Minutes of Oakland Firesafe Council  5-11-19

Lin Barron, OWLS, Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail
Ken Benson, District 7, Secretary of OFSC, Budget Advisory Commission, NCPC
Beat 35 Y Steering Committee,
Carolyn Burgess, NHCA
Vaughn Fillmore, Ridgemont
Barbara Goldenberg, DFSC, OFSC Vice President
Len Goldfine, District 4, Shepherd Canyon—former Berkeley resident
Steve Hanson, Chair NHCA
Jerry Kent, EBRP Retired, Claremont Canyon Conservancy, Sierra Club Public Lands Committee, Regional Parks Association
John Maccabee, Kensington Neighbors for Wildfire Prevention
Sue Piper, OFSC, United Policyholders
Gordon Piper. Oakland Landscape Committee, NHCA Garden Committee
Bob Sieben, Author of Homeowner’s Guide to Wildfire Prevention
Elizabeth Stage, NHCA, Claremont Canyon Conservancy
Linda Olvera, Montclair
Nick Vigilante, Montclair Neighborhood Council,

**Guests:**
Brandon Baranco, Council Aide, D4
Sheng Thao, Council Member D4

Called to order at 10:07 am by Chair Sue Piper

I. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2019—Accepted as mailed
II. Treasurer’s Report—$23, 500--
III. Old Business
   a. **Benchmark Study Update**—Survey and collect best practices from jurisdictions in WUIs around California; retained Jennee Kuang graduate student from Goldman School of Public Policy—50 respondents-final report—Office of Planning Resource going live with a shared data base.
   b. **Regional Wildfire Prevention District**—Jerry Kent spoke about AB 38 Jim Wood—OFSC and CCC monitoring and supporting it. First realistic attempt by CA to set up a fire prevention program for state, State board in control, representing major agencies in CA (land management, transportation evacuation and fire); No one in charge of fire prevention, nor locally. Cal Wildfire Prevention Board, 18
Regional Wildfire Prevention Districts (for us, Alameda and CC County)—charged to set up Wildfire Prevention Plan for Alameda and CC in very high fire severity zones, assist homeowners in home: hardening and defensible space; bill in suspense while wrestling with funding. Wood seeking $1 billion to be funded by state to establish revolving fund. Sue to ask Jon to draft talking points.

c. **Vegetation Management Plan**—Sheng Tao to meet with Horizon Consulting, Michael Hunt, Angela Robinson-Pinon, and Consultant—to see where the VMP and the consultant is—trying to understand when we will see that draft. Met with Mayor, on Fire safety, combining the positions for inspectors in budget book and funding of it; $1 million. Set aside for polling under implementation. Discussed what advocates felt are priorities moving forward.

d. **Oakland Urban Forestry Plan**—tabled

e. **Budget**—need to advocate at Council –special budget meetings, Finance Committee and Council; June 10 City Council President's budget. Do it now, don’t wait until June 10. All budget meetings open to the public. If can’t attend, email council and Mayor. Organize small groups. Nick attended Sheng Tao’s Budget Meeting to advocate for additional support for OFD.

f. **Resolution Proposal**—Sheng Fire Commission (SF model), public advocacy---staff, consistent, sold on a commercial reason (airport and port) economic engine to City.

g. **Neighborhood Organizing Update**—Doug Mosher sent in his report:

The Oakland Firesafe Council received a grant from California’s Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on April 24, 2019, to initiate and develop a community-driven and implemented Disaster Response Plan for the Oakland Hills. The two-year grant provides funding to assess current preparedness levels, identify needs and provide education and support to improve disaster response for Oakland Hills’ residents, businesses and other stakeholders.

Ed Orre is the primary grant contact at CAL FIRE. He noted that the entire $125,000 grant fund should be available to us starting in September.

Next steps that I will be helping to work on, and that I welcome any assistance from OFSC on, include:
1. Refining the Plan. Start to turn the current Proposal into a Plan that includes goal details, workflow tasks, deliverables, milestones, responsibilities, etc. Intend to use a project management tracking tool any Ken Benson will provide PM expertise.

