



- Roger Brett – Speaking on a different topic this evening – Chabot Science Center has new plans for an environmental garden project and education program to go along with it. It will focus on fire prevention and would be a good opportunity for the WPAD to be involved with outreach to youth and adults, any from the area.
- Tomiko Eya – Resident of Manzanita Drive –upset about having cut the protected species Pallid manzanita on her property to comply with the defensible space requirements. She is upset that the Fire Dept. did not know it was a protected species and that residents were not notified before. She has called the City Council, the CNPS and all neighbors to not follow the directives of the Fire Dept. She understood that informational leaflets would be sent, but has not seen them yet.
- Spencer Coffman – Resident of Manzanita Drive – Feels badly about having taken the manzanita off his property as he thought he was being a good citizen complying with the Fire Dep't. Recommendations. Rules need to be clear and to be communicated to community, contractors and city crews. The contractors gave him bids to do the work, and not one recognized the protected species.
- Ronald Barkow – Oakland resident – Complained that while he hears about the high quality inspection program and the regulation specifies compliance by June 15 of the year, Chabot is still not in compliance, Roberts Park, Joaquin Miller Park, Skyline Blvd. Wants to know why they haven't been cut yet. He accused the city of not doing their jobs and that supervisors should take action against lazy employees.
- Karen Paulsell – representing Friends of Sausal Creek – concerned about the work done on the area in Dimond Canyon Park, along Park Blvd between Leimert and Monterey. Wanted to know why OFD is not required to get creek permits like everyone else. These areas were badly cleared before also. She believes the WPAD is violating regulations. Wants to know why the resources available and other local experts are not utilized for training and putting the proper procedures in place. The WPAD needs plan and procedures in place.

#### IV. Approval of Minutes of the June 22, 2006 meeting

- Two corrections on page 2 need to be made: Tamia Marg – more than replanting is the timing of cutting weeds and plants and the reduction of the spread of seeds; the OSCAR element of the Oakland General Plan.
- Motion to approve minutes with these two corrections made by Benson, seconded by Goldenberg and vote was unanimous.

#### V. Change in Committee Officers

- Discussion and action to be taken regarding the vice-chair position – Motion made by Benson, seconded by Warren and vote was unanimous to elect Barbara Goldenberg as Vice Chair.
- Update with City Council members for those whose term of service was June 30, 2006 (Warren, Piper, Petouhoff, Marg, Goldenberg, Burnett) – Previously Chair Benson requested that all Committee members meet and talk with their respective City Council members regarding the accomplishments of the WPAD and to renew their terms of service. Warren, Petouhoff, Marg, Burnett have contacted their council members. Piper has a resolution before Council to extend. Goldenberg has Quan's office handling it. Each Committee member needs to follow through so that each one is formally reappointed.

#### VI. Discussion and action to be taken to plan an Advisory Committee Special Meeting on Friday, September 22, 2006 from 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

- At next regular meeting, a draft agenda will be reviewed.

- Motion was made to hold the special meeting on September 29, 2006 from 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Joaquin Miller Community Center by Burnett, seconded by Piper; vote was unanimous.

## VII. Fire Prevention Bureau Staff Report

- Monthly Snapshot – graphs, progress to date – The six Vegetation Management Inspectors are doing an excellent job and are in the midst of their busiest time of the year. They are conducting inspections entering data and responding to all citizen calls for re-inspections and information. Inspections by the engine companies are on track, and the number of “out of compliance” violations appears to be less than last year so far. See PowerPoint presentation on [www.Oaklandnet.com/WildfirePrevention](http://www.Oaklandnet.com/WildfirePrevention) as it is too big to attach. Citizen complaints are far less than in previous years due to the excellent staff at the Call Center and the improved public education materials. The strategies for courtesy notices, using real estate agents to help track vacant lot owners, and large public entity relationships have all paid off in terms of more compliance on parcels, earlier in the year than we have seen before.
- Update on Ongoing Issues:
  - Long-term vegetation management plan – staff have been busy working with several consultants and groups regarding how to proceed with the long-term plan and its on the required environmental processes. By soliciting their help and expertise in this way, we should be able to realize a very significant cost savings and time savings to the extent we can learn from their processes and experiences. They have advised that we make sure the EIR is based on a Fire Management and Protection goal and that the EIR/EA is focused on specific projects, rather than a global general approach. We need to make sure that fire behavior across the district is used to establish priority projects (for example as the East Bay 1995 plan did, using an 8-foot flame length as the standard).
  - Griffin presented (See PowerPoint) an overview of the process if we want to move quickly, that breaks the process into steps including setting priorities, mapping locations and vegetation type, helping to educate the public as to what fuel reduction strategies would look like (because a certain area may not receive treatment each and every year, or even at all if it were not a priority area, and people might perceive it as fire risk while it was actually “clean and beautiful.” See the slides for all the specific of this approach.
  - The OFD has taken several steps to address the issues related to the cutting of endangered species of Pallid manzanita: trainings and materials have been provided to the engine companies to make sure they can identify the species and they have received laminated color photographs for identification purposes. OFD has contacted California Dept of Fish and Game to work with us and advise us; they will make a presentation at the next regular Committee meeting. Staff contracted with ESA (for a total contract of up to \$5000 – rather than the \$14,000 Committee approved at last meeting – due to excellent negotiations by Griffin) to identify, mark and map the currently known locations of Presidio clarkia. Staff is developing a treatment plan so that the vegetation management work along Skyline can continue in the most beneficial manner. Comment from the public asked why the work had been halted, staff reported that with the revised work scopes, no contractors bid on it as they were concerned with the issues. The next step is to have vegetation maps prepared, some of the data exists now, but not all in one form and we are exploring the possibility of using the process that Orinda/Moraga Fire District did with a flyover and meetings are being held about it. The steps in contract work scope have been changed internally so that if contract specs are not followed exactly, the contractor will be

