



DRAFT

**Oakland Firesafe Council
Board Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2020
Via Zoom Conference Call**

Present:

Cynthia Barbara
Lin Barron
Margo Bart
Ken Benson
David Boatwright
Chris Cullander
Barbara Goldenberg
Jon Kaufman
Jerry Kent
Barbara Kluger
Martin Matarrese
Doug Mosher
Joe Mulholland
Robert Meyers
Mike Petouhoff
Gordon Piper
Sue Piper
Leslie Smith
Elizabeth Stage
Nick Vigilante
Doug Wong

Guests:

Joe Devries, Chair of City Wildfire Prevention Task Force
Michael Hunt, OFD Chief of Staff
Lisa Jacobs, Dan Kalb's Office
Nick Luby, Deputy Fire Chief, OFD
Rebecca Sanchez, Sheng Thao's Office
Zac Unger, President, Local 55

Meeting called to order at 10:01 am.



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1. Approval of Minutes August 22, 2020—accepted as mailed
2. Treasurer's Report
Amount in Bank: \$32,933.55, encumbered for OC&R grant \$8,000; CalFire grant 2,700
Amount of the above which reflects contributions for the Regional Planning project; i.e., the JPA: \$4,350. .
3. Old Business
 - a. **Oakland CP&R--Neighborhood Organizing Update-** Doug Mosher-Continuing to add to website, building evacuation guidelines, 22 detailed guides in Spanish now on site; 2000 separate visitors this month; growing month over month—sending out e-newsletters just about weekly—ramping up communications to other areas of Oakland through NCPCs, religious organizations, realtors, community organizations to get word out to their members/ mailing lists. Recent publicity: *EB Times, Oaklandside, Rockridge News, Claremont Canyon Conservancy Newsletter* to help get word out

OCP&R presentations:- 5 minutes to a couple town halls:

Provided OCP&R 1-hour workshop to:

- Burlington St, 8/31, 24 attendees
- Ivanhoe Rd/Presley Way, 9/24, 18 attendees
- Skyline/Moon Gate/Melville planned 10/8

Provided OCP&R presentations to:

- Maxwell Park NCPC, 9/9, 27 attendees
- District 1 Town Hall, 9/10, 25 attendees
- 22Y/Joaquin Miller NCPC, 9/22, 15 attendees
- St Mary's Seniors, 9/24, 20 attendees (preparedness for Seniors)

If you have a neighborhood group and want to have a Zoom on line presentation, 1 hour

GenOak—neighborhood GMRS system can get them through us pre-programmed, partnering with Alameda and Berkeley—neighborhood radio exercise during great Shake Out October 13, Berkeley, Alameda Hopefully Piedmont and Oakland neighborhoods, passing of messages and etc.

Great conversations from OFD, Alameda County – in terms of one stop portal page can go to get up to date news feed information Twitter feeds—a lot of real information in



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real time, people need one stop place All information out there, have to go to different websites to get it, no one

Really been a team effort—Joe, Cynthia, Margo – real team effort to put it together; work with other agencies to make sure information is accurate. Good conversations with EMSD and CORE folks, Great to See CORE being restarted. Make sure we are coordinating our program with CORE—we complement CORE. Want to work on ways to support each other.

b. **Regional Wildfire Prevention District**—Jon Kaufman

Moving forward, making progress, Alameda County city of Hayward taken the lead convening all Fire Chiefs in Alameda County and City Managers, making presentations to them. A little week in Central Contra Costa County—if you know of folks in those cities, community organizations or relationships with public officials, please connect us through Jon or Sue.

Bay Area Quality Air Management District is interested in funding to help get Regional JPA started. Talking with people who might be people who might be staff people to move that forward. Don't know where the money would go, how it would be set up. Working for several months putting together a group who are interested in this and a hearty thank you to all of you who have helped. Funding for Regional JPA \$4,350 as of Sept. 23, 2020.

4. **New Business**

a. **Input to City Staff re communications:**

Alameda County contract finalized with Zone Haven by January 1—Nick Luby, 8 – 12 week process and now begin identifying and working on critical zones.

