

**Oakland Firesafe Council Meeting**  
**September 20, 2023**  
**Final Approved Minutes**

**Attending:** Lin Barron, Ken Benson, Madeline Briar, Olga Crowe, Joe DeVries, Joelle Fraser, Lisa Jacobs, Jerry Kent, Barbara Kluger, Robert Meyers, Ed Orre, Dale Ridsen, Elizabeth Stage, Susan Silverman, and Stan Weisner.

Called to Order at 7:03pm.

**1. Minutes**

August draft minutes, moved by Dale Ridsen, seconded by Lin Barron, were approved unanimously.

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

As of July 18th, the bank balance is \$13,623, outstanding checks totaling \$1,065, therefore an effective balance of \$12,548. 41 of which \$10,811 is encumbered for the MOU fund and \$1,737 is unencumbered. Lisa will contact the Bay Area Economic Research Institute to find out about the \$20,000 that they were planning to give to OFSC, ask if it's possible to direct it to outreach and FireWise work; she requested a one-pager that provided budget information and the activities and costs for this work. Moved by Lisa and seconded by Joelle, the report was accepted as presented.

**Old Business**

**1. Neighborhood Organizing Update-**

Ken for Doug Mosher, not much to report; GenOAK is continuing to meet for their monthly check-ins.

Joelle reported that we have a new Firewise recognized community, our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 64 homes on Skyline Blvd between Parkridge and Hanson. She's still working with the group as they begin fuel abatement in their area. It's complicated by the fact that they're wedged between Anthony Chabot Regional Park and Leona Canyon; they've learned that some of the land is EBRPD and the City of Oakland, so she's working with those partners to do their share. Still under development are Parkridge Estates, could be up to 250 homes, now scheduling their assessment with Adam Ball, and the revival of one of the Hiller Highlands HOA's that has 27 homes which is planning its assessment. Further work depends on raising money to continue this OFSC program.

**2. Advocacy Issues, legislative and policy issues—**Elizabeth Stage

Elizabeth highlighted the partners on the agenda, noting the importance of our relationships with these people from other community organizations (the Claremont Canyon Conservancy, North Hills Community Association, Oakland Wild Life Stewards, Piedmont Pines), other Fire Safe Councils (Berkeley, El Cerrito, West Richmond), the City of Oakland staff and Council Offices), and CalFire. She also mentioned the Governor's Wildfire Task Force that provides a

summary of the many initiatives that they are tracking and evaluating; they also listed important legislation, most of which has turned into two-year bills which is pretty common in a two-year session.

### **3. MOU Update--Lisa Jacobs**

The fire chiefs have been having discussions about the draft MOU and identified some changes that would make it work better for them, particularly that the focus of the MOU is policy discussion rather than implementation. The attorney said that their changes are fine from a legal standpoint.

### **4. City of Oakland updates-Joe DeVries, Deputy City Administrator**

The Recirculated Vegetation Management Plan dropped on September 20<sup>th</sup>, will be out for public comment until November 4<sup>th</sup>. There's only one public hearing, at a meeting of the Planning Commission on November 1<sup>st</sup>. If all goes well, it can be approved by City Council in December or January. He's looking forward to working on a new ballot measure and raised the issue of putting it on the June 2024 or November 2024 ballot. A June measure would have to go to the County by December 8<sup>th</sup>, prior to the Council approval of the VM plan, and wouldn't provide adequate time to assemble a committee, poll the voters to refine the measure so that it solves some of the problems of the original WPAD, raise money and campaign. The November challenge will be competition with other expected City measures, including the reauthorization of Measure Z. More resources for the Fire Department (e.g., data analyst, botanical experts for contract implementation, restoring the parkland resources coordinator position) and more accountability to the advisory group will be needed for a successful measure. The backdrop of dry Fall weather may also provide more voter motivation than a wet Spring.

Related items:

Ed Orre said that there will be another grant opportunity in the Fall where Friends of JMP and the City can revise their proposal (providing support for OFD) and reapply, but there's less money available.

For unaddressed problems on City property, contact Adam Ball, Vegetation Management supervisor, copying Joe; on Cal Trans property, Anna Martinez, interdepartmental coordinator, copying Joe.

Olga Crowe, Emergency Management Services Division

The integrated planning effort continues, they are welcoming Climate Action fellows to with community-centered work and they're in the process of hiring two staff.

### **5. Initiative on Climate Change**

No report, but website is up, Smarter Connected Communities,  
<https://geomechanics.berkeley.edu/scc/>

**6. Update from OWLs – Lin Barron and 7. Friends of JMP—Dale Riden,**

Not much in addition to the items discussed with Joe DeVries. Vacancies and changes in Office of Public Works underscore the need for relationships between OPW and the OWLs. They've started keeping track of volunteer hours, over ten groups and 50-60 volunteers; they've recorded 750 hours in the first month with incomplete data, good marketing tool for the City to understand the value of collaboration.

**8. Summer Fundraising—Ken Benson**

Online donations peaked last month. With help from Janani Ramachandran and Michael Hunt, meetings are being set up with Council Member Kevin Jenkins and the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, potentially Nancy Skinner, to explore new fundraising opportunities.

**New Business & Open Forum**

Ken will schedule a board of directors meeting sometime soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8.32pm

Next meeting Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 7pm via Zoom.