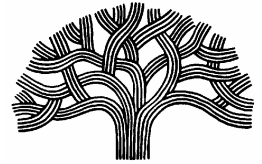




Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, Jun 19, 2008 7:00 PM



*Robert Sieben, Chair; Barbara Goldenberg, Vice Chair;
Lilah Greene, Treasurer; Barry Pilger; Gordon Piper; Allene Warren; James Williams;
Chris Candell, Doug Wong*

Present: R. Sieben, B. Goldenberg, K. Benson, C. Candell, B. Pilger, G. Piper, A. Warren, J. Williams

Absent: L. Greene, D. Wong

1. **Call to order** - 7:12 PM
2. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum** – Quorum Achieved
3. **Open Forum** – No Speakers
4. **Approval of minutes for May 22, 2008 meeting**
5. **Financial Report Related to the Monthly Financial Update** – Mikyung Pustelnik (Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Financial Status Report) – Handout:
 - June 17th - Council passed new fiscal
 - 98% collected - \$1.65 Million, up from 93% 2007
 - Cut-off is in July – official audit has not started
 - D. Hom will return for July meeting
6. **Fire Prevention Staff Report** – Leroy Griffin
 - a. Improved Property Inspections
 - Letters going out Monday, June 23rd
 - Recommendations to Engine Company in those areas re endangered plants
 - Chipping card also goes out
 - b. Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Draft Long Range Vegetation Management Plan Update
 - Joaquin Miller Grazing Plan
 - Long term fuels management plan for fuel reduction project at Beaconsfield
 - OFD and community to promote fire safety & info re endangered plants
 - Involve homeowners and neighborhood associations
 - Project will start using Beaconsfield as the baseline
 - Endless list of city owned properties, Skyline back to trails, City Stables
 - Vegetation Planning is ahead of schedule
 - Reviewing historical records of cost & bids
 - Thirteen contractors get bids
 - City changed contractor's certification approval – invoices must be paid

Discussions

- Training & teaching Engine Companies vegetation management
- Fire suppression, defensible space, no limbs around power lines
- Trees over neighbors' property is a major complaint
- Vegetation under eaves, trees tied to trellises attached to houses and public property

- New code, education to public
- Ornamental plants that are highly flammable

Controlled Burn – Friday, June 20th, 250 Victory Court
Demonstrates various stages, dry grass, French broom, juniper burn

Staffing - List will be seen on Monday, hiring a number of good candidates for Firefighting and Fire Prevention

- c. City of Oakland / WPAD & Friends of Sausal Creek
Goat Grazing Plan Agreement – Reviewed
- d. City Owned Properties - Update

7. Education & Marketing – Ad Hoc Committee Report & Discussion

- Contractor's signs – waiting for delivery
- Chipper Campaign / New Flyer "A Block Chipping Party" – could be organized with NCPC's and Neighborhood Watch blocks
- Outreach / Events – request to post info to committee, (control burn, FEMA Expo), coordinator attended chamber events, article in "Oakland Business Review"
- Banner – committee wants it green or any color but white
- Alternative to Presentation Folder – discussion regarding creation of cardstock 8.5 x 11" sheets of information for distribution & posting on the website took place in April, to date, no additional input from marketing sub-committee
- Postcard Calendar – has been receiving with great reviews
- Promotional Items – whistles and keychain flashlights, chipper info on a magnet, needs corporate sponsors for funding
- WPD coordinator drafted a letter for sponsorships – marketing sub-committee requested to review, email was sent March, no input to date
- DVD "Bay Area On Fire" – group wants copy rights & website postings. B. Pilger attempted negotiations for right to use; it was not granted
- Website – two sided postcard posted along with other updates
- Coordinator requested next marketing sub-committee meeting – no action
- Suggestion - develop an exhibit panel to replace old one at Gateway to promote WPD. EBMUD, PG&E, Allstate, may help with funding

8. Advisory Committee Open Forum

- Discussion - Red Flag Days
 - Education about it and its meaning
 - Stations in the hills having flags out
 - Other locations for flags with explanation of its meaning.
 - Dispatch sends emails to stations re fire level & protocol.
- Discussion – Adopt-A-Sign if it's too much for an engine company to change
 - Need "No Smoking" signs because of high grass
- Concerns regarding North Oakland Sports Field & maintaining vegetation management at parks
- Hiller Highlands – too much vegetation & broom near homes
 - Money to get broom off the hill, public & private property (CalTrans), remove eucalyptus

- 9-1-1 from a cell reaches Highway Patrol, program calls 777-3211 for OPD 9-1-1
 - Will sprinklers affect water for fire hydrants? It could have impact on pressure
 - Chief Edwards led discussion - Fire near Caldecott
 - “Lessons Learned”
 - Vegetation Management works, takes an extra effort – was phenomenal if wind conditions were different , we may have lost houses
 - Tremendous fire potential
 - Shepherd Canyon – needs to be cleaned up
 - Golf Links hasn’t burnt in years
 - Educating hills’ residents is key
 - Secure grants, EIR’s to address concerns & get funding
- LINK** - [June 12, 2008 “Fire Near Caldecott Tunnel June 12th”](#)
Report Prepared by Bob Sieben, WPD Chair

- Fire Fighting Tools – Discussion
 - Use of old fire hoses by residents, Chief Edwards concerned about force/power when citizens are not trained. This could impact water pressure from hydrants & during an emergency, OFD wouldn’t know they are being operated.
- Concerns re Fire Prevention & Education – Discussion
 - No Smoking enforcement – shrubs & trees up to condos, Contract - \$25-50,000 to clear hillside of broom
 - N.E. facing slope with native plants – stop ignition along bottom, top is 300 ft fire safe zone.
 - Safety committees with Home Owners Assoc. – group training, identify organizing every home with a pool / sub pump, who tracks elderly. Create communication mechanism
 - Vacant lot owners received 1st warning regarding vegetation fuel management, time frame, “NOW.”
- CalTrans 4th Bore Discussion – CalTrans may remove 4-5,000 trees, no need to replace all to add to fire risk. Suggestion – replace trees to parts of Oakland needing them
- Concern re lack of preparedness for fire, quakes, shelter and place, obligation to do something about this, play valuable role re public education & outreach

9. Pending List of Possible Agenda Items

- CDF Presentation on fire hazard analysis and treatments
- Request for CEDA to speak to WPD with status of grant.
- Vegetation Management master plan with parks & rec., development of advisory board, grant, Phase I - consultant to assist
- Discussion re vision of master plan vegetation management

R. Sieben will be absent 6 weeks from June 30th, B. Goldenberg will chair

Adjournment - 9:05 PM