



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for January 16th, 2012

The meeting was called to order in the Ebell Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:10 PM.

The meeting was chaired by Rick Rickard and Sandy Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

Alameda County Historical Society – Ed Clausen

BART – Robert Raburn

CALM – James Vann

EBBC – Rick Rickard

EBRPD – John Sutter

East Bay Garden Center – Anne Woodell

Friends of the Cleveland Cascade – Barbara Newcombe

Garden Center, Inc. – Anne Woodell

Oakland Parks Coalition – Judy Johnson, Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Brian Geiser, Tom Willging

City of Oakland

DD Manager – Joel Peter

Council District 2 – Jennie Gerard

Public Works – Jocelyn Combs

Real Estate – Hamid Ghaemmaghami

2. Announcement by Robert Raburn: Ron Bishop passed away December 11, 2011.

Members recognized him as an ardent supporter of Measure DD and bicycling who will be missed.

3. Minutes of 11/21/2011 were approved by consensus.

4. Invited Presentation: Lake Chalet Update

(Hamid Ghaemmaghami, Real-Estate Division of CEDA, City of Oakland)

The Chalet lease has a 20-year term with options for two 5-year extensions. The length of this lease reflects the costly tenant improvements needed for the site. Hamid stated that the restaurant recently hired a new chef and the food quality is reported to be improved. Two Coalition members described a problem: The employees who smoke on the west side of the building lack an appropriate receptacle for their butts, which are sometimes discarded into the plantings. We requested that Hamid contact the owner on this issue. In response to a question, Joel clarified that the lease area includes the parking aisle adjacent to the sidewalk.

The gondola business is on a year-to-year license agreement. They have opened a retail shop located below the restaurant to improve their revenue stream.

The Lake Merritt Rowing Club also occupies a lower-level space on a year-to-year lease agreement. They have moved a floating dock and they are building a second floating dock for their use. The question of parking during possible regatta events was raised. Hamid advised that he does not handle that issue.

5. Invited Presentation: Volunteer Maintenance Coordination

(Jocelyn Combs, Public Works Department, City of Oakland)

Jocelyn is the Park Volunteer Coordinator for the City and runs the "adopt a spot" program to coordinate volunteer maintenance efforts by citizens, community groups, and businesses. When she receives a call with an "adopt a spot" request she advises the person that it is a six month process. To start there must be one person to keep "eyes on the park", one person to be responsible for clean-up "feet on the park" and then, once a plan has been developed with the local community they will have their "heart on the park." Contacts for "adopt a spot" are 510-238-7630, www.oaklandadoptaspot.org or www.facebook.com/AdoptaSpot.

Corporate Sponsors: Jocelyn said that a number of businesses ask for special event volunteer projects to assign as community service for their employees. They call Jocelyn to determine what project would fit the service hours they can offer. More rarely, a business will accept an ongoing maintenance responsibility. For example, Kaiser adopted Mosswood Park as part of the mitigation for the major construction around it. Kaiser made capital improvements there and is maintaining the landscape.

Volunteers of America is a group of State Prison parolees who work with a different park supervisor each month. Some of these workers have been hired part-time by the City as a result.

A Coalition member asked Jocelyn for advice regarding maintenance of Measure DD Projects. Her key suggestion was "talk it up" - get the word out and do some creative advertising.

She also has monthly meetings with CalTrans and quarterly meetings with Union Pacific RR. UP will be removing the unused tracks at High Street and 66th Avenue on Coliseum Way. For CalTrans or UP issues, she may be contacted at jcombs@oaklandnet.com or 510-615-5566. Jocelyn advised the Coalition that Union Pacific plans to dispose of 30 lattice towers located in Oakland by March. They are definitely historic, heavy and tall!

6. Joel Peter: Update on current DD projects:

Joel distributed copies of the 1/12/2012 Project Status Summary, and this document has been posted in the [Progress section of the Coalition's web page](#). Highlights:

High Street Bridge Agreement

Joel reported a positive project kickoff meeting with Alameda County regarding the agreement and its implementation.

12th Street Project

The work is on-schedule and going well. They are installing the precast retaining wall from the Camron Stanford house, and piles for the pedestrian bridge are in on the Lakeshore side. By the end of February, traffic may be routed into its final configuration.

Snow Park

Joel passed around a 35% design drawing, and the design work is now progressing towards the 65% stage. Construction start is anticipated for early 2013.

East Oakland Sports Center

In response to a question, Joel noted that the Center is staffed and open.

Cleveland Cascade

The remaining lighted hand rail is still awaiting fabrication, so the project remains in a "holding stage".

Bellevue Ave. Reconfiguration pedestrian crossing –

The pedestrian crossing at Grand is recognized as too long. Possible changes might include bulb-outs and revisions to the area in front of Fairyland. It was suggested that the Bus Stop be moved across the intersection to create a pedestrian node similar to one in Dimond District.

Fruitvale – High Street Gap Closure

Joel noted that a minor modification to the decorative fence is underway. The revision will enhance window views from the immediately adjacent business. Landscaping has been completed.

8. Ongoing Maintenance Issues/Master Volunteers report (Jennie Gerard)

Jennie reported a Martin Luther King Jr. Day turn-out of over 450 volunteers working to clean up Lake Merritt. For the Lake Merritt Master Volunteers, a "last Saturday" schedule is in place for 2012. The next session will be January 28th at Brooklyn Avenue at Lakeshore at 9 a.m. To accommodate those who cannot work on Saturdays, the Master Volunteers will add a mid-week work day once per month, with the first session scheduled January 26th at 10:30 at the Pergola.

A member noted that our January meeting marks the 10th anniversary of the first meeting of the DD Coalition!

9. Advocacy: status report (John Sutter, Rick Rickard) No changes...

10. Agenda Suggestions for March 19th meeting:

1. Celebration of 12th Street – Committee will report
2. Oakland Museum Coordination with the completion of 12th Street. Naomi Schiff will explore.
3. Presentation on the Specific Plan for Lake Merritt BART, as it reached the Fire Alarm building.
It was noted that the Fire Alarm Building should be designated as Open Space in the Plan.

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 19th at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.