



Oakland Firesafe Council
Board Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2022
Via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present:

Captured on Zoom Recording – next meeting will list FYI

Guests:

Joe DeVries, City of Oakland

Meeting called to order at 10.35am by the Chair.

1. As written minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting were not available by the time of the meeting, the Chair provided an oral report of the meeting outcomes:
 - a. Sue Piper announced her resignation from the OFSC Board, and her position as Chair, given her move to Oregon.
 - b. The Board appointed the following to OFSC Board leadership positions:

Chair:	Ken Benson
Vice-Chair:	Elizabeth Stage
Secretary:	Lisa Jacobs
Treasurer:	Michael Killian
2. Treasurer's report – Ken reported for treasurer Michael Killian that as of January 21, 2021:

Funds on hand	\$58,438
Encumbered:	\$35,257
Unencumbered:	\$23,181

In addition, the JPA Fund has raised almost \$100,000 of which \$61,000 has been spent.
3. Old Business
 - a. Oakland CP&R (Doug Mosher)
 - i. First Savvy Homeowner Webinar with Les Putnam of PG&E ([link to be provided](#)). Very educational – Mr Putnam was unflappable. Disappointing

turnout: only 23 came (75 people registered). Will be considering how to improve attendance. Next session on Firewise USA

- ii. Circulated Year-end report (all should have received)
- iii. Have funding through June. CalFire – recent grant application not approved – CalFire appears to be really focused on vegetation management, less so on education. Oakland – still waiting to hear whether funding will continue after June 2022.
- iv. Doing a lot of good work presenting to NCPs, CABs. However, Doug found out that Oakland Emergency Management Services Division is presenting OCP&R information in their workshops. Will be discussing with Oakland staff that is going to do this going forward. Joe DeVries confirmed that efforts should not be duplicative or competitive, but instead be ‘force multiplier’.
- v. OCP&R created educational video with OFD: “Park like Your Life Depends on It”. Members received link and urged to review and provide feedback.

b. East Bay Hills Wildfire JPA (Jon Kaufman)

- i. Jon, Sue P and team, have been working for two years and making steady progress. In December 2021, they started convening meetings of elected officials and administrative and fire officials; from 18 to 22 jurisdictions/agencies were represented at meetings so far.
- ii. One thing discovered is that elected officials are more excited than fire officials, for very understandable reasons. Now focused on working with elected officials to talk to their fire departments so there is more agreement within whole public sector.
- iii. Jon secured additional \$20K grant from William H Donner Foundation. Estimate we will need additional \$10K to get us through June. The effort raised \$9500 from community – individuals and organizations - so might be looking back to this source.

c. Advocacy Update (Elizabeth Stage)

- i. Key personnel in OFD and OPD are leaving; Elizabeth is working on building new relationships with key city departments.
- ii. Redistricting Commission. Oakland is heading toward Oakland Hills being covered by three districts instead of four, because the Hills haven’t experienced as much population growth as other parts of the city. The proposal to have all Oakland Hills confined to a single district was rejected. [NOTE: On 1.26.22 the Redistricting Commission held another meeting and endorsed a new map which folds North Hills into D4; this map quite likely to be adopted by City Council in February.]
- iii. AB 9 (regional wildfire planning) went into effect in January. One of its components was a new position in the State Fire Marshal’s office. The fact that this position was already filled January 5 shows they are serious.

- iv. Tracking new state program: 'Fire Risk Reduction Communities' which will apparently help prepared communities access State funding more efficiently. In the process of defining criteria; once that issued, applications will be due April 1. Not sure whether Oakland will qualify.
- d. City of Oakland update (Joe DeVries)
- i. Vegetation Management Plan. Predict new draft coming to Council in February. There is Council directive to prepare ballot measure on new wildfire prevention assessment district for fall so there is great urgency to finalize VMP.
 - ii. Log placements. Continuing with treatments on Skyline; area below Castle Drive on list to be addressed.
 - iii. Installed 8 large Red Flag Day signs and updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to have staff attend to them.
 - iv. New OPW staff. Jackie Salas will manage open space program, including Joaquin Miller Park, Dimond Canyon. David Moore and team working hard to identify new money. Priority will be to take down dead trees.
 - v. ADU legislation. Planning got it across the finish line, got most of what we wanted. Planning is now keeping an eye on implementation of SB 9 (zoning).
 - vi. Fire hydrant maintenance. OFD gathering info now; hoping to implement necessary protection measures this winter.
4. New business
- a. Strategic Direction Update. Ken invited interested members to form an ad hoc committee to consider a new strategic direction for the organization. The committee would operate informally and report back monthly to the full group. The goal is to have the new strategic direction adopted no later than August. Ken agreed to chair; he will solicit interested members and set up the first meeting.
5. Next meeting
- Saturday, February 26, 2022 (February 19th is on President's Day Weekend)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12 noon.