



**Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Citizens'
Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 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; Chris Candell; Doug Wong
Dee McDonough; Dinah Benson; Diane Hill; Sean Walsh*

PRESENT: B. Sieben, D. Mitchell, C. Candell, D. McDonough, D. Benson, D. Hill

ABSENT: D. Kessler, S. Walsh, D. Wong

STAFF: C. Rodgers, P. Feng, Y. Altes

D R A F T MINUTES April 19, 2012

Call to Order 7:08

1. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

2. Open Public Forum

Gordon Piper – Spoke about WPAD, the WPAD Advisory Committee, and OFD forming an active committee with representatives members from the community and staff w/OFD to address and monitor inspections. This has been discussed in the past but when driving through his neighborhood he's not seeing changes from year to year. He stated that we're not ready for the fire that's coming and is concerned that we're doing all that needs to be done as it pertains to inspections, forms, and information in the annual notice. An educational component would enhance the lack of defensible space that many neighbors still have. He also suggested more active citizens get involved to help.

A discussion continued and included the Inspection Ad Hoc Committee, what they are working on, and any accomplishments. AFM L. Griffin has worked with members of the committee to increase inspection proficiency and accountability. There's concern that passing or not be consistent with what can be viewed as this pertains to homes with overgrown trees near structures and not adequate defensible space.

Shelagh Brodersen – Garber Park Neighborhood, many residents asked her about the project in their area and are losing faith because it hasn't yet started. She explained the need for additional ambassadors to help educate homeowners in each section of the WPAD and what the district involves. Shelagh also suggested that neighbors be trained to go neighbor-to-neighbor to intercept on a one-on-one basis about the codes and vegetation management practices. There was a request to go back to committee for review and return with examples about how inspections are being properly performed.

Dinah Benson – spoke about a performance audit that was budgeted but not yet conducted. She suggested the topic be on May's agenda and if the City Auditor is unable to do it, the committee go to an outside vendor. A benefit of the performance audit is that subjective findings under the ordinance are reviewed. It would also show where we can make improvements. This is essential for renewing the district. Request to place on agenda for next meeting discussion for employing an outside auditor.

3. Approval of Minutes **March 15, 2012 Meeting**

Minutes Approved

4. Financial Report & Budget Adjustments

- Monthly Financial Update – FY 2011-12 – P. Feng

Financial reports are on the WPAD website – www.OaklandWPD.org

Next meeting, D. Hom will be teaching and P. Feng will be out of town. Any questions should be emailed to D. Hom - dhom@oaklandnet.com. May and June will be reviewed at June's meeting.

The Vice chair requested the Financial Liaison report on financial specs for May.

5. Education/Outreach & Sub Committee Reports

Annual Notice is being prepared. This year, a survey about the WPAD is being created. It will be a no-postage post card, inserted in the notice to be returned to an independent company for tally. When these projects are complete, the Wet/Dry Season postcard will be formatted for another mailing that the WPAD Advisory Committee has requested. Fire safety tips continue to be posted in the Montclairion, An online Target Safety course for the fire fighters is being developed. It will be a comprehensive training aimed toward improved inspections. The course includes a test and an electronic mechanism to insure all have successfully completed the program.

North Hills Community Association met; they identified projects and topics with special presenters. Also discussed was the use of media and new means, (social networking), for outreach.

There was discussion about educational sessions with speakers and the possibility for grants with Diablo Fire Safe Council. Making homes resistant to embers, non ignition zone, and now beyond the non- ignition zone are some of the educational modules with subject experts presenting. It's being videotaped and posted on YouTube to share with homeowners and have for future use. Education is the concern and how to get additional attendance and the information to the residents is a challenge.

Although the 4th bore of the Caldecott Tunnel is not a concern for all present, it was brought to the attention of the committee that two representatives from Area One were present. There was a brief discussion related to a request to meet and prioritize concerns before talking to Caltrans and the Chair of The Fourth Bore Coalition.

