



**Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Citizens'  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:00 p.m.**

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

*David Kessler, Chair; Bob Sieben, Vice Chair; Don Mitchell, Financial Liaison; Doug Wong; Chris Candell;  
Dee McDonough; Dinah Benson; Diane Hill; Sean Walsh*

**PRESENT:** D. Kessler, B. Sieben, D. Wong, C. Candell, D. McDonough, D. Benson

**ABSENT:** D. Mitchell, D. Hill, Sean Walsh

**STAFF:** Chief Reed, AFM L. Griffin, D. Hom, P. Feng, Y. Altes

**D R A F T    M I N U T E S    M A R C H    2 0 1 2**

**Call to Order 7:08**

**1. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum**

**2. Open Public Forum**

No speakers

**3. Introduction of Chief Reed**

Chief T. Reed spoke about the work that WPAD has been doing as incredible. She was in Oakland 20 years ago and shared her memories about being at church when the embers were falling in the parking lot during the 1991 Firestorm. She thanked the group for their hard work and gave a brief history of her career - 25 years of working up the ranks of San Jose Fire Dept., left as their Asst. Fire Chief to become the Fire Chief of Oakland.

**4. Sibley Triangle Project Overview by EBRPD – Assistant Fire Chief John Swanson, Captain Brad Gallup, Fuels Management, and Public Information Supervisor, Emily Hopkins**

Fire Captain B. Gallup gave a brief overview of the project and will return to a future WPAD meeting with details. The presentation covered an adaptive management approach based on “we do, we learn and we do better next time based on what we learn.” During the last 70 years, fuel management practices/procedures have improved. There is a stronger focus to better interact with the public to give all stakeholders a chance for input. A five year old photo of the Sibley area was displayed to identify the area for a fuel reduction plan to reduce the possibility of hazard and wildfire. AFM L Griffin identified this area as a high danger zone for WPAD and was in agreement with their analysis. The triangle piece has pockets of eucalyptus and brush. Several years ago, eucalyptus trees were removed and opened-up beautiful vistas of the Bay Area. While conducting the removal of hazardous vegetation, neighbors who didn't know the project scope and goal voiced their concerns. This could have been avoided if the appropriate outreach was conducted prior to the work being started.

This is a joint effort with EBRPD and OFD sharing the work. E. Hopkins and Y. Altes have developed an outreach program to inform neighbors and provide an opportunity for their feedback. AC Swanson requested support and help from the WPAD Advisory Committee to get the word out. Additional details will be provided as they arrive. He encouraged the group to interact with their city council members and WPAD residents.

Discussion followed concerning erosion, better habitat, opening forest to encourage native species growth such as madrons, oaks, and desirable coastal shrubs. It was noted that this is one part of a management multi-year long term program to reduce the risk to surrounding homes. Fire management projects are very important for this area; due to egress and ingress, fuel breaks are needed to protect the public. Because the area hasn't burned in a while, it will need to be thinned. Most important lesson learned so far, is to involve the public at the onset so they can offer input. East Bay Regional Parks are working on plans for maintenance projects that will last up to ten years. EBRPD was invited to speak at the North Hills Community Association's May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**5. Approval of Minutes February 16, 2012 Meeting**

Minutes were approved with the following amendments:

AFM L. Griffin requested to the chair clarification in regards to paying Mike Dobson, a videographer, \$80 for the February 9<sup>th</sup> North Hills Community Association meeting. The committee approved funding for videotaping of subsequent meetings presented by North Hills Community Association that occur every other month in an amount not to exceed \$100 per session and to be used as education tools.

**6. Financial Report & Budget Adjustments**

**Monthly Financial Update** – FY 2011-12 - Donna Hom

• **Approval of FY 2012-13 proposed budget** – Donna Hom

Due to slow activity, expenditures were paid. Spending is slow so fund balance is building. AFM Griffin's department is aware of this as we get closer to the sunset of the district. Work is weather driven, so due to late rains this year, projects will be delayed.

Budget office is scheduling with council.

2011 – 2012 Engineering Budget that was adopted by this committee before the start of this year will be presented.

Financial Reports are on the WPAD website – [www.OaklandWPD.org](http://www.OaklandWPD.org)

D. Kessler, Chair – asked for discussion, the budget was moved, all were in favor, and the quorum voted to accept the budget.

**7. Education/Outreach & Sub Committee Reports:**

• **Education/Outreach Ad Hoc**

- Annual Notice is in the process of being updated for 2012.

- The ad hoc committee and staff gave input for a new tool.

It will cover fire safe activities for homeowners during the wet/dry seasons with the purpose to help residents maintain fire safe properties year round. The postcard format may be sent July/Aug.

- As Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's Ambassador of the Year, Y. Altez has been invited to the April Board of Director's meeting. She requested the invite be extended to Chief T. Reed and DC J. Williams. The CEO, Joe Haraburda has agreed for us to show the new WPAD DVD. This is an opportunity for the Chamber to meet our new Chief, promote the WPAD, and possibly secure sponsors who can include their logo on 22,000 copies of the DVD that we would like to get in the hands of WPAD residents.

• **Orientation Ad Hoc** - will meet next week

• **AFM** – The new data base will be up-and-running in another week. We are preparing an online training tool for the engine company members. Data will allow real-time inspection information and engine company's input of data electronically. We will also have data that will show accountability and spot compliance trends.

• **AFM** met with National Fire Prevention/Protection Firewise about community Firewise training.

Also discussed was the annual notice, two or three additional mailings including a "dry-wet" year-round post card, embers, structure protection management, and ignition zones.

## 8. Staff Report – AFM L. Griffin

- FEMA Grant Update

Chief J. Swanson spoke of importance and speed to get Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), they kept requesting more info from Fish and Wildlife to go with the biological assessment. Once EIS is released, there's a waiting period for comment.

AFM – Four bids have been received for Garber Park, Shepherd Canyon, and Beaconsfield. The bidders will be notified and awarded. This will be a two-year project.

AFM – Initiated 3 contracts for abatement on private parcels using general funds. Scheduled to start tomorrow, budget office assured funds are from the general fund. All contracts are to be in place before the end of May so work is completed on a timely manner.

- CWPP Update – Cheryl Miller, Executive coordinator with Diablo Fire Safe

Plan has been worked on for more than a year, almost ready for public review.

Draft will go out in April after the March 28<sup>th</sup> 11AM – 1PM meeting at Trudeau.

Stakeholders have worked on action plan for 5 different projects: education, enhance suppression, evacuation routes, fuel reduction treatment around homes, public lands, recommendation and action for structures. A final plan is anticipated for adoption; there will be reports back to WPAD as it moves forward.

## 9. Pending List of Future Agenda Items:

- Creating a fire safe landscape that looks good – Bob Sieben

## 10. Other Business

**Adjournment                      8:18 PM**

***Next Meeting April 19, 2012 – 7 PM***

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