GENERAL PURPOSE MEETING

Monday, September 17, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Council members present: Marc Crawford, Vice Chair, Sheila Cunha, Dave Sadoff, Chuck Moore, Linda Tangren, Ted Riche, Ken Carbone

Location: Castro Valley Library – 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94646

Summary Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Chamarro, Castro Valley resident, stated that he is fed up with the amount of trash on Lake Chabot Road. He took photos and wrote an op-ed piece for the Castro Valley Forum and he has also contacted Supervisor Miley’s office about the trash on Lake Chabot Road. Mr. Chamarro asked if the Castro Valley MAC could get involved to get the road cleaned he would appreciate it.

I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ted Riche and seconded by Dave Sadoff that the minutes of July 16, 2018, be accepted as submitted.

Motion passed: 6/0.

II. Castro Valley Sports Foundation’s Run 4 Sports 5k/10K Fundraiser

Rachel Lunt, President, Castro Valley Sports Foundation, reported on the Castro Valley Sports Foundation’s Run 4 Sports 5k/10k fundraiser.

Castro Valley Sports Foundation (CVSF) is a non-profit group which hosts several fundraisers per year to help supplement sports programs in the Castro Valley community.

The CVSF has a grant program in which organizations and schools can apply for (limit $5,000) to help supplement their programs with equipment or uniforms.

Last year’s event “Run to the Dam” was held at the Christmas Tree Farm and hosted 220 registrants for the 5k and 10k events and raised approximately $17,000 last year for sports programs.
The upcoming event “Run 4 Sports” will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at the Christmas Tree Farm. There are several sponsor for the event with Eden Health District being the title sponsor.

This year the Castro Valley Sports Foundation is targeting for 300 registrants for the 5k and 10k run, registration fees are $35 for 5k and $45 for 10k run.

Speaker

Don Osborne asked if the Castro Valley Sports Foundation will host another crab feed. Mr. Osborne stated that Christmas Tree Farm Road is a private road and a permit is needed to enter from East Bay Municipal Utility District EBMUD)

(The Castro Valley Sports Foundation will not host another crab feed but will host sports related fundraisers.)

III. Discussion regarding the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory ad hoc subcommittee on 10 Hills Trail Field Trip (Fire Hazards Prevention) – Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council and East Bay Regional Parks District

John Sullivan, Castro Valley resident, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding severe fire danger along the Ten Hills Trail in the Lake Chabot Regional Park.

A fire is likely to start near the golf course and Redwood Road and could easily be cause by a smoldering cigarette or spark from a motorcycle or car. The fire could be similar to the fire that happened in Santa Rosa, California in 2017.

There are several dry Eucalyptus trees in the area that could increase fire danger. There are dried leaves and brush near the roadway with wooden fences which all pose a hazard. The area needs to be cleared of fire hazards.

The presentation contained several photos of fire hazards near the Ten Hills Trail.

Dennis Waespi, Member, Board of Directors, East Bay Regional Park District, Ward 3, reported on the Districts plan for fire suppression. Mr. Waespi represents the area of Castro Valley. Mr. Waespi reported that the East Bay Regional Park District attended the Castro Valley MAC meeting on March 19th of this year to discuss fire suppression in addition to the field trip to Ten Hills Trail with MAC members on August 13, 2018.

Member, Representative Ward 3, East Bay Regional Parks stated that the Park District has a plan for fire suppression.

Acknowledged partners: Chief Dave Rocha, Alameda County Fire Department, Frank Mellon, Board Member East Bay Municipal Utility District, CalFire, Eileen Tiley, Acting Fire Chief East Bay Regional Park District

Eileen Tiley, Acting Fire Chief, East Bay Regional Parks District, reported in the Districts Wildfire Reduction Resource Management Plan. The plans major goals include:
1) Reduce fire hazards on district owned lands, specifically urban interface
2) To maintain and enhance the values of wildlife habitat, consistent with fire reduction goals
3) Provide vegetation management plan that is cost effective and environmentally sustainable
4) To preserve and maintain lands for park users and neighboring communities

The plan is a comprehensive system wide plan. Ms. Tiley also gave fire prevention tips for homeowners, such as clearing dried brush, clearing rood debris and cut back trees from roofs.
Questions/Discussion

Linda Tangren: Is the plan to remove dead trees near Ten Hills Trail? What criteria is being used to set priorities?

Eileen Tiley: In recommended treatment area dead trees will be cleared; outside of the recommended treatment area trees will not be removed.

Chuck Moore: What is the response time to Ten Hills Trail? Has the budget changed for fire prevention?
Eileen Tiley: The response time to Ten Hills Trail is 10 minutes and the budget has not changed for fire prevention.

Sheila Cunha stated that the dry foliage along Ten Hills Trail is problematic.

Ken Carbone: What is the accessibility for the homeowner on the Ten Hills Trail?
Eileen Tiley: East Bay Regional Park Districts does not allow private vehicles on the road.

Ted Riche asked if East Bay Regional Parks District uses three-inch couplings for hoses and should the couplings be larger.

Fire Chief David Rocha stated that outlets are usually between 2 ½ inches to 4 ½ inches.

Dave Sadoff asked if there was an issue with water pressure.
Fire Chief Rocha stated that the East Bay Municipal Utility District has the ability to bump up the pressure and water can also be retrieved from Lake Chabot.

Marc Crawford asked if there was an issue a fire started at Redwood Road and spreading uphill; is there a safety issue with trucks? Is there a situation with a use of water?

Chief Rocha stated that the first priority is protecting homes and hold the line at the homes and once it was safe, could go into wildlands. May start with hydrants fire would be fought with a mobile attack.

Speakers
Michelle Baxter lives on Brierly Court and she stated that she has concerns that her neighbors’ property needs to be cleared. She used to receive a letter when she lived in another County stating that property needs to be cleared. Has there been a fire drill? She would like to see a plan of action.

Brad Onstad, Castro Valley resident, there are grant programs to help clean dried brush in the area. Ten Hills Trails is a big concern and it needs to be cleared.

Don Osbourne stated that he would like to form a Committee to work with East Bay Regional Parks District to clear the Ten Hills Trail.

Stan Stadelman requested that the East Bay Regional Parks District does not cut down the 1,000 year old Oak trees. The same conditions that existed in the Oakland Hills fire in 1991 exist in Castro Valley, too much fuel and it needs to be cleared and it should be a requirement in Castro Valley.

Dennis Waespi thanked the Council for inviting them to talk about fire suppression. In addition he stated that if anyone wants to work on fire mitigation they can apply for an encroachment permit and EBRPD will waive the fee. EBRPD will allow you to come on the property to mitigate potential fires. In addition, legislation has been proposed to have fire crews working year round for pre-disaster mitigation.
Mr. Waespi committed to taking a look at tree on Grovenor Drive at the Grovenor gate that needs removal, with the Castro Valley residents. Mr. Waespi also committed to going through the slides presented by Mr. Sullivan to review problem areas.

Marc Crawford stated that the Council asked for a plan for the Ten Hills Trail area and does not believe they have received it. The Council needs something more definitive regarding the Ten Hills Trail Area.

John Sullivan stated that he has sent a letter to Supervisor Nate Miley and plans to go before the Board of Supervisors to talk about the critical fire dangers that are being ignored.

IV. Council/Staff Comments

ADJOURN
The meeting was adjourned to October 15, 2018.

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