

OFSC Minutes Final for May 15, 2024

Attending

Elizabeth Stage, Ken Benson, Joelle Fraser, Jen Grimm, Dale Risdien, Doug Wong, Jessica Feil, John Brega, 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 and seconded the minutes for April were approved with as submitted.

2. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance was \$11,574 and 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. Accepted as read.

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.

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 up to 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 14th, 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 21st 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 via Michael Hunt 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 10th, 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

Thanked Michael Kilian OFSC Treasurer for his persistence and help on the updating of the City of Oakland Contract extension and subsequent potential payments to OFSC. EMSD outreach focus, to activate and engage young people in Oakland 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. EMSD is 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. Nick Zamarano from Keep El Cerrito Firesafe gave an update on their efforts on gaining City Council approval for the MOU and on-going firesafe activities. Sharon Yale commented on her personal 4 year effort to get City of Oakland Public Works to respond about a neighbor's trees and brush. Jen Grimm put contact and email information in chat for her use and follow-up.

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

The MOU (now Wildfire Prevention Coordinating Group) held its first Public Meeting on Monday, April 29 at 10 AM in the El Cerrito City Council Chambers. It was open and public and available on Zoom; public comment was allowed in person and on Zoom.

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

Louise reported they've been working on modeling with 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 community. UC Santa Cruz has developed 5 mini-games (board based) for this summer and they are looking for other small groups for later in the summer months to work with on these board game simulations. They now have a quarterly newsletter and she will send that link to Jen Grimm for inclusion on our newsletter and website. The project is looking for a CalFire data specialist and or connection.

4. Open Forum

Stan Weisner commented that he and Piedmont Pines were looking forward to more details on the new 'WPAD' initiative. He is optimistic it will pass in November and wants to work with OFSC and the City for its passage. Other comments were made and positive support for both the VMP and new 'WPAD' initiative.

Next meeting June 19, 2024, 7pm on Zoom

Meeting adjourned by President/Chair Elizabeth Stage at 8:48pm