



Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, May 20, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Richard C. Trudeau Center ~ 11500 Skyline Boulevard Oakland, CA (Wheel Chair Accessible)

Barbara Goldenberg, Chair, Doug Wong, Vice Chair; Lilah Greene, Treasurer; Chuck Bowes; Chris Candell; Don Johnson; David Kessler; Barry Pilger; Dee McDonough, Vacancy - Council District 6

Present: B. Goldenberg, L. Greene, C. Candell, D. Johnson, D. Kessler, B. Pilger, D. McDonough, D. Benson

Absent: D. Wong, C. Bowes

MINUTES

Call to Order 7:14 PM

1. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

2. Open Public Forum

- G. Piper started a discussion about tree removal, 10 ft defensible space and the need for communication with Public Work's Tree Section and Parks & Recreation. There may be ways to support the cost with collaborative projects and a tool lending library. This will be covered when Oakland Tree Section is available to make a presentation. The process for removing trees needs to connect the health of the tree verses fire danger. No permits are needed to remove Monterey Pines or eucalyptus, only species confirmation is needed.
- G. Piper initiated a discussion regarding the use of power tools by volunteers who are working on sports fields/city properties. The discussion will continue in Jun/Jul.
- Richard Kaufman, Friends of Beaconsfield Canyon/FOBC presented two proposals:
- a. He requested a property survey to establish parcel boundaries so that city contractors do not intrude onto private property and so that inspectors can insure that homeowners are in compliance.
 It was recommended that before engaging a surveyor that the City Surveyor's Office be contacted to search existing surveys for the parcels in question.
- b. Also requested \$1,015 for hand tools and storage bin on site to facilitate volunteer work. A discussion followed including encouragement for FOBC to raise matching funds within their local community. As FOBC is a subset of Friends of Sausal Creek/FOSC, a 501c3 already approved as a contractor to the city, a grant can be made to address this request. It was moved and seconded and unanimously passed to grant up to \$750 to be matched to meet the need for tools for Beaconsfield Canyon fuel reduction work.

In July, the committee will discuss a proposal to allocate \$50,000 from accumulative public outreach funds, to be available for funding community needs and projects.

• R. Kaufman briefly presented a proposal for a multi-phased approach to attack French Broom throughout the hills. This is a complex issue involving not only removal but preventing new growth.

More information will be forth coming.

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3. Approval of Minutes of the Apr 15, 2009 Meeting

Motion to accept minutes as amended.

4. Financial Report Related to the Monthly Financial Update – Donna Hom

As of May 13th revenue is up \$470k because April is tax month. Compared with last year at 95% collected, we are 99.11% collected to date. In March over \$200k was collected; most arrives between Jan-April. Of the \$206K, \$31K was for delinquencies and penalties. This fiscal, near to year end, we are close to hitting target.

Most of this month's expenditure was for goat grazing contract. Chipping, staff, and note #5 expenditure for map, data desk, and hospitality.

A brief discussion regarding why public outreach is considered "administration" and not "services provided." D. Hom to check engineering report to see if it can be modified for 2010-11. There's a clause in language that there is no administration cost from the beginning or no more than 5%.

The remaining budget for vegetation management (\$130K), will be utilized for contracts now out to bid but may carry forward into next fiscal depending on if the wet weather continues.

Discussion regarding goat grazing: Grazing has not yet begun because of extended rain. The five year goat grazing contract will be reviewed by City Council May 25th. After which, the ten day bidding process will begin. At present, only three of the seven goat grazing contractors in Northern CA meet Oakland's strict contract requirements. We expect grazing to begin by June 10th, with 3,500 goats to be in the WPAD concurrently. While the rain continues we will defer goat grazing so that we do not have to re-graze the same areas as the grasses continue to grow.

5. Public Works Agency, Tree Division – Presentation

Cancelled their presentation and will be encouraged to attend in June or July.

6. Staff Report - AFM L. Griffin

- RAWS The two new RAWS stations are performing beautifully and will greatly improve our ability to decide when Red Flag warnings are appropriate
- <u>Chabot Space and Science Project</u> Chabot will serve as project manager. The project will go out for bid shortly. Requires arborist with the amount of tree work that needs to be done.
- <u>Program Performance Audit</u> AFM Griffin has begun to develop the goals for a performance audit, (not monetary). The task is to find the "appropriate auditor." The proposal needs to be very specific on what is to be reviewed and reported, to independently determine and measure the performance of the WPAD. AFM Griffin will continue to develop the scope of the project and the advisory committee will become more involved as the process continues.

AFM Griffin will meet with City Auditor to determine potential costs.

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• FEMA Grant update

Moving slowly but the EIS process is expected to begin by July 1st. We have requested compensation for cost incurred during the delay, (\$70,000). The EIS is expected to take 12-18 months and no work will begin until it's complete. Following issuance of the report, the WPAD may re-present its recommendation regarding use of herbicides on city property.

7. Ad Hoc Committees Reports

None met.

8. Education, Outreach & Marketing Update - Fire Safety Education Coordinator

- Annual Notice Update shorter version has been mailed and well received
- Farmer's Door Hanger Project Arrived at Central Receiving
- Engine Company 1.5 hour Training session schedule was passed around for committee members to sign-up and attend a session at Victory Court.
- Wildfire prevention presentations in El Cerrito were shared and copies of their flyer was distributed for committee members who may wish to attend.
- Flyer was shared regarding A's & Red Sox playing Sept. 11th. A portion of the money from ticket sales will benefit Oakland Fire Random acts.
- New policy from Chief Simon each shift will have a minimum of three fire prevention presentations to the community. For the companies in the hills, there has been a request that their presentation includes Wildfire prevention.

9. Advisory Committee Open Forum

- Earth Day Fire Safety Education Coordinator shared a few photos of Advisory Members participating.
- S. Piper Suggests people go the website of Friends of Sausal Creek. Organization; there's a 250 page document that may be of interest to committee members..

10. Pending List of Future Agenda Items:

- Request from Scott Hill, EBMUD to present to board on weather data with real time report
- Insurance Debunked Myths Scott Halbrook
- PWA's Tree Division Plans for our aging manmade forest Arboricultural Inspector, Mitchell Thomson, (June or July).

Adjournment 9:16

Note: Type in blue underline indicates a link to a report attachment available at www.Oaklandnet.com/WildfirePrevention

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