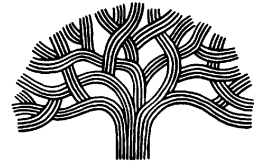




Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 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: B. Sieben, B. Goldenberg, L. Greene, G. Piper, A. Warren, J. Williams,
K. Benson, C. Candell

Absent: Barry Pilger, Doug Wong

1. **Call to order** - 7:10 PM
2. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum** – Quorum Achieved
3. **Open Forum** – No Speakers
4. **Approval of minutes for August 18, 2008 meeting**
5. **Financial Report Related to the Monthly Financial Update** – Donna Hom & Mikyung Pustelnik, (Report will be posted at www.OaklandWPD.org)
 - Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Financial Status Report was distributed and will be posted at www.oaklandwpd.org.
Year-to-date expenditures for the clearing of brush is, \$813k
 - Action Item regarding appropriation for Travel & Registration for WPD Fire Safety Education Coordinator & Advisory Committee Member to attend the National Fire Protection Association Wildland Urban Interface, (Backyards & Beyond Educational Conference), Tampa, FL., estimate \$2,000 for each attendee.
Motion to appropriate travel & registration for WPD Fire Safety Education Coordinator & Advisory Committee Member to attend the National Fire Protection Association Wildland Urban Interface, (Backyards & Beyond Educational Conference, Tampa, FL, was made and approved with cost not to exceed \$4,000
 - Discussion to review program fund balances and identify funds within the WPD to carry forward into other balances to match funds with FEMA.
 - Motion passed for staff to do a study regarding the remaining projects and associated costs; Oct 16, 2008 meeting.
 - Discussion regarding current housing & the impact of property tax collections in Alameda County. Pertaining to the WPD revealed that revenues are not affected by the mortgage crisis because it is a special assessment not related to the value of each property.
6. **Fire Prevention Staff Report** – Asst. Fire Marshal, L. Griffin gave a Power Point presentation; it will be posted at www.OaklandWPD.org.
 - A. **INSPECTIONS: All Parcels**

In compliance	19,223	
Out of compliance	2,708	Total inspections 21,931
 - B. **Improved Parcels First Inspections**

In compliance	17,840	
Out of compliance	2,316	Total inspections 20,156

- C. Public entities First Inspections
 - In compliance 132
 - Out of compliance 2 Total of inspections **134**

- D. Vegetation Management Program contracts removed 130 Tons of hazardous vegetation as of 21Aug08.

- E. Chipping Program (Civic Corps), total chipper requests 218, total completed 179, request that required multiple loads 52.

- F. FEMA Grant Update PDMG 004-2006, staff sent letter to FEMA requesting update on the project Environmental Assessment, Fire Chief and Capital Lobbyist to meet with Congresswoman Barbara Lee to assist the City in the approval of the project.

- G. 2007 California Fire Code Vegetation Management Update – Defensible Space (diagram with number of feet vegetation should be away from structure).

- H. 2007 California Fire Code Vegetation Management Update – Fire Dept. Access Code (relating to space on roads for the engine and fire truck to pass), staff met with Public Works Traffic Engineering for the drafting of a revision of the Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 16, Street Standards, staff plans to present proposed standard to the Planning Commission prior to reporting to the City Council.

- I. Discussion regarding two vacant fire inspector positions. Chief explained that one of the two positions was filled by the return of Dave Davis.

- J. 2009 Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant program
 - a. Congress has provided increased funding assistance to states through the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs since 2001, the focus of much of this additional funding was mitigating risk in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. In the West, the State Fire Assistance (SFA) funding is available and awarded through a competitive process with emphasis on hazard fuel reduction, information and education, and community and homeowner action.
 - b. Long-term solutions to interface challenges require informing and educating people who live in these areas about what they and their local organizations can do to mitigate these hazards.
 - c. 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy focuses on assisting people and communities in the WUI to moderate the threat of catastrophic fire through the four National Fire Plan goals of improving prevention and suppression, reducing hazardous fuels, restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, and promoting community assistance.
 - d. The grant programs will allow the City to augment an existing Vegetation management Program by leverage funds from other agencies and non-profit organizations for planting and maintenance programs that would support local fire prevention efforts.

- Discussion about “No Smoking” and Fire Condition Indicator Signs” at pullouts, Parks and other areas.
- Statement of terms of existing committee members – chart distributed

7. Education & Marketing Sub-Committee Report

- Fire Safety & Education Coordinator listed working items:
 - a. Banner & Table Cloth for community events being designed & ordered, no 8 ft canopy will be ordered until there’s a vehicle for storage and transportation.
 - b. Neighborhood Watch list of blocks groups from Neighborhood Services Division was requested to identify possible fire prevention presentations & venues to distribute educational materials
 - c. Chamber Ambassador meeting & networking events have been attended to publicize WPD and seek sponsorships for additional copies of the DVD “Bay Area On Fire.”
 - d. The Chipper Program info and form for “Chipper Block Party” is on www.oaklandwpd.org.
 - e. Fire safety educational materials for the Fall/Winter are being distributed at community meetings.
- Suggestion – Each board member approaches their council member for PAYGO funds based on the population in their part of the WPAD.

8. Advisory Committee Open Forum

- A. Status of filling the vacant Committee position - At Large position on hold until election.
- B. Discussion Regarding Minutes – remain brief, use bullets & salient points so absentees are informed. Committee members or staff can write/submit special reports to be included or linked and posted on www.oaklandwpd.org.
- C. Discussion & feedback regarding August’s & future special presentations
 - a. Some believe July & August are months good for outreach and education while others believe Summer means people are away on vacation.
 - b. The attraction for attendance was regarding inspections and new fire codes
 - c. Suggestions:
 - Every other meeting, the board portion is short and have other topics that the public would have interest
 - Hold meetings at different forums, different places, daytime or Saturdays.
- D. Question about who handles the blocked trails - The Fire Dept. & Public Works, not vegetation management.

9. Pending List of Possible Agenda Items:

- LIDAR Project – LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is an optical remote Sensing technology. The tool will be implemented by airplane to map the locations of trees, vegetation, building structures and roads in the hills. It will be used for vegetation management and wildfire prevention.
- How inspections will drop from the present compliance rate of 90+% to 70%
- Benefit of Compliance, “Standards going up”

Adjournment: 9:15 PM