Michael Hunt—content development is the biggest obstacle –biggest outcry following Labor Day, people did not know where to get timely accurate update information about preparedness, or what prepared for moving forward. What are the best channels—having a reliable website—in last two weeks, and existing new page, specific to red flag – banner exists on city home page and takes you to the Fire Safety/Preparedness page

Mutual aid event—seeing us a reliable resource. We need to figure what looking for—how much looking for guidance, what to do in moment or future, or what links to go to get the information.



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AC alert after 9 am—in past, if Oakland Specific event AC Alert, if Oaklanders want to see AC Alert in D1-D4 we will send it out. Rely on CORE, OCPR and preparedness --- know when to evacuate and when to go—
Joe Mulholland—definite needs, after talking to 100s of people on Next Door.

Early, where to go, who stays who gets out, where to go and where to go to get that information, pushed a lot of people to download Citizen Application (App)—older people—they can push your messages out for you—can tell you which roads are closed what OPF and OFD saying—did it on San Mateo for Laurel fire. Separate pages for just fire or disaster info. Trying to implement more controls for users.

Communication priority for Egress – early warning and what to do, when to move
Fires are dynamic—Nick Luby—best system in world will be overwhelmed when it's a fast moving

Lin- Oakland City Website—who deals with it in a crisis? Evacuation message should be on the home page of the website-- How I will receive it – one sentence-

Nick- door to door block to block, OPD bull horns, sirens, they need to evacuate—technology, AC Alerts Citizens, looking to harness, if you don't subscribe, you are not getting it. AC Alert can force messaging out like an Amber Alert—draw a polygon around a community, 24/7 Alameda Sheriff's System. Holes in that, we will harness it all, but need redundancy of policy offers driving through neighborhoods with sirens and PAs.

Destinations—It's dynamic based on spread of fire. Zone Haven project – this is built in there, identifying temporary refuge areas if you can't evacuate—or where to go in real time.

Red Flag Warning tonight—messaging we need to get out – reason National Weather Service (NWS) issues, that is the time to make accommodations for a weather event—move out of the way, if you have mobility challenges or serious concerns about how quickly you can evacuate, if winds pick up in accordance of the warning it is in your personal safety best interest to relocate before fire starts. Proactively remove yourself from hazard zone and reevaluate.



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Mike Petouhoff—monthly test—validate what sirens are and working.

Michael Hunt and Joe DeVries- Emergency Operations Center—Communications director on site at EOC or her designee—making decisions in real time and sirens are a part of that. Teams of 8 to 10 people not just 2 or 3 people and you’ve have leadership all in same building—decisions quickly.

b. Initial discussion about City Administrator’s Report on Wildfire Prevention

Elizabeth—7-10 Evacuations—Citizen to Citizen outreach about on street parking—wants to do message “Park like Somebody’s Life Depends on it”. Tell those people you live on an evacuation route and we need 2 way traffic—Looking for an official evacuation list—Page on city website—pilot project phase 1 from 2017—Pilot Phase 2 and pending. List on Page 8 too short, going through tons of spread sheets, lots of detailed questions—with whom should we work to come up with a definitive list of evacuation streets—that will need to be cleared of parked vehicles, construction stuff, so that people know they live on an evacuation tour and must take responsibility. Then move forward with regular parking enforcement, education, outreach, and if necessary, enforcement.

On Red Flag Days, send parking enforcement to the hills. List needs to grow greater evaluation and too provide those streets that need evaluation, now looking at Skyline and turn outs beyond Grizzly Peak—now because Working Group every two weeks can add to the list. How to prioritize and get out there. 7-8 Skyline sites—DOT started assessment—Send those streets to Joe DeVries. Elizabeth—will send her streets that she wants City to be considered.

Richard Illgen—No evacuation plan in Berkeley, Grizzly Peak, Marin, Spruce—Stay off those streets—important with any plan be consistent what you are going to tell people. Parking on both sides—convert some of streets to one way—

Ken 49 district Best practice study, what other cities, districts did in planning, Marin County—does through Department of Transportation—once identified evacuation streets, every 2 years, update transportation study and publish the information to



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other agencies and authorities who rely on that information for planning and response issue. It was the only community doing that in CA. we recommend that to other firesafe Councils and the working group.

