

Wildfire Prevention Assessment District

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes December 19, 2013

Meeting Called to Order by the Chair Bob Sieben at 7:03pm.

Board Members present: Bob Sieben (Chair), Dinah Benson, Fred Booker, Diane Hill, Katherine Moore, Doug Wong, Nick Luby, Lar Bryer, and Lin Barron (OWLS) and excused was Ken Thames.

Also present was Vincent Crudele Supervisor Fire Prevention Bureau, City of Oakland, Oakland Fire Department and Chief Theresa Reed.

- 1) Called to order at 7:03pm and Chairs Report- Bob read his chairs report and also commented on the fact that for web posting of WPAD minutes, agendas, and reports that Vincent would be sending those items to Titus Kress within the City's Department of IT.
- 2) Open Public Forum: 2 Speaker Cards; Gordon Piper who mentioned volunteer clearances at North Oakland Sports field, Kaiser School, and the WPAD and City should pursue a Diablo Firesafe Grant. Ken Benson Co-Chair of Keep Oakland Firesafe spoke of the fact that Keep Oakland Firesafe would shoulder on after the election and continue to raise funds and advocate for fuel reduction in the Oakland Hills. He mentioned that the campaign was raising funds so as to also retire their 2013 campaign debts.
- 3) Approvals of the Minutes of the WPAD Committee Meeting of November 21, 2013 were approved with corrections to item 2 and to item 6d.
- 4) Chair's report including nomination and election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2014- The Board nominated Fred Booker for Chair and he was selected unanimously. Then, they nominated Doug Wong for Vice Chair and he too was selected unanimously. Financial Liaison was discussed but no one volunteered and this will be on the January agenda for follow up by the Chair.
- 5) Monthly Financial Report and similar to the November Report, Fred Booker gave the report as prepared by Fire Department Financial Staff, the report was flawed and still lacked correct amounts for FEMA Matching Grant Fund and the Homeowner Matching Grant Fund. Chair asked that Vincent discuss the need for accurately depicting the reserve funds with Fire Department Financial Staff before the January meeting. Discussion followed on the City's Mid-Cycle Budget process and the need in January for an ad-hoc budget committee to begin looking at any adjustments to the WPAD budget.
- 6) Ad-hoc committee report (Ad-hoc Planning Task Force Report); Fred Booker of the Planning Task Force gave an overview of the suggested Goals. Hold City to its own fire codes and that a target of properties to be cleared set at July 4th. After lively discussion with the entire Board, this was amended to be Labor Day. Ken Benson of the Planning Task Force gave the overview on Action items. Lin Barron of the Planning Task Force spoke about Advocacy. This led to spirited Board discussion and Planning Ad-hoc volunteer Sue Piper further volunteered to craft advocacy points and discussions for the Board members to facilitate their conversations with their elected and with the Council's Public Safety Committee. Lin Barron gave an OWLS report that focused on vegetation management as a year round activity that should account for and take in weather

and conditions for approaches and methods of vegetation management. WPAD needs to be in-synch with nature's cycles and not just the City's budgetary calendar. Further, OWLS recommends that City and the WPAD embrace the volunteers. There was no education and outreach report.

- 7) Report from Fire Chief Reed- Submitted request for the opinion from the City Attorney and will hopefully have opinion beyond earlier email by the January meeting.
- 8) Staff Report- Vincent Crudele gave a 'staff' report or update on the following:
 - a. Progress on both the Program Analyst II and the Ecologist- The Program Analyst II is in interview cycle and the description for the Ecologist will be given to HR and Contracting in early January.
 - b. Fire inspection status report- Vincent had a written status report with statistics as of 12-19-2013 that 95.9% or all parcels were compliant and 3.4% or 855 parcels were non-compliant with 91 parcels or .4% deemed Blue Tag (meaning they are presently undetermined). 8 parcels were put out to contract for clearance as non-compliant and will be cleared by January 11, 2014. Since July 1st 85 vegetation clearance contracts have been completed:
 - i. 20 Debris and chipping contracts
 - ii. 32 Roadside Clearances
 - iii. 22 City Parcels
 - iv. 11 Private Parcel clearances
 - c. Update on the Goat Grazing Contract. The current goat contract does not expire until August 2014 and Pauline Feng was to do further research on 1 or 2 year contract desire of the Board and present to Vincent for the next meeting checking to see if there was already City Council Action.
 - d. Status of the Fire inspectors- Vincent made an appeal to the WPAD Board that they help him with advocacy to the Chief, the Council, and the Mayor to hire at least 4 full time inspectors and not suffice with seasonal temporaries as currently budgeted.
 - e. Status of the CEQA (including Chabot, Skyline, Garber Park and beyond). Vincent reported that it is now in the comment period and would have a further update next month.
- 9) Future Agenda items:
 - a. Status of written opinion by City Attorney.
 - b. Financial Liaison replacement for Fred Booker (he is now the Chair for 2014).
 - c. Secretary and or City recording of minutes as volunteer Ken Benson said that given his work and volunteer schedule that he could not continue on in 2014 as the recorder of the minutes. This was discussed and it was essentially Board consensus that City should be performing the minutes function. To be determined.
 - d. Mid-cycle City Budget adjustments for WPAD Budget.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm. The next WPAD Advisory Board Meeting is Thursday, January 16, 2013 at 7pm at Trudeau Center.