



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for March 15, 2021

The virtual meeting was called to order over Zoom at 7:10 p.m.

A video recording of this meeting is available: [view recording](#)
Specific video links for major agenda items are embedded in the minutes below.

The meeting was chaired by Jennie Gerard with support from Agenda Committee member Adrian Cotter. Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

Bike East Bay – Rick Rickard
CALM – Kathryn Kasch, James Vann
Community for Lake Merritt – Adrian Cotter
East Bay Regional Parks – Dee Rosario
East Bay Rowing Club – Jolie Krakaur
Essex and Lake Merritt Homeowners' Association – Nancy Forbord
Friends of Joaquin Miller Park – Mike Udkow
Friends of Sausal Creek – Anna Schmidt
Lake Merritt Institute - John Bowers, Charles Brooks
Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard
Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff
Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation - Mandolin Kadera-Redmond
Rotary Nature Center Friends – Katie Noonan
Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman
Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall
Interested Citizens – Carolyn Burd, Sam Burd, Vince Geronimo, Bob Redman, Myra Redman
City of Oakland:
Measure DD Program Manager – Kristin Hathaway
Human Services Department – Sara Bedford, Lara Tannenbaum

2. The agenda was adopted without revision.

3. Minutes of 1/18/2021 were approved.

4. Homelessness around Lake Merritt, along the Lake Merritt Channel and at Union Point Park - Sara Bedford and Lara Tannenbaum ([video link](#))

Jennie gave a brief overview of the issues and status. She then introduced Lara Tannenbaum and Sara Bedford. Sarah was representing LaTonda Simmons, Assistant City Administrator, who was invited but unable to attend. In the absence of the Assistant City Administrator, Sara noted that neither she nor Lara was likely to be able to fully answer all questions of interest, especially those pertaining to enforcement.

As shown in the video, Lara described recent City actions and results at Union Point Park, where “as of last week, everybody moved out of the park into a hotel.” She also introduced the planned “co-governance” initiative and went on to discuss the channel area, collaboration with Public Works, and increasing investments in outreach and encampment management.

After some Q&A and Coalition comments, the session concluded.

5. Measure DD Project Updates – Kristin Hathaway ([video link](#))

Kristin commented on the status of most projects, with her remarks closely following the notes in the project status column of the [March 15, 2021 Project Status Summary](#) spreadsheet.

Following are a few points not included in the spreadsheet:

- Lake Merritt projects: *It appears that about \$1.3M may remain unallocated in this bond category after all planned projects are completed. These funds may be considered for Lake Merritt area “wish list” projects.*
- Estuary Waterfront projects: *The City has encountered ongoing difficulties in negotiating with the involved property owners for the agreements needed for trail progress. The owners have expressed concern about homeless occupation and are demanding that the City commit to clearing any encampments within 24 hours. Kristin noted that BCDC has been contacted about its permit requirements for the properties as these might prove helpful in these negotiations.*

There was brief discussion about whether alternate trail alignments might be used in these difficult cases, but there was no consensus to pursue this course.

Kristin will attempt to develop and share with the Coalition a better sense of likely unallocated residual funds in Estuary Waterfront bond category. As food for future thought, she mentioned that “we have been asked by folks at the City if the Coalition would support using any DD money to do some repairs at Union Point Park from some of the damage that was caused by homeless encampments there. This is just a very preliminary question which maybe we can discuss in May.”

- Fruitvale Bridge Gap Closure: *Negotiations with the property owner have proved unproductive. If no agreement is reached, the City may need to redirect the allocation to another project. In that event, because the owner will soon need a new operations permit from BCDC, he will be required by BCDC to build a trail that will close this gap.*
- Lake Merritt Channel at 10th Street: *Kristin noted that the difficulties at the wetlands mean that “this is no longer a project element, but instead is a homeless encampment question.” Discussion of the fence ensued, with attention to its funding and timing. Kristin said we wouldn’t want to do the revegetation until either the fence is built or encampment management becomes effective. Katie inquired whether impacts on nearby water quality are being monitored; the answer was “no”. Kristin clarified that monitoring is focused on plant survival rates, which must meet certain minimums by permit.*

- Cryer Site Fire: Naomi again asked about the city's insurance for the Cryer building. Kristin reported that an answer from the City's facilities group is still pending. Naomi emphasized the City's responsibility to preserve and protect its historic buildings under the terms of its general plan.

