

## OFSC Minutes Final for April 17, 2024

### Attending

Elizabeth Stage, Ken Benson, Joelle Fraser, Jen Grimm, Dale Risdén, Dan Kezar, Doug Wong, Jessica Feil, Joe DeVries, John Brega, Robert Myers, Lin Barron, Louise Comfort, Nick Zamarano, Peter Reed, Michael Hunt, Peter Seidel, Sharon Yale, and Stan Weisner.

Meeting called to order 7:03pm

Chair asked if there were any changes to the Draft Agenda and there were no changes made from the participants.

### 1. Minutes

Moved by Joelle and seconded by Dale, the minutes were approved with as submitted.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance on April 16th was \$11,725, with \$14,128 encumbered for the MOU (now WPCG). The Chair thanked the Treasurer for his efforts to encourage the city of Oakland to make their past due the reimbursements of approximately \$28,000 for the OFSC and \$6,000 for the WPCG, recognized the efforts of Jessica Feil and Joe DeVries to expedite these remittances. She also assured that our contractors and invoices will continue to be paid, using our line of credit, if necessary, until these funds are received.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. Community Preparedness and Neighborhood Organizing – Jen Grimm, Joelle Fraser, and Doug Mosher (absent)

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](mailto:outreach@oaklandfiresafe.org).

Joelle Fraser reported that there's an increase in interest in FireWise recognition. The resubmitted Estates Fountain application is still pending due to a backlog at CalFire; what used to be turned in two weeks is now taking two months. Joelle tabled at the Hillcrest Estates Homeowner's Improvement Association annual meeting, adjacent to the refreshments table, thus getting lots of foot traffic and interest; they want to start along Skyline, will continue the communities in that area. She's meeting with the Grandview neighborhood, adjacent to the relatively new Hiller Highlands group and the Valley View neighborhood is moving forward, deciding on their boundaries. She looks forward to presenting at the Piedmont Pines public safety meeting in June.

#### b. Oakland – City update – Michael Hunt

The Final Oakland Vegetation Management Plan will be at the Council's Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. That's where the discussion takes place and public

comment (email, Zoom, or in-person is best) would be helpful, though the decision isn't in doubt; full Council on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 3:30pm.

He/OFD and Joe DeVries have been meeting with Finance and Budget Office working on the budget and options for potential November 2024 ballot measure for the new Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) only in the Oakland Hills.

Joe DeVries wanted people to know that the logs on Skyline and by Marlborough Terrace have been replaced and chained down; the Caltrans roadside work on highways 13 and 24 will take place from April through August; and the CalFire work at Joaquin Miller Park work is going well. Good news, from OFD, MACRO has its own phone number and has responded to more than 17,000 requests in its first two years, and, from Joe, there will be 22 new Climate Fellows in EMSD.

All departments have been given targets for the budget cuts that are anticipated due to the deficit. We appreciate the fact that the goat grazing contract has been approved by Council prior to the spending controls that are already in place. Adam Ball's update for this month included the fact that the contract hasn't yet been signed, meaning that he cannot start their work until the contract is signed; the schedule isn't ready, hope to start with Grizzly Peak soon. Roadside clearance will be a higher priority for Public Works, followed by full lots to the extent that resources permit. Things are on schedule for this year's inspection process and the flyer should be in the mail soon. The inspectors will start around June 10<sup>th</sup>, with lots previously out of compliance and vacant lots. He's getting lots of calls from people who are selling their homes or losing their insurance; they need evidence of their compliance. He's updating the video presentation about the inspections, which is similar to recent years, and Doug will distribute it and put it on the OFSC website.

#### **c. EMSD Report – Jessica Feil**

Their outreach focus, to activate and engage young people in Oakland. has included the school district's health fair. EMSD is getting preparedness training into the schools, training teachers as instructors so they can offer a class for high school credit. Conducting Personal Emergency Prepared workshops at Castlemont High School and El Sobrante Church and cooperating with Alameda County Emergency Services on a community event.

In addition, they're planning an active shooter table-top with multiple jurisdictions and Commodity Point of Distribution exercise at Cesar Chavez Center, handing out 400 preparedness kits to residents. They're starting to work on the Local Emergency Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (every five years), have a grant from FEMA to fund the work. They need to complete it by 2025, now putting it out to bid, should get started in three months, want to make sure that OFSC is involved from the beginning, especially with the treatment of the wildfire threat.

#### **d. OWLS update – Lin Barron**

OWLS, via the OFSC website on Park Stewards, are being featured in several Earth Day communications.

#### **e. Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) update – Jon Kaufman by email**

The MOU has been signed by Alameda and Contra Costa counties and their fire districts/ departments, the cities of Berkeley, Elementary Cerrito, Oakland and Richmond and the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District. Additional possible signatures include the cities of Hayward and Pinole and the Kensington Fire District. The first meeting of the “Wildfire Prevention Coordinating Group” will be Monday, April 29 at 10 AM in the El Cerrito City Council Chambers. It will be open and public and available on Zoom; public comment will be allowed in person and on Zoom.

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

Since Louise last reported, they’ve been working on modeling, both in Berkeley and Sunol, a small town that has one road in and one road out, close to 680 and Niles Canyon Road. The simulation team has developed a set of five mini-games that they’d like to try out with small groups of households late summer, perhaps September. There’s a quarterly newsletter that Jen can incorporate in our newsletter. Connecting these models with Oakland Fire, Cal Fire, other sources were discussed.

#### **4. Open Forum**

Sharon Yale who lives near Thornhill has a tree on a City easement that’s overhanging her roof. It’s about 200 feet tall, so it’s going to require a professional and cost a lot of money, Public Works says it’s stable, so they’re not going to do anything. She got advice from several people.

**Next meeting April 17, 2024, 7pm on Zoom**

**Meeting adjourned by President/Chair Elizabeth Stage at 8:28pm**