

Oakland Firesafe Council
Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2022 10:30
Via Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present¹:

Ken Benson
Lisa Jacobs
Bob Meyers
Steve Mendelson
Elizabeth Stage

Board members Absent:

Lin Barron
Barbara Goldenberg
Michael Kilian
Martin Matarrese
Dee Rosario
Robert Sieben
Allene Warren

Community members and guests:

Sue Piper
Olga Crowe, EMSD, City of Oakland
Joe Devries, City Administrator's Office, City of Oakland

Meeting called to order at 10.36 am by the Chair.

1. Approval of Minutes
DECISION: Board Approved March 19, 2022 Draft minutes as submitted.
2. Treasurer's Report (Ken Benson for Michael Kilian)

FOR INFORMATION:

Current balance is \$60,057 plus any deposits made during month of April – from Oakland EMSD totaled almost 10,000. Have paid all outstanding invoices. Leaving a balance over 55,000 – of which \$23,280 is unencumbered.

JPA account: 83,709 paid to consultant, leaving 32,288. Includes grants BAAQMD and Donner Family Foundation

3. Old Business

- a. Oakland CP&R--Neighborhood Organizing Update- Report provided by Doug, summarized by Ken.

FOR INFORMATION:

As of April 23. 3600 individuals including 790 at workshops. 13 separate NCPC groups. Special thanks to Olga and EMSD

b. Regional Vegetation Management JPA Update-

FOR INFORMATION: Update from Jon Kaufman read by Chair Benson:

¹ Any decision at this meeting is non-binding given lack of quorum.

After conferring with numerous local elected officials and fire chiefs, it was agreed that, rather than immediately forming a Joint Powers Agency, an intermediate step would be to expand and enhance the existing Hills Emergency Forum. The HEF currently is a less formal organization of fire chiefs from agencies in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The leadership of the existing HEF will meet to decide on May 10.

c. City of Oakland Wildfire Prevention Interagency Team – Joe Devries

FOR INFORMATION:

Logs are being placed according to plans and in some cases ahead of schedule.

Grizzly Peak – reconvened interagency alliance and there was universal agreement that 2021 July 4 plan will be in force 2022.

Goats starting in next 2 weeks. Caltrans goats also starting in next two weeks.

Starting talking about reestablishing an MOU between OFD and OPW. Historically OFD has had veg management contracts because of WPAD. Makes much more sense to have this work in OPW. Including public pathways.

e. Advocacy issues—Elizabeth Stage

DECISION:

Given obstacles and current OFSC resources, it does not make sense to continue investing efforts into State legislative affairs. Local advocacy – including regional efforts – continue to make sense. This is where OFSC has demonstrated added value and traction.

4. New Business

a. OFSC Strategic Direction Update – Ken Benson

The group agreed that moving 200 or so regular donors to sustaining donors is a priority. They are exploring working with Network for Good, a donation search engine that would manage the monthly donations, and have money flow seamlessly to OFSC bank account.

The group also discussed whether we need a written policy to govern corporate philanthropy.

5. Open Forum

There was no public comment.

6. Next Meeting

Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 10.30am. [April 16 first day of Passover and Easter weekend]

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11.37.