



# Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

## **Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for November 13, 2017**

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

The meeting was chaired by Jennie Gerard.  
Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

### **1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:**

Alameda County Historical Society – Ed Clausen

Bike East Bay – Robert Prinz, Rick Rickard

California Center for Natural History – Damon Tighe

Children's Fairyland – C.J. Hirschfield

East Bay Regional Parks – Dee Rosario

Golden Gate Audubon Society – Cindy Margulis

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carole Agnello

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard

Laney College – Mark Rauzon

Oakland A's – Dave Kaval, Taj Tashombe

Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Mike Udkow

Strada – Will Goodman

Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Joanna Adler, Diane Bonanno, Carolyn Burd, Sam Burd, Susan Casentini, Adrian Cotter, Kyle Milligan, Joel Peter, John Sutter

City of Oakland

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Public Works – Tora Rocha

### **2. The agenda was adopted without change.**

### **3. Minutes of 9/18/2017 were approved by consensus.**

### **4. Letter of appreciation for Tora Rocha**

Jennie Gerard introduced Tora, noted that she is retiring from the City, and then read excerpts from a Coalition letter of appreciation presented to Tora. The letter was circulated for signature by those in attendance. Tora shared remarks about her service and post-retirement plans, with emphasis on leadership of the Pollinator Posse. Coalition participants lauded Tora's many contributions.

### **5. Oakland A's response to Coalition's letter regarding stadium proposal**

Dave Kaval, A's President, introduced himself and Taj Tashombe, A's Vice President for External Affairs, and then expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak to the Coalition. Dave emphasized that the team was very early in the planning process, expecting to take one year to gather community input to incorporate into the stadium plan before it is finalized. He indicated that the A's recognize the proximity and sensitivity of the nearby channel to the planned stadium location, and then shared a few

comments in direct response to the concerns expressed in the [Coalition letter](#):

- Pedestrian traffic is a real concern which the A's intend to address by developing an "urban plan" for the area. The A's will be looking to the Coalition to better understand how to protect the Measure DD improvements.
- The A's recognize the bird sanctuary function performed by the Lake and Channel and development plans will reflect that recognition.
- This will be a "transit first" ballpark, with a reduced focus on parking and cars.
- Sound propagation from the park will be minimized by installing a distributed speaker system rather than a single very loud speaker.
- The A's are 100% committed to running the project through CEQA and performing an EIR.
- In conjunction with the City, the A's might develop an "enterprise zone" mechanism to capture the tax increment resulting from the ballpark and direct it to the needed infrastructure improvements such as a Lake Merritt BART station enhancement.

## **6. Measure DD project update – Lesley Estes**

She briefly commented on these projects:

- 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge: now complete. Opening celebration TBA. Joel Peter passed around [photos of the project in various stages of completion](#).
- Lakeside Green Street: half-way through, though last half is always slower. The project was delayed a bit by a design revision to include a "two-way cycle track" protected bike lane.
- In response to a question about the trail on the west side of the estuary channel beneath 7th Street, Lesley responded that she is aware of the poor condition (and intermittent flooding) of the trail beneath the bridge and the request that has been made to the city for an alternative "at grade" crossing. She stated that such a crossing would likely be very expensive and so she will come back to the Coalition with cost information before proceeding with any work to provide an alternative crossing.

## **7. Bay Trail items**

Updates on 14 remaining gaps – Lesley Estes

- Park Street Bridge: exploring trail alignment though storage room.
- High Street Bridge: alignment through storage room is not promising.
- Fruitvale Bridge: in discussions with new property owner about trail access.
- Gallagher & Burk: East Bay Regional Parks is pursuing trail implementation.
- CMEX, Outboard Motor Shop, & Miller Milling: These are being pursued as a group due to the need for continuity in trail alignment across the three sites. The City has completed conceptual designs, and the City's negotiator is working on agreements.
- Harbor Master Trail Connection: Lesley passed around a new City design with accommodations intended to appeal to the tenants. To date it has not been accepted.

Bay Trail Subcommittee recommendation re: Harbormaster site – John Sutter

John read the following statement from the subcommittee. After a bit of discussion, the Coalition adopted the subcommittee recommendation by consensus:

*The idea of deviating from the original plan for the Bay Trail at the Harbormaster site near Motel 6 by building the trail around the Harbormaster building is, in our*

*opinion, unwise. While it would accommodate the residents of the marina at that location, it creates a permanent and somewhat confusing detour for cyclists and pedestrians. It is also a poor precedent and sends the message that building the Bay Trail as planned is not a priority for the city. We are pleased that the city has engaged the services of a negotiator, whose services will hopefully expedite the closure of the gaps in the Bay Trail. We suggest that he negotiate with the owners of this site soon with the goal of closing this gap as soon as possible.*

#### Lake Merritt to Bay Trail Bridge funding proposal – Lesley Estes

Lesley repeated the history of the funding request, stating that DD expenditures to date have been about one million dollars for design, and the request was for an additional three million dollars for "seed money" and project staffing.

Bill Threlfall mentioned that the written funding proposal submitted by Diane Tannenwald in August had not been provided to the Coalition because it was incomplete in several sections where Diane's response was: "Measure DD Bond Manager, Lesley Estes, makes this determination." At the September 18, 2017 Coalition meeting. These unfinished sections were referred to Lesley for completion by November 1. Lesley said that the missing sections deal mainly with identifying what sections of the bond the proposed funding would be drawn from and what the impact of the proposed allocation would be on the remaining Measure DD projects specified in the bond language approved by the voters. However, she did not provide answers to those questions.

Lesley was encouraged to provide the requested information for Coalition consideration at the January 15, 2018 meeting.

Brief discussion followed, with expression of concern about the continuation of bridge expenditures from DD funds even though the Coalition had not yet reviewed the funding proposal, but no action was taken.

### **8. Report on Lake Merritt advocacy meeting – Nancy Sherman**

Nancy gave an overview of this meeting that was held in the afternoon of November 13. She noted it was well-attended, with at least 30 organizations represented. The meeting was an opportunity to work toward a common voice in support of the Lake, with the possibility of a spin-off web-site or other tactic to better reach the public.

Jennie encouraged Coalition participants to visit [www.lakemerritt.org](http://www.lakemerritt.org), a website organized by John Kirkmire to provide such public information.

### **9. Lake Chalet storage sheds – Lesley Estes**

Lesley reported that the tenant at the Municipal Boathouse had installed outdoor sheds on this historic building in violation of their contract terms, and she distributed photos showing the sheds. She indicated that she and the Real Estate Division are "working on it."

### **10. Announcements**

- Weed Warriors Work days: 12/2 and 12/30, locations TBA
- 2017 Warriors parade reimbursement – Mike Udkow  
Mike mentioned that the City had settled with the Warriors for the 2017 parade costs but had agreed to set aside the claim for 2015 because the 2017 costs exceeded expectations.

- 2018 Coalition meeting schedule is set: 1/15, 3/19, 5/21, 7/16, 9/17, 11/19.
- Other announcements – Cindy Margules described the relocation plans to attract herons back to the Lake.

**10. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants:**

- Lesley to complete bridge funding proposal
- Bill to distribute bridge funding proposal upon completion
- Bill to update Bay Trail Gap list to reflect tonight's reports

**11. Agenda suggestions for January 15, 2018 Meeting:**

- Bridge funding proposal – Lesley/Bill
- Semi-annual distribution of DD Project Status Summary spreadsheet - Lesley
- A's stadium

The next Coalition meeting will be January 15, 2018, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

**Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**