



Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Advisory Committee
Regular meeting: **March 21, 2013**



Committee members in attendance:

Robert Sieben, Chair (District 1)
Barry Pilger (District 1)
Ken Thames (Mayor)
Dinah Benson (District 7)
Diane Hill (District 4)
Nick Luby (Mayor)
Katherine Moore, District 6

Committee members not in attendance

Barbara Goldenberg, Vice Chair (District 4)
Don Mitchell, Treasurer (District 7)
Lar Bryer, District 6

Vacant seats:

At large

Staff present:

Acting Assistant Fire Marshall Kim Catano
Budget Director Donna Hom
Accountant Pauling Feng

Called to order 7:01, R. Sieben presiding

Ad hoc Public Education and Outreach Committee Report

B. Pilger presented an adjustment to the recommended 2013-4 budget. After meeting with Chief Reed, committee members proposed reducing the funding for the public outreach coordinator position from \$65,000 (half time) to zero. In addition, a new account would be created called Program Support with \$32,500 allocated. The Program Support account would be used to fund activities on behalf of the district that can only be performed by city staff, including but not limited to satisfying sunshine requirements, making changes to the website, working with city printing and other services and working with outside vendor(s) for the proposed communication effort. This work is planned to be performed on an overtime basis by OFD staff. Moved, seconded and adopted unanimously.

Minutes

Approved with one change. The amount \$50,000 should be \$100,000 referenced in the matching grants discussion.

Staff Financial Report

P. Feng presented financials through March 1 and March 14 (data as complete as could be obtained this date.) Among revenue items for this period was \$41,000 for hand billed items. This is money from parcels in the district but which do not receive a tax bill. Staff promised to bring a report of delinquent assessments from these hand billed entities. Members of the committee also requested a report on agreements with any of these entities for in kind payments.

Special Presentation

Chuck Bose, Wendy Tokuda, Richard Kaufman, Carol Beck presented their Broombusters Pilot project proposal. They outlined a 5 year program and made a request for WPAD funds for the first two years of the program in the amount of \$105,000. First year \$85,000, second year \$20,000.

Staff Report -- K. Catano – Acting Assistant Fire Marshall

The Deputy Fire Chief position is still vacant.

Cheryl Miller will attend next month to talk about approaches to the matching grant program.

Outreach and public education: Staff met with Sue Piper to organize text messages to interested parties.

Open houses for fire stations have been scheduled starting June 1 through September.

Contractor orientation meetings have been held. Topics discussed included arborist and creek issues.

Annual notice is at the printer. About 27,000 pieces will be mailed around the first week of April.

Inspection forms are printed and address data is now being added

Inspection training for operations personnel will start April 18.

Goats are ready to begin work anytime, probably around late April.

City contracts have been let, starting from north then proceeding to south of the city.

Fire Danger Signs Ad Hoc Committee – N. Luby

Alternatives explored included

- use of CalTrans signage
- use of OUSD signage
- portable variable message signs (VMS)
- aerial banner overhead
- fixed signs operated by OFD

Options to replace fixed signs:

- steel \$480/sign
- plywood \$640/sign

Electronic signs

- Radio controlled using Oakland radio system
- Hardwired into power and phone line
- Solar powered with general packet radio service capability (recommended)

Question: might it be possible to share the cost with the East Bay Regional Park District?

D. Benson suggested contacting Clear Channel about using their technology or perhaps other sign companies.

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously to request staff to return to the advisory committee next month with specific recommendations regarding a path forward with the electronic signage.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.