



Wildfire Prevention Assessment District
Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2013, 7:00 PM



Trudeau Center, 15500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland CA (Wheel Chair Accessible)

Meeting Called to Order by the Chair Bob Sieben at 7:10pm.

Board Members present: Bob Sieben (Chair), Dinah Benson, Fred Booker, Diane Hill, Nick Luby, and Katherine Moore.

Also present was Vincent Crudele Supervisor Fire Prevention Bureau, City of Oakland, Oakland Fire Department.

Board Members not present: Don Mitchell, Ken Thames, Barbara Goldenberg, Lawrence Bryer, and Doug Wong.

- 1) Called to order at 7:10pm
- 2) Chairs Report- Bob gave an overview update of all 3 items from the Special Session of September 5, 2013 and he introduced Vincent Crudele to the Board and gave an overview of the structure for Vincent under Chief Reed.
- 3) Open Forum: 1 Speaker Card; Gordon Piper discussed potential grant funds available from State Farm Insurance Companies for Home and Fire Safety.
- 4) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 5, 2013. Diane Hill made one correction to state that she was not present at the August 16, 2013 meeting but was in fact present at the September 5, 2013 Emergency Board Meeting.
- 5) Monthly Financial Report was provided for Current Year and Last Year. Barbara Goldenberg the Budget Ad-hoc Chair was unavailable to comment on the staff supplied financials due to being absent from the meeting. Chair asked Vincent to provide status of the WPAD annual financial audit at the next meeting. Board member Dinah Benson voiced concern that the WPAD had once again not been given any requirements, costing, and or selection information for who was performing the independent audit. Chair asked Vincent why actions acted upon at the Special Meeting allocating funds were not reflected in the Financials. Board member Dinah Benson spoke up and suggested it was due to the fact that the Board had not yet approved the minutes of that Special Meeting. Vincent confirmed that this was the case and was a management practice followed by the Fire Department. The Board then discussed why this practice was not necessary and caused undue delay from the Boards perspective. The example given by Board member Benson was the delay in starting the job recruitment efforts for the Program Analyst II. It should be noted that the accepted minutes of the Special Session has the Chief's commitment to have the Program Analyst II hired and on board by the first of the calendar year 2014.
- 6) Ad-hoc Committee Reports- Chair advised board that he had contacted Ken Thames the chair of the Outreach and Education ad-hoc subcommittee to solicit his facilitation of the Formation of the suggested WPAD Volunteers Group and process for selecting a non-voting member for the WPAD Board. This led to lively discussion between members from the volunteer groups and the Board as to the efficacy of this interim step. No action taken by the Board but consensus was that Ken Thames could and would facilitate a meeting to discuss and lead to formation of the Volunteers Group and their participation within the WPAD Board. Dinah Benson gave a report of the meeting with Scott Paulsen assistant County Department of Agriculture Supervisor regarding the Regulatory System and regimen for Broom within both the State of California and Alameda County. It was postulated by County Staff with supporting documentation that in order to restrict or limit the sale of broom within Oakland; they would need to test the sterility of the commercially available broom within

the County (which they offered to do this coming Spring) and suggested that the WPAD Board pursue a Health and Safety Ordinance within the City of Oakland much like the City of San Diego which just passed a revised City Landscaping Guidelines that outlawed high fire fuels plants such as broom. No action was taken and Board member Benson said that she would keep the Board apprised of further discussions if held with the City of Oakland.

- 7) Old Business- Vincent Crudele gave a 'staff' report or update on the following:
- a. FEMA Grant- nothing reported out yet by FEMA. He was to meet with UC Berkeley and East Bay Regional Parks for an update on City of Oakland Grant Project.
 - b. Reported that Oakland Firefighters had returned from CDF Fire lines.
 - c. Extension of the renewal of the Goat Grazing Contract- After a brief discussion in which the Board and Chair indicated that the Board had allocated budget in either the May or June meetings to extend the Goat Grazing Contract; Vincent said he would research status and bring this back to the Board in October including any action that may need their approval.
 - d. Budgeting for maintenance of fire access trails on Oakland Public Property- Vincent and the Board both needed clarification that any clearing sought by Oakland Fire of the Fire Trails would be fuel load and vegetation clearance and not road cutting and grading. He was to research and update at the next meeting.
 - e. Progress on Program Analyst II- None as of yet, as per Fire Department Management practice, they were awaiting the approval of the prior meetings minutes. It was again reiterated by the Board that they do not agree with this management practice and in fact wondered if the Department had an opinion from the City attorney's office that this was in fact standard and customary to follow. Minutes approved at this meeting meant that progress could and would start on the job placement and recruiting activities for the Program Analyst II.
 - f. Fire Danger Signs Replaced- Vincent promised that decals were coming that would be affixed to the signs with the WPAD Logo as the funder of the new signs. Board member Luby asked about the hidden from view placement of the Park Boulevard and Hwy 13 exit Fire Danger sign. Vincent said that he would make this known to Public Works and seek relocation so as to be visible to the cars at that location.
 - g. Fire Inspection 2013 Status private parcels and City Parcels as of 9/19/2013:
 - i. 21,140 properties Compliant (Out of 25,981 or 81%)
 - ii. 1,487 non-compliant (Out of 25,981 this 6% of 22,627 inspected it is 7%)
 - iii. 3,354 Properties as of 9/19/2013 yet to be inspected
 1. 2,415 of these are improved parcels
 2. 939 are unimproved parcels
 - iv. 187 Parcels had 2nd Round of Inspections:
 1. 141 were deemed to be compliant
 2. 46 were non-compliant (additional action warranted)
 - v. 245 Properties are in weed abatement
 1. 18 Properties were unavailable for access (additional action warranted)
 2. 227 parcels in weed abatement (16 reported as Debris Pile abatements)
 3. Vincent said that for October meeting he would have this as an active and updated report to handout to the Board. These results were given orally at the meeting.
 - vi. He discussed major public property parcel projects:
 1. Caltrans- underway
 2. PG&E not underway yet, meeting the following week

3. EBMUD- 5 non-compliant parcels Vincent to meet this week with them.
 4. Oakland Unified- 5 schools inspected and found compliant- further update at next meeting.
 5. He did not have the status of the inspection of the former Oak Knoll Naval Hospital parcel but agreed he would follow up.
- h. Vegetation Management Contracts-
- i. Golf Links and Knowland Park completed
 - ii. Skyline Median meeting with contractor
 - iii. Vincent reviewing all 2013 contracts and will update at next meeting. Stated his disappointment with contract documentation and would be taking steps to ensure that the Board got copies of the Vegetation Management Contracts Report. Board was shown a copy and commented that they had never received this in the course of the prior meetings. He said he would PDF and make it available.
- i. Progress of Grants- None on Chabot Science Center as City had to deal with Chabot on Pallid Manzanitas. Some general discussion between Vincent and the Board on other projects but no action or direction given.
- 8) New Business- Chair discussed potential changes in Policy like to the Goat Grazing schedule and timing and thought this could and would be a topic for future meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

The October WPAD Advisory Board Meeting is Thursday October 17, 2013 at 7pm at Trudeau Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm