



Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Advisory Committee Meeting

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

*Bob Sieben, Vice Chair; Don Mitchell, Financial Liaison; Dinah Benson; Barbara Goldenberg; Diane Hill;
Nick Luby; Barry Pilger, Nick Thames; Sean Walsh*

Present: B. Sieben, D. Beson, B. Goldenberg, D. Hill, N. Thames
Absent: D. Mitchell, N. Luby, B. Pilger, S. Walsh
Staff: L. Griffin, D. Hom, P. Feng, C. Rodgers, Y. Altes

AUGUST MINUTES 2012

Call to Order 7:12 PM

1. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

2. Open Public Forum

Shelagh Broderson (Garber Park Stewarts), reported that the vegetation management project started and the contractor had worked for three days when the Hills Conservation group complained. The contractor shifted to work at Beaconsfield and Shepherd Canyon. The City Attorney was called; AFM L. Griffin is working on a strategic fire management plan for Garber Park; this will be presented to the City Attorney, Monday, August 20th. The work is consistent with maintenance under CEQA.

Dee McDonough – (Recent termed-out Advisory Committee Member) and Y Altes distributed five Orientation Binders. It took many hours with a previous committee member, Allene Warren who assisted with the creation of the table of contents and Barbara Goldenberg supplying her collection of documents. Many more hours were needed to collect data, reproduce, and format. It takes about half an hour to assemble each with protective sleeves so pages will remain in good condition to pass the binder from member to member. The remaining binders will be finished and distributed at the next meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes **July 19, 2012 Meeting**

Deferred until September

4. Financial Report & Budget Adjustments

- **Monthly Financial Update – FY 2011-12 – D. Hom & P. Feng**
Fiscal year ended June 30th. July and August is very busy with closing the records. The financial reports can be viewed at www.Oaklandnet.fireprevention/

5. Presentation – Carol L. Rice is a natural resource manager and fire ecologist in private practice developing fire management plans with Wildland Resource Management, Inc. She has been in practice for more than 35 years based in Alamo, California. She has written or presented over 50 technical papers and presentations dealing with fire ecology, fire behavior, and habitat restoration. Ms. Rice has prepared management plans dealing with fuel and vegetation management, fire ecology, structure ignition prevention and resource enhancement for many landowners throughout California. Projects have included planning and overseeing implementation of local and regional vegetation management plans in Northern California, and conduct of various investigations and workshops regarding fire ecology and natural resource management. Clients range from homeowner associations, private developers, insurance companies, cities, county and state governments, watersheds, regional parks districts and conservancies. Many of these best practices have been compiled into a new book, Managing Fire in the Urban Wildland Interface: Practical Solutions. She holds a BS in Forestry and MS in Fire Science and Management from the University of California, Berkeley.

She was a founder and board member of the International Association of Wildland Fire and the Wildfire Section of the National Fire Protection Association, and Past Chair of the California-Nevada-Hawaii Fire Council. A summary of Carol Rice's Power Point presentation will be posted to the website.

6. WPAD Status Report – Bob Sieben, Vice Chair

- Introductions – deferred
- Election of Officers (Chair & Vice Chair)
There was comment about the huge job of doing minutes and creating a new Secretary Chair. Bob Sieben was nominated and voted to be the new Chair. He wants to meet with staff after each meeting to prepare agenda for the following month. He also wants to enforce time controls over open forum. Agenda items can be sent to the new Chair via email. Retreats have been held in the past; he suggests going over items during the meeting instead of one-day seminars. Barbara Goldenberg was nominated and voted for Vice Chair. The position of Secretary will be on the agenda as a motion for next month.

7. Education/Outreach & Sub Committee Reports

- Follow-up discussion from July related to the need to perform outreach and utilize council members/town hall and NCPC meetings. This effort can provide input with Advisory Committee Members collectively being available for each others' meeting. District 1 and 4 may have combined meetings.
- Discussion & Action – Bids to fund the reproduction of 27,000 copies of new WPAD DVD and distribution of the 500 received - The cost will be over \$35,000 plus postage. A few committee members brought them to National Night Out gatherings, but people did not pick them up. Y.Altes handed them to party hosts, explained that they were short, suggested they be watched with family/neighbors, and the importance of why they were created. AFM L. Griffin suggested that a reserve be kept for out-of-compliance residents as a tool for them to work with. It was suggested we place another order for 10,000. Discussion continued about DVDs that were previously distributed to each resident with a low percentage or less than half having viewed them. The question that was discussed – “Is it worth it?”

There are approximately 400 left from the 500 order, it was suggested another 1,000 be made for out-of-compliance. The difficulty of reaching the public was mentioned along with the original interest to get a copy in each resident's hand. With the effort of an inspector giving a DVD to each resident, there is no guarantee it will be watched. A guest reported that people aren't going to watch a DVD, they're too busy with work and family. They agreed with the suggestion that the 'smart phone' application with easy accessibility, anytime, anyplace format be used. In closing, the chair stated that they would not go with either of the bids to mail 25-27,000 and action was deferred to the next meeting.

8. Staff Report – L. Griffin / C. Rodgers

- Community Partnership Projects Update – See opening remarks regarding Garber Park
- FEMA Grant Update – 80% is complete; a consultation with multi agencies was made. It's on target and ahead of schedule with multi-year project.
- WPAD Audit Status – Performance audit, last document was given to Philip Lim, Revenue Audit Supervisor. He has been assigned Q & A that will start within the week.
- Defensible Space Inspection Program Update – Statistics were shared that brought the committee up to date. Engine companies have finished about 83%, total properties 25,887. Company inspection results, compliant 93%. A report generated by One Step was distributed; it reflected data entered by engine companies. The process was reviewed with Vegetation Management staff following engine company inspectors and audit. Not one house was cited for code #10, (crown issue). Within the database, each inspection is given a control number, when the inspection was accomplished, the date, and who performed it is entered.

One Step allows for tracking violation trends. It lists what stations and/or shifts conducted the inspections, and who performed each. .

Several Battalion Chiefs from different stations and Deputy Chief over operations were spoken to about inconsistencies between fire fighters observations and vegetation management staff assessments. Fire fighters are trained to see situations that could get out of control. They're to cite what they see regarding violations. It's not about judgment. Suppression conducts the first inspection, C. Rodgers' staff is the 3rd inspection remaining out of compliance. Work remains on the process. It's an accurate system that is generating appropriate data.

9. Pending List of Future Agenda Items

10. Old & New Business

11. Advisory Committee Comments & Announcements

Adjournment 9:10 PM

Next Meeting Sep. 20, 2012 – 7 PM

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