

Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Minutes
August 9, 2006

Present: Howard Cook, Kyle McCormick, Johnnie Porter, Margit Roos-Collins, Roger Sharpe, Jesse Townley, Trudy Washburn, Dick White

Staff and Others: Dory Ehrlich, Joan MacQuarrie, Dan Lambert, Arrietta Chakos, Tom Tobin, John McComas, Lynn Zummo

Call to Order

Jesse Townley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments

Jesse said that the pet preparedness group has been meeting regularly and making progress. Roger Sharpe said that the Fire Ops 101 training held on July 15 was very valuable. Trudy Washburn showed a DVD of photos from Fire Ops 101.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 28, 2006

Moved by Trudy Washburn, seconded by Roger Sharpe, to approve the minutes of June 28, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation by Commissioner Cook, and discussion with Planning Department staff and outside experts, about the proposed Plan Set A and related issues

Joan MacQuarrie, Building Inspector, introduced Dan Lambert, Arrietta Chakos, and Tom Tobin. Plan Set A is part of all the guidelines written to improve standards for seismic upgrading. On October 1, 2006 the Building Official will promulgate the new guidelines that must be met to qualify for the transfer tax rebate. By October 1, the Building & Safety Division needs to customize the Plan Set, do more outreach to the real estate community, train inspectors, and evaluate and incorporate changes. Building & Safety will continue to fine-tune the standards during the next year.

Arrietta said Berkeley would be the first city in the Bay Area to adopt a standard to retrofit. Other local cities are looking at adoption of common retrofit standards. Over the next year, we can review the Los Angeles Hillside Ordinance materials and see how we can adapt them to our environment, then add to our existing standards. The City is also planning to create digital files and indexes of all materials, and the Planning Department will be the first department to have these files created. Arrietta offered to report back to the Commission in January or February 2007.

Howard Cook presented a PowerPoint on retrofitting. His goal is to make retrofits as effective and inexpensive as possible. He thanked and acknowledged the work of Joan and Dan, Roger Sharpe of the Commission, and all who have worked on these issues. Building & Safety staff will review the material in Howard's Commissioner's Guide to Seismic Retrofitting for use in our outreach materials to the general public, possibly to be included in an informational packet for new homeowners.

After further discussion, it was proposed that Jesse write a memo to the City Manager on behalf of the Commission, in support of Plan Set A, with the following points:

- the Commission recognizes the work that the Building & Safety Division has done in preparing guidelines for seismic strengthening work
- this is an on-going process
- smaller and in-between homes be added to the list of specifications
- the Los Angeles Hillside Ordinance be revised and potentially adapted for adoption
- creative allocation of transfer tax for homeowner/realtor education
- recommend reconvening all or part of the original Plan set A group to address issues
- recommend that the Building & Safety division have the resources to accomplish the continuation of this work

Moved by Roger Sharpe, seconded by Margit Roos-Collins, that Jesse Townley write a memo to the City Manager with various recommendations in support of the guidelines. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Moved by Roger Sharpe, seconded by Kyle McCormick, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.