



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for March 19th, 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 Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

Alameda County Historical Society – Ed Clausen

CALM – James Vann

EBBC – Rick Rickard

East Bay Garden Center – Bruce Cobble Dick

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Oakland Parks Coalition – Judy Johnson, Mike Udkow

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Lee Aurich, Helen Hutchinson, Robert Kidd, Aurora Mahassine
City of Oakland

DD Manager – Joel Peter

Council District 2 – Jennie Gerard

Cultural Arts & Marketing – Kristen Zaremba

Public Works – Tora Rocha

2. Minutes of 1/16/2012 were approved by consensus.

3. Invited Presentation: Public Art Project Update

(Kristen Zaremba, Senior Public Art Project Manager, City of Oakland)

Kristen described the background of the Measure DD public arts program and reviewed its funding principles. She then briefly reviewed the main Measure DD public arts projects that have been completed or are in progress. She briefly described upcoming projects and asked the Coalition to appoint one or two representatives to the Artist Selection Panel for the Snow Park art project. The main graphic content of her presentation is available in a pdf PowerPoint at: http://www.waterfrontaction.org/dd/archive/dd_PublicArt_2011.pdf

4. Update on current DD projects - Joel Peter:

Joel distributed copies of the 3/7/2012 Project Status Summary, and this document has been posted in the [Progress section of the Coalition's web page](#). Highlights:

12th Street Project

Progress continues. The second bridge is now open and 14th St. will open on March 20.

Waterfront Trail Overview

Joel presented a large aerial view of the estuary with key gap and project locations clearly marked. This graphic supported his review of the key gaps and the initiatives planned to address them.

In the course of the review, he mentioned that the schedule for Estuary Park is entirely dependent on the schedule for the Oak to Ninth project which remains uncertain. Several Coalition members expressed concern about the schedule uncertainty for the planned public

access throughout the Oak to Ninth project area and suggested possible steps the Coalition might take. In response, Bill suggested that the Coalition plan to revisit this issue following the recently extended deadline for close of escrow: January 31, 2013; if that deadline is extended further, the Coalition may then wish to undertake a thorough review of the problem and possible related actions.

Bay Trail to Lake Merritt Bike/Pedestrian Bridge

Joel indicated that he was issuing an RFP for a feasibility study for the project and had submitted a Bay Trail grant request to assist in funding the study. He indicated that projected costs are likely to far exceed the 1997 estimates of \$2.7m; a comparable span in Pleasant Hill cost about \$13m. Nevertheless, he expressed optimism that once the feasibility study was in hand, it would be possible to pursue a range of potential funding avenues.

Naomi inquired whether some of the allocation for Estuary Park and other Oak to Ninth spaces might also be used to address the Bike/Pedestrian bridge connection to Estuary Park, and Joel confirmed that some flexibility exists.

Fruitvale – High Street Gap Closure

Joel distributed a photo showing the completed work in a before/after format that highlighted the changes. He mentioned that some theft of bolts and plants at the site had occurred and described plans to further secure the metalwork. A ribbon cutting is expected, but not for some time - no date has been set.

ConAgra Meeting

Rick and Joel held a one-hour face-to-face meeting with the ConAgra President, and it included a telephone conference with the Vice-President of Real Estate, Legal Counsel, and Security Chief in Omaha. The discussion focused on the Measure DD goal of acquiring an easement for the waterfront trail along the ConAgra property edge, and preliminary indications were "encouraging". As a next step a City consulting engineer will prepare a topographic and boundary survey of the site and lay out the precise route of the proposed trail. Further negotiation of the easement will then commence. Coalition members lauded the efforts by Joel and especially by Rick, who has pursued the matter with considerable persistence.

5. Springtime Goose Management

Tora Rocha of Public Works explained the challenges to successful management of goose waste: limited staff time and assignment flexibility; difficulty in using the leaf sweeper machine on sloped terrain; incomplete pickup of waste by mowing machines, etc. Judy Johnson reported that in an e-mail, she asked Jim Ryugo, Building Services Manager, Public Works Department, to advise the Coalition about City plans to address the problem. In his reply dated 3/16/2012, he expressed similar constraints:

"The main issue is the lack of staffing. The frequency of turn mowing has been reduced so the goose poop remains on the turf for a longer period of time before the mowing occurs. (We are on a 3-week mowing schedule.) We experimented with the goose poop sweeper but it was designed for relatively flat golf courses and it was not effective at Lakeside Park due to the uneven grounds.

We are purchasing a new leaf sweeper and changing to rubber finger reel attachment that should be effective for picking up dry goose poop. But, the leaf sweeper requires an operator and we have limited staff. Given the choice between sweeping or mowing, I think mowing would be a better and more effective solution because we are recycling the materials back to the soil. However, sweeping leaves a cleaner looking park. Sweeper link:

http://smithco.com/old/06_golf/sweepers/sweeper_star60.html

The 12th Street Dam project is proceeding and we'll be receiving more park area to maintain, but without any additional staffing or resources. We simply need more staff if the public expects park maintenance."

6. 10th Anniversary Celebration

A general discussion of the issue ensued. James suggested that the name be revised to focus public attention on the celebration of the opening of 12th St. or on Measure DD accomplishments rather than on the passage of 10 years, and there seemed to be consensus about that change.

Naomi proposed Museum involvement in the event and suggested we might solicit the contribution of a Museum venue for the event. She agreed to contact Bill McMorris, Museum Project Coordinator about possible collaboration and also about attending a future Coalition meeting. Additionally, she suggested the possibility of approaching McGuire and Hester about underwriting some portion of the event costs.

Jennie proposed scheduling the event sometime in spring of 2013 so that it could be held outdoors and so that we could assure that the project will be fully complete, attractive, and publicly accessible. Once again there was considerable support for this idea.

Naomi agreed to join the planning committee, which now consists of Sandy Threlfall, Mike Udkow, Ann Woodell, James Vann, and Naomi Schiff. It was agreed that the committee needs to meet prior to the next Coalition meeting and plan to report then.

7. Possible Springtime Field Trip to DD Project

It was suggested that the May Coalition meeting consist of a walk/ride along the estuary through recent DD project areas and key trail gaps. However, there was consensus that we need to hold a regular meeting to conduct our business and that a separate daytime field trip should be planned. No specific arrangements were made.

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

Jennie described plans for the March Master Volunteers session. Naomi proposed that the Coalition plan a future walk-run fundraiser to seed a volunteer maintenance fund, possibly in association with the "celebration of the opening" event in spring of 2013. Rick suggested the addition of bicycle involvement (bike-walk-run), noting that bike firms would be likely sources to underwrite the fundraiser.

9. Coalition Representative to the Snow Park Project Art Selection Panel

The consensus of the Coalition was that Mike Udkow be appointed to represent the Coalition and participate in the selection panel. Bill agreed to advise Kristen Zarembo of the Coalition's action.

10. Agenda Suggestions for May 21st meeting:

1. Celebration of 12th Street opening – Committee will report.
2. Invited guest: Bill McMorris, Oakland Museum Project Coordinator to discuss collaboration opportunities
3. James asked for some means to learn about the art designs planned for Lake Merritt and 12th St. – either that Kristen provide design documents or return for an additional presentation.

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, May 21st at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.
Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.