Michael Hunt—thanking improved participation from every City Department now with the advent of the Wildfire Priority Policy and the Interagency Workgroup team.

Nick Luby—evacuation routes—will be the primary feeder streets, Fire safe streets—concept every street in WUI needs to be fire safe street. Anything fewer than 20 feet wide is a problem year round. Evacuation routes got to get to those 2 or 4 lane roads, the roads we use every day to get in and out—all the streets to feed into those need to be fire safe streets that allows you to get to the feeder street.

Joe—out of work of Working Group—have launched interagency Berkeley PD, UC Berkeley OPD EBRP, Orinda we made contact with 500 vehicles last week, last night 150 last night, meeting with that group next Thursday, enforcement MOU in our territory—

Vice Chancellor at UC Berkeley—push to close turn outs in fire season. Bringing together group to contribute to shut down these turn outs. Creating working group has put laser focus on this, now really getting input from as well.

c. Should OFSC take a position on Measure FF- Berkeley?

Measure FF—Special tax require 2/3 vote—a lot of money undesignated in there—where is that going to be designated—Allocate it towards undergrounding—a longer term solution. A lot of vegetation management that need to be done, groves of eucalyptus trees that needs to be addressed. That reduces the fire risk and likelihood of spreading fire—big issue of in 1991.

Help people to deal with vegetation management issues, than undergrounding. More important for immediate issues—use future revenues once we dealt with immediate concerns

5 million theoretically undesignated. Chairperson accepted move to support the measure-- and members passed with Chairperson to write a letter in support Measure FF.

d. Should OFSC/OCP&R reinforce the message of no BBQ'ing on Red Flags Days (wood, charcoal, propane or gas?)



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Oakland Municipal Code (OMC) on red flag days states no BBQ in city parks—use of charcoal or wood ; for simplicity no BBQ within an area that is surrounded by vegetation and combustible materials. BBQ' s in Open space within parks, East Bay Regional Parks are therefore banned on Red Flag Days however OMC allows for on your property-improved, on decks, can have BBQ at your own home. Gasoline powered leaf blowers- OMC and messaging should be construed as banning those as well.

5. Open Items

Margo- High tech gear helps spot fires better and faster—love application of technology—Alert Wildfire Org—installs and provides access to cameras—on the website—situated around our area, more to come—at the moment—confirm the existence of fire

Speak with people in Orange County—using these cameras as part of a cohesive organization of volunteers—400 people Orange County Fire Watch, activate during Red Flag Warning days—they monitor cameras. Nick- likes idea of volunteers—more cameras need to be installed—one at Coliseum—was concerned about ash on them. Are cameras in existence, more to come, opportunity for volunteer organizations to monitor. Who funds—PG&E, Cal Fire- Margo willing to talk to people in the know—Orange County, along with Alert Wildfire—

Nick Luby--neighborhood activities that would be useful—OFSC needs point person to take it forward. Barbara Goldenberg this sounds like cameras in Santa Clara county—costs \$200,000 and up. Take to Diablo Firesafe Council and then Margo Bart to send to Barbara Goldenberg as OFSC point person on additional research.

Nick Luby—camera installation working with UC San Diego to add additional cameras to East Bay region—one on KPFA tower on Grizzly Peak, Coliseum 2 months ago (light towers in East Oakland); these cameras are much less expensive. Multi state program—another tool in the Wildfire Prevention and spotting tool box—to get eyes on a new start. CalFire uses it extensively. We support the project, City not installing them or monitoring them. Agreement with the sites, privacy concern. Open feeds.

Volunteers-- Joe- met with Joaquin Miller group—so much energy and good will, who want to put in time, tap into and better organize that. Major Component.

Next Meeting October 24th via Zoom Meeting.



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Video available on website—Audio in the cloud—Sue post on the website, when we get it back, make generally available who participate—Barbara Kluger

Adjourned at 11:43 am.