

## OFSC Minutes Final for October 16, 2024

### Attending

Elizabeth Stage, Ken Benson, Doug Mosher, Joelle Fraser, Jen Grimm, John Brega, Lin Barron, Jessica Feil, Stan Weisner, Robert Myers, Beverly Matson, and Casey Farmer.

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. Chair mentioned several new participants this month.

### 1. Minutes

The Draft minutes for September 18 2024 were accepted without correction unanimously.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance was \$48,759 with an unencumbered balance of \$16,000 plus and an encumbered balance of \$32,000 plus and the Treasurers Report accepted as read.

### 3. Old Business

**a. City of Oakland – Joe DeVries** – Is on family leave and will not be participating tonight and Michael Hunt gave notice of the planned Red Flag Warning but also is not available this evening for OFD.

**EMSD update – Jessica Feil** - Gave update as to pending Red Flag Warning. There was general discussion led by Lin Barron on the need to re-educate local media on the specifics of and warning regarding what not to do during Red Flag Warnings. Jessica mentioned that PG&E would be doing PSPS shut offs within Alameda County later this week but those were to be in the eastern portion of the County and no in the Oakland Hills. EMSD is finalizing hiring an outreach coordinator position that will be 50% funded for Community Outreach via the department budget and 50% from a Grant that is about Warning methods and technology. Also, the City Sirens are nearing completion of system upgrades but there will be no change in operations going forward. EMSD will soon start a project to work on evacuation routes and planning for the Oakland Hills and her team is working with Louise Comfort and the UC Berkeley study and will include OFSC in this process and more in the months ahead.

**Adam Ball conversation with OFSC Chair update** – This year's first round inspections are being reviewed for improvements for next year and initial pass rate was down to 80% and then second pass was up by about 10%. So 2024 has seen a slightly lower pass rate than in the recent past. He mentioned that with the late start to this vegetation management season that the Goat Grazing contractor still had two final locations that should be completed this month. Good news the CalFire and City MOU is still in force and CalFire is still working in Joaquin Miller Park and this was confirmed by Dale Risdén. They will continue their work and though firefighting has had demands on CalFire they are still working their MOU with the City of Oakland.

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

Doug Mosher gave an update on the October 5<sup>th</sup> Preparedness Day at Ed Roberts Camus in Berkeley. He said it was a success and that despite the heat they had about 300 participants and that OFSC had a booth with good presence at the event. He thanked Elizabeth, Joelle, and Jen who worked the OFSC Booth and interacted and answered many inquiries. Jen provided the link to the latest OFSC newsletter in the Chat and 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 7 possibly up to 9 neighborhood groups and there are 5 recognized Firewise neighborhoods and she is currently working with Doug Mosher's Skyline neighborhood group and all these efforts are going quite well. In addition, she will be working soon with Dale Riden and his neighborhood group as well. It continues to be the busiest time ever for Firewise efforts in Oakland.

**c. OWLS update – Lin Barron**

Lin mentioned that there wasn't much to report but did mention that the Friends of Knowland Park wanted to meet with Joe DeVries and the City to air their grievances regarding the Zoo and the contracted fire trail grading within the park.

Elizabeth gave a brief update on Measure MM and the campaign and the general consensus was that the opposition seemed to be mainly focused at the cost and or at the City of Oakland's stewardship of these initiatives and not at the goals and processes for Wildfire Prevention and Safety in the MM Measure.

**d. East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Agency Groups Update – John Kaufman**

There was a meeting in September on 23<sup>rd</sup> at El Cerrito City Hall. He mentioned that there are now 9 signatory members of the Coalition and that they are working already on plans around the 0 to 5 foot of structure zone and importantly on Vegetation Management Planning. He also mentioned that the Coalition will need to hire a half-time staff person to help the Coalition and that additional funding may be needed. Casey Farmer commented that Jon gave an excellent presentation on the Regional Coalition the East Bay Regional Park District and both mentioned that EBRPD would be participating with the Coalition as member of the emerging Advisory Group which includes the Firesafe Councils such as OFSC.

**4. Open Forum**

Chair spoke with multiple participants and specifically with Stan Weisner or Piedmont Pines regarding MM and next steps.

**Next meeting November 20, 2024, 7pm on Zoom**

**Meeting adjourned by President/Chair Elizabeth Stage at 8:32 pm**