Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 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: D. Kessler, B. Sieben, D. Wong, D. McDonough, D. Benson, D. Hill
Absent: C. Candell, S. Walsh, D. Mitchell
Staff: C. Rodgers, Y.Altes
Guests: 14

D R A F T MINUTES MAY 17th 2012

Call to Order 7:06

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

2. **Open Public Forum –** No Speakers

3. **Approval of Minutes April 19, 2012 Meeting**
It was suggested that Open Forum minutes be reflected with summarized bullets of announced concerns. Minutes approved as corrected.

4. **Financial Report & Budget Adjustments**
   - **Monthly Financial Update – FY 2011-12** will be reviewed at the June meeting.
   Financial reports are on the WPAD website – www.OaklandWpd.org

5. **Sibley Triangle Project –** East Bay Regional Parks District, (EBRPD) John Swanson, Assistant Fire Chief, Brad Gallup, Fuels Management Captain, Kerry Bearg, Fuels Management, Aileen Theile, Fire Captain Emily Hopkins, Public Information Supervisor
For more project information visit www.ebparks.org/bids or call 510.690-6612

Assistant Fire Chief John Swanson thanked all for attending. The boundaries of the project were described as 1600 Broadway Terrace, Mountain Blvd., Everton, Balsam Way, Pinehaven, Thorndale up to Skyline Blvd. The meeting was to ensure that the community was informed on the EBRPD's plan. Sibley Triangle project identifies wildfire vegetation reduction. The board of directors have approved an Environmental Impact Report/EIR; it was compliant with CEQA. In their plan, Sibling Triangle was one of the areas identified. It's approximately 50 acres and part of 3,000 that will be treated between Richmond and Castro Valley. The Fuels Management Fire Protection Plan is in its second year of implementation. J. Swanson encouraged those present to share information with their neighbors and to list themselves on the sign-in sheet for updated information and any changes.

Fuels Management Capt. B. Gallup discussed the 13 acres covered by eucalyptus that are within the 50 acres of the project. Surface fuels need to be removed from the ground and eucalyptus trees will be thinned. Contractors with different techniques are waiting to submit proposals. Once the proposals are evaluated, the approved contractors may start as early as August.

Questions & answers followed:

Q. What percent will be removed, 50% of fuel?
A. Creating spacing of about 15 ft between trees.
Q. How does it affect fire's ability to spread?
A. If fire is established on the ground, there is less fuel to burn, less intense fire and reducing the chance for fire to get up into the crowns, it reduces the intensity.
Q. In before and after photo, after shows bare space, which will we end up with?
A. We're looking for 15ft, approximately 15 ft between trees, not open areas.
Q. Contractors will remove stuff out?
A. Yes, they can chip on site and leave on chips on the ground.
Q. When you accomplish the task and it's done, what's the maintenance, will it be kept in its optimum or will it be allowed to be less than optimum?
A. First phase is going from about 15 – 17 feet between trees, pick-up sprouts so we don't have additional fuel.
Q. Any limbing-up?
A. No, removing of loose bark, leave some big logs, not picking up anything less than 2 inches
Q. Limbing-up standard?
A. No, limbing mostly surface fuels, we can adapt, so if contractors are not doing all that's necessary we can go in and adjust.
Q. Do you know where in the triangle it will be removed, will things be dragged through the park?
A. The access is not yet known.
Q. Will all eucalyptus be eradicated?
A. In 7 years it will continue thinning and then all removed. Erosion measures will be addressed so no there will be on erosion issues.
Q. Anything to be planted instead of eucalyptus or just allowed to be a sunny area with no canopy?
A. There's an understory of Bay and Oak trees that are present. Over several years, It's the vegetation we're aiming for and encouraging.
Q. Distance between trees, still thinning, not cutting?
A. Thinning is removing whole trees, not pruning a tree.
Q. If there's one good size trunk and several little sprouts, what is being taken out?
A. Not sure of answer, herbicides will be used on the stump, we don't want to take a sucker off a tree.
Q. Which areas will you be doing?
A. All the eucalyptus.
Q. For disposal of eucalyptus, have you contacted a Sacramento vendor?
A. Send contact information regarding the vendor.
Q. 15-20 ft between stems, not crowns? Is there a broom problem?
A. Yes, and we're working on it.
Q. What's the process to remove broom?
A. The broom is not in the whole area, mostly near roads, it will be cut to ground level and when it grows back, goats and herbicides will be used.
Q. Will info be published?
A. Yes, it's public record.
Q. At the end of Balsam Way, 3 people came in this morning to presumably bid. How will they remove debris?
A. Not yet sure, nobody will go on property without permission and previous request.
Q. How will updates be shared?
A. We can meet again in June, or July, whatever is appropriate. Public Information Supervisor, E. Hopkins reported that there are other ways to get info, a direct mail was done, if there is interest in another meeting or, information can be put on an outgoing message line, and posted on their website including when bids are awarded. This has been paid for by Measure CC funds.