6. Lake Merritt decomposed granite pathways – Craig Pon

As Craig was absent, this item was deferred until the May meeting.

7. Discussion of Priority Projects (AKA "Wish List") – Adrian Cotter ([video link](#))

Adrian recognized the contributions of James Vann, Naomi Schiff, Jennie Gerard, and David Wofford. He then made a video presentation that is best understood by following the above video link.

Coalition comments were limited but included these:

- Rotary Nature Center Bathrooms. Most views suggested that the Coalition leave details about the improvements needed for future discussion while emphasizing the importance of the general issue.
- Rotary Nature Center paths and seating. Katie emphasized the need for an integrated approach to improvements here.
- Rotary Nature Center children's playground. This project was suggested as a target for community and civic organization involvement. Katie followed up by emphasizing the need for safety and for facilities that invite participation by youth of varying ages.
- Path improvements on East side of channel: There seemed to be uncertainty about the how this issue had been addressed or might be addressed by the CIP process.

Discussion ensued about how to go forward with funded items that were not previously submitted to CIP, and Kristin agreed to seek greater clarity about process.

James asked about the possibility of going to Council with some sort of special request pertaining to these projects.

Jennie expressed appreciation to James and Adrian for their fine work, and others echoed this thanks.

8. Nominations for 2021 Agenda Committee ([video link](#))

Jennie invited nominations or volunteers per the Coalition's [adopted guidelines](#). James recommended that the current Agenda Committee be continued for 2021. It was agreed to accept any forthcoming nominations and vote on appointment at the May meeting.

9. Announcements and reports ([video link](#))

- a) Series C audit available. The audit report has been posted on the [Coalition's archive page](#) in the **Expense Tracking** section.

- b) Jennie encouraged participation in the City's Lake Merritt Survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQZPSXB>
- c) Rotary Nature Center Friends on-line events. Katie described details in the video and put them in the Zoom chat for those interested.
- d) Lake Merritt Weed Warriors. Jennie advised that work days will resume when COVID conditions permit.
- e) East Bay Regional Parks. Dee Rosario announced key transitions and staff changes.

10. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants: ([video link](#))

- James introduced a motion that someone at the Coalition be assigned the task to write a Coalition letter to the Rotary Club suggesting that they might take an interest in taking on the children's playground restoration as a project or assisting in raising funds to redevelop that area. Jennie volunteered to work with C.J. Hirschfield to explore how the Coalition might best work to get this suggestion in front of the Rotary Club.
- Kristin to investigate any marsh water-quality fines that the City is facing due to misuse of the shoreline as a latrine and related pollution. (remaining from January)
- Jennie (lead) and Naomi to develop a list of projects by District and then follow-up with appropriate invitations to council members for staff participation at Coalition meetings. (remaining from January)
- Kristin to investigate and share the City process which will guide or limit the advancement of funded Measure DD "wish list" projects
- Jennie to write to LaTonda Simmons re: unanswered questions

11. Agenda suggestions for next Meeting:

- Decomposed granite path repair/replacement – Craig Pon
- [Audit](#) review – Bill
- City request for DD support of funding Union Point Park repairs – Kristin
- City process for "Wishlist" implementation – Kristin
- Cryer site insurance update - Kristin
- [Waterfront Trails Implementation Status report to Council](#) - Kristin
- Proposed cycletrack extension – invited DOT representatives
- Signage for Lake – Jen Stern
- Design for marsh shoreline fence - Kristin
- Status of Tide Gate Protocol (Likely covered in DD project updates) and any City plans that might exist to re-test water quality in the Lake. – requested by Katie

The next Coalition meeting is scheduled May 17, 2021, at 7:10 p.m.
Over Zoom.

Adjourned at 9:02 p.m.