There were no other subcommittee reports

6. Staff Report – Inspector C. Rodgers

- FEMA Grant Update

On schedule, working with East Bay Regional Parks District, there are no stumbling blocks.

There was mention of a request by AFM Griffin for Cheryl Miller of Diablo Fire Safe to give a presentation to the community about the FEMA Grant status. Also stated was that Diablo Fire Safe has funding that needs to be spent by June. .

- Contractors Workshop

30-35 contractors attended from Oakland and the surrounding areas. Training involved expectations, quality of work, licensing, and necessary documentation. Work is getting ready to start on Hiller Highlands, Bicentennial Center on Tunnel Road, and Temescal. To be in compliance, all fire stations will be abated first. City property will be bundled and put out to contract. Contractors are issued certificates but they don't carry them to the job sites. Many citizens request recommendation for contractors; a list is generated and can be mailed or faxed when contacting Inspector C. Rodgers. Contractors on the list have documentation and insurance on file. Residents are told to get 3 bids and after the work is done, they are re-inspected. When the violation notice is reviewed, it helps contractors conduct proper work and not have to return or redo work.

- A request to agendize a discussion to possibly fund 25,000 homes with the new DVD was made.

- Earth Day – Sat. April 21st

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C. Rodgers – partnered with Oakland Unified School District and 3 schools in the WPAD. No cutting or electrical tools will be used by citizens. The contractor doing debris removal and working on schools is Arthur Young. The Earth Day schedule is Kaiser Elementary, 9 AM-noon, Burbank Preschool, 9 AM –noon, and Montera Middle 1-4 PM. Contractors will have cut vegetation; volunteers will be loading it into dumpsters on flatland. C. Rodgers requested that committee members join to assist or simply mingle.

Inspector Rodgers reported that parks in the suppression area, schools, inspections, and enforcement, will not allow any citizen on any city property without signing a waiver which will be at each Earth Day site.

- 2012 Inspection Program Work Plans (Open Space, Grazing, Roadside)

We're working on inspection forms that will be generated middle of next month. Inspections start June 18th, about 30 days after Annual Notices are mailed. Developing a new survey threw us off schedule. Target Safety Training for all firefighters will be implemented prior.

There was a brief discussion about city property inspections and those properties needing more than one cut with year round maintenance. Inspector Rodgers reported that work on City properties will start next week.

Also discussed was the use of waivers that are sent by Public Works - Adopt A Spot for Oakland. Parents must sign for those under 18 years old; the waivers are supplied by Public Works; Garber Park uses them and spoke about the importance.

- Community Partnership Projects Update – None were given

7. **Creating a Fire Safe Landscape That Looks Good – Bob Sieben**

A 14 year collection of slides were shown with principals that demonstrated non-ignition zone and fire pertaining to Hiller Highlands. Examples were posted of fire dangers that included, eaves, under decks where leaves blow, under siding, and the need for mesh. There were many before-and-after photos that demonstrated the changes in landscape from the 1991 Firestorm to present. Many examples of vegetation maintenance and treatment were reviewed. A Garber Park representative suggested that a similar presentation be made with examples of good defensible space of WPAD homes that are not on hills.

8. **Pending List of Future Agenda Items:**

9. **Other Business**

- To help apply for grants, Diablo Fire Safe wants to partner with groups similar to Garber Park.
- Dealing with blight issues, there are fees for foreclosures. Pertaining to fire prevention, there was a question asking if we benefit from this program.
- Related to distribution of education materials there was a suggestion related to utilizing the library and ways to dial-in and for example, getting a copy of an Environmental Impact Report/EIR.
- Announcement - Keep Oakland Beautiful is sponsoring, pruning, weeding, and planting that will take place along Bancroft medium strip with 500 people at the event; Saturday, April 28th, 9 AM.

Adjournment 8:50

Next Meeting May 17, 2012 – 7 PM

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