6. Education/Outreach

- Annual Notice – will be mailed in the larger format.
- Survey – may go out with Dry/Wet Season postcard/flyer, waiting for City Attorney's approval. It has been completed and is in the City Attorney's office waiting for review. When it's ready, the Advisory Committee would like to see it.
- Target Solutions – is an online training that has been developed to enhance firefighter's inspections. The system has an accountability factor that will track who took and passed the course. Appreciation was given to Barry Pilger for his assistance to develop the module.
- Chamber of Commerce Executive Director's meeting was attended with Chief Reed & DC Williams. The new WPAD DVD was shown. The President of Laney College requested 100 copies.
- WPAD Audit – will be performed in-house
- Discussion & Action - To fund the reproduction of 25,000 copies of new WPAD DVD not to exceed $15,000, more precisely, $14,999. This was discussed during the April 19th meeting. Reproduction is .55 cents per copy and includes white envelops for the DVDs and full color logos or design on each. The set-up charge is $100. There will be additional cost for taxes and shipping. Another cost will be for postage if the DVD is to be mailed instead of delivered with inspection forms.

  D. Wong will come back with another bid to mail; the goal is to mail in October. There was a motion to approve the expense of 25,000 DVD's for the production. Discussion continued about RFP going through City Print & Mail.

- Wet/Dry Season postcard or flyer will also be mailed

- Discussion followed concerning digitized DVD availability in the Oakland Library.

7. Sub Committee Reports

- Orientation Sub Committee - manual for distribution at next meeting.

8. Staff Report – C. Rodgers

- Earth Day – Sat. April 21st Recap - successful, at 3 sites, children partnered at Kaiser Elem. Firefighters, and B. Sieben came out, Channel 2 broadcasted footage in their segment. Channel 7 came out to Burbank Middle School.
- 2012 Inspection Program Work Plans (Open Space, Grazing, Roadside) – goats will arrive in a couple of weeks and will start on Castle. Had a herd at Oak Knoll, bulk of 3,000 are getting shots, healthy, and ready.
- Community Partnership Projects Update – met with Skyline, good turnout, Cheryl Miller discussed Redwood Road to Grass Valley area, similar to the Sibley Triangle project contract was awarded today to remove the ground fuel. Recommend that Cheryl Miller be invited to the next meeting and give a presentation.
- FEMA Grant Update – Nothing new to report.

9. Pending List of Future Agenda Items – nothing was added.

10. Other Business

- It was recommended adding agenda item – "Committee Comments & Announcements"
- On April 28th, Keep Oakland Beautiful had over 300 volunteers at Verdese Carter located at 98th and Bancroft. They built planter boxes, weeded , mulched, and pruned 33 blocks; it was very successful. For weeks before, they used webpage and newsletters for outreach.
- Discussion followed about CalTrans, the 4th bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, and all participating agencies.
- National Night Out, first Tues. in Aug. Coordinate Advisory Committee members to participate at their own event or an event within their district.
- Recommended regular monthly reports of compliant and non compliant properties.
- CWPP will meet on Friday, May 25th, 10-noon at Trudeau
- Texas & FLA mentioned Oakland's WPAD plan.
- Fire Wise 3- day conference in San Diego to be held in Oct.
- Need to develop educational tools for WPAD homeowners. Jim – neighborhood councils in WPAD all have websites but don't have fire suggestions that Bob has
- Some members may have date conflicts during June & July.

Adjournment 8:45 PM

Next Meeting June 21, 2012 – 7 PM