2. Building the Team. Currently Lee Shin of OES/OFD will participate, Dave Shew wants to work on Firewise USA process and meeting with a couple others who expressed interest and Doug will be reaching out over next few weeks on NextDoor, neighborhood association forums, City Council newsletters, etc. to request volunteers/participants. Want a range of expertise/skills, including fire prevention, CORE/preparedness, evacuation planning (OPD), radio communications (ORCA), sheltering/supplies (Red Cross), business district leads, graphic artists (for creating compelling presentations and handouts), etc.

3. Contacting Organizations. Will also reach out to existing neighborhood associations/NCPCs, neighborhood organizations, business districts, schools and other affected entities (i.e. senior communities, churches) plus City Council members, OFD/OES, OPD, Red Cross, etc. Begin to build a list of entities to ultimately deliver workshops for, and identifying where the gaps are.

4. Building Workshop Outlines. Will begin to outline how workshops and materials will be categorized, created and delivered. For example, may create separate mini-workshops and supporting materials on neighborhood organization, Firewise, CORE/training, evacuations, communications, sheltering/supplies, etc. that can be delivered individually or combined, depending on audience and venue.

I plan to work on these as I can from now until September, when the project officially commences and we can spend some $$ on consultants/leads, workshop/materials creators, etc.

IV. New Business
a. Review of General & Specific Plans re Wildfire Prevention-Nick Vigilante—these documents very long, boil it down.
   General Plan, 2008 (OSCAR, Safety Element)—most relevant; OSCAR may not need more, well written, thought about how integrated with Vegetation Management Plan and EIR; Requirements to periodically
update—VMP and EIR. Open Space—creation of wildland park master plan for individual parks and open space areas, due to size and vegetation concerns; creation of Open Space Advisory Committee—PRAC stake holder, given oversight of OSCAR elements; Object C-10 pertains to vegetation management—one citation after 1991 firestorm, most important factor to reduce factor, not to eliminate species like eucalyptus, but clear debris understory. 3-46--3-48; Safety Element—Chapter 4 Fire Hazards—November 2004 policy F1-3—prioritize reduction of wildfire hazard, with emphasis on prevention.

**Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**—adopted before major fires 2017 and 2018—predicated on drought. Local hasn’t been revised current threat, on high wind, rain and build up of flammable brush and low lying green debris. FEMA approved in 2016—a lot has changed in fire behavior, and fire prevention. Technically good for 5 years, city required to keep it up date. CC 8622, June 7 2016—windstorms are found to be significant environmental hazard, include strategies in next plan—requires Fire Department to take lead on LHMP updates. Must be approved by City Council—public safety committee should be requesting updates.

—12 and 108 Fire Safe Combining Zone, reliable water supply to fight fires—EBMUD capacity during a fire, public safety public shut off—PG&E sponsor community meetings re public shut off--- sponsor meetings city wide

Evacuation planning not mentioned in LHMP
4 Community meetings, 157 survey responses.

Except for OFSC grant, city has not done much on evacuation except for signing up for AC Alert.

**Resiliency Plan**—a false façade Mayor’s office responsible for Planning

Progress on Highway 13- Cal Trans—Gordon Piper

V. Outreach
a. Wildfire Technology Innovation Summit, March 20-21, Sacramento
b. After the Flames Conference, April 1-3, Denver
d. Crestmont Neighborhood
e. Bee Audacious—Alameda County Bee Keepers Association – invited her to participate wildfire prevention and bee pollination can co-exist.
f. Wildfires and Climate Change-, May 8, 2019 -- timing, if you clear too soon, grow back, deprive bees of their food, don't see wildflowers, if clear too late burn down. Don't do everything at the same time. Carolyn, we should be putting out same message about south facing vs north facing. Need talking points and central part to put information on it. To start community.

g. Alameda County Fire Commission for Keith Carson

h. June Fire Safety Fair with Buffy Wicks—Cal Fire, Buffy – leverage state dollars

i. May 23, Public Safety Committee—Fire Prevention and Inspections—MPC 7 – UC group did study

Caltrans vegetation management—NHCA wrote a letter last year, sent out again this year—the last few weeks, Caltrans working on the projects.

VI. Next Meeting Saturday, June 8 10-12 11140 Ettrick Street.
June 18 Noon DFSC, Wilder Ranch brainstorm new

Front Line inside the Mega fires—Fighting fire with new technology.