penalized and that if any issue does arise, arrangements have been made to contact FOSC immediately for their expertise in sensitive areas.

- Staff reported on progress to date of the FEMA grant. FEMA has identified the Oakland regional project as a finalist for the national award. The first step will be for FEMA to send their environmental consultant group URS to us, to do an EIR for those specific project areas. This could take a year or even longer. If the findings are positive, then the grant would be awarded for \$3 million (or less if anything needs to be amended to the original plan).
- Scheduling and tracking city contract management on city parcels – Griffin brought maps of city parcels across the WPAD for review by the Committee (PDF files will be posted on the website). Some areas have vegetation maps; others don't, so they show the gaps in data that exists currently. Staff reported that 80% of the high priority city parcels scheduled for vegetation management have been completed and the remaining 20% will be complete before the highest fire season begins. This includes park areas treated by PWA, goat grazing, roadside fuel reduction and other contracts issued to vendors. The Committee would like to have a single list of all city parcels with a treatment schedule associated with each one.

#### VIII. Discussion and action to be taken regarding the establishment of an ad hoc committee to address the concerns related to the letter from the California Native Plant Society

- Chair suggested an ad hoc committee be formed for a period of 4 months to address the issues related to protected plant species in the WPAD. He suggested Williams as the chair; Faber volunteered as a member from one of the council districts with the issues; Laura Baker of CNPS volunteered as an expert and from the community; Tomiko Eya volunteered as a resident perspective; Griffin and Shaff as staff members. Other community members were asked to join and declined.
- Motion was made by Benson to establish an ad hoc committee for a period of 4 months, to address concerns related to the protected plants species within the WPAD; with the purpose of creating policy and procedures to guide treatment and vegetation management while protecting endangered species, including, but not limited to, the issues addressed in the letter from the CNPS. Seconded by Petouhoff and vote was unanimous.
- Chair will follow through with Williams (As of August 1, 2006 he accepted).

#### IX. Financial Report

- Discussion and action to be taken related to the Monthly Financial Update – Treasurer Burnett was extremely concerned that every month, the financial report is either late, incomplete, or no one is available from the OFD Finance Unit to answer questions. Each time there is a reason, but it is unacceptable, even though there have been meetings to identify the expectations. A clarification was made related to the goat contract – the new funding amount will be reflected in the upcoming year's budget. The date on the report was incorrect – it should be corrected to say "through June 30, 2006." Another question was why the revenue expected is more than the actual: this may be because of people not paying parcel tax on time. Committee asked that the author of the Engineer's Assessment report come to a future meeting to explain the assessment. Another question was how are the carryover funds/fund balance/and/or operating reserves tracked from fiscal year to fiscal year?
- Receive the information report regarding the 2004/2005 Audit – Treasurer Burnett again said that while the audit is dated February, it is unacceptable that the Committee is

receiving it in July, more than a full year from what it is reporting on. The auditor's report states that all financial actions are correct and proper.

X. Pending List of Agenda Items

- Private/Public Partnerships
- Long-term (10 year) Vegetation Management Plan
- Public Works Agency Responsibility Areas
- 2007 Vegetation Management Plan and potential ad hoc committee
- Roadway Issues – specifying intersection site distance and maintenance – added by Faber
- Cal Trans – Caldecott Tunnel project – added by Piper

XI. Open Forum for Advisory Committee – Announcements – Committee ran out of time

XII. Adjournment – 9:13 p.m.

Note: [Type in blue underline](#) indicates a link to a report attachment

**Core Values**

***The Wildfire Prevention Assessment District values...***

***Cooperation:*** Communication, team effort, working together, political awareness

***Knowledge:*** Seeking and learning new insights

***Professionalism:*** Commitment to quality, pride in your work

***Openness:*** Willingness to try new things, creativity

***Integrity:*** Moral and intellectual honesty