.

**Next meeting February 21, 2024, 7pm on Zoom**

**Meeting adjourned by President Elizabeth Stage at 8:42pm**