



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for May 16, 2016

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

The meeting was chaired by Joel Peter.
Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

Bike East Bay – Dave Campbell, Rick Rickard

CALM – James Vann

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

Friends of the Cleveland Cascade – David Bolanos

Friends of Sausal Creek – Dee Rosario

Junior Center of Arts & Science – Susan Aquistapace, Gail Tsang

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Aileen Frankel

Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow

Oakland Tenants Union – Brian Geiser

Orton Development – Carole Bradley, Eddie Orton, Nick Orton

Rotary Nature Center – Constance Taylor

The Garden Center Inc. – Susan Veit

Urban Permaculture Institute – Rashelle Reynold, Isabel Rodriguez-Vega, Nancy Sherman

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall

Wholly H2O – Elizabeth Dougherty

Interested Citizens – Mike Connor, Trina Goodwin, Joel Peter, Christine Werme

City of Oakland

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

2. Minutes of 3/21/2016 were approved by consensus.

3. Presentation: Oakland Auditorium rehabilitation project – Orton Development

Eddie Orton introduced Nick Orton and Carole Bradley from his project team, and indicated that their presentation would focus on the area between the building and the water. He noted that the project is deep in the design process and they are actively seeking community input.

Nick then gave a brief overview of the company and the project. Carole presented a design drawing and description of a possible "podium" or deck structure to be appended to the lake side of the building, abutting the Calder niches. This structure would improve ADA access and provide a view over cars toward the lake.

Other points mentioned include: a) possible involvement of Walter Hood in landscape design, b) a commitment to working within the constraints of the existing roadways, number of parking spaces, etc., c) a strong interest in establishing a connection to Chinatown, c) a wish to build a preschool in the space between the building and the museum, and d) a project timeframe of maybe 2-3 years. Coalition participants were encouraged to direct any design input to Nick Orton at norton@ortondevelopment.com.

4. Measure DD project update – Lesley Estes

Bellevue Avenue (through Lakeside Park) Project

Construction has begun. Overflow parking near the Sailboat House and restriping for a bike lane are included.

Bellevue/Grand Entryway Project

Project has been delayed by grant requirements.

10th Street Project

Lesley distributed a photo of the land area under the new bridge being removed and noted this opening will result in further improvement of water circulation and quality. There have been some delays due to permitting challenges, but the hope is to finish by the end of this year.

Sausal Creek Restoration Project

A ribbon cutting ceremony ([more detail](#)) is scheduled for July 17.

Lakeside Green Street

Two bids were received and are now under review.

Bay Trail Improvements on Port Land

The Livingston Pier and Embarcadero Cove projects are going to bid. The Crowley site project is on hold pending the outcome of a Port-developer ENA for a hotel on the site. BCDC would obligate the hotel developer to build a permanent Bay Trail segment in front of the hotel. Depending on the project timing, Measure DD might elect not to construct an interim trail segment there, saving funds for other estuary projects. John Sutter commented that a hotel on the Crowley site would threaten the open view of the water there, which is nearly unique along the embarcadero.

Estuary Park

Lesley briefly explained the issue regarding the timetable for site remediation by the Brooklyn Basin developer and noted that it has been resolved successfully.

High Street Bridge

Lesley indicated that discussions with Alameda County are still ongoing. John Sutter then advised that the East Bay Regional Park District and the City of Alameda are negotiating with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding responsibility for the Tidal Canal, which is a portion of the body of water between Alameda and Oakland. (See [detail on location and history of the Tidal Canal](#).) The arrangement under consideration would make the City of Alameda responsible for the Alameda side of the canal, with the Park District responsible for the Oakland side. Such an agreement would likely facilitate Measure DD projects, especially at the Oakland-Alameda bridge crossings.

Questions regarding extending the scope of Measure DD

Some participants asked about the possibility of using Measure DD funds to address other needs that are not part of Measure DD projects. Lesley explained that the language of the voter-approved bond restricts the areas for expenditure: *"The improvements, acquisition and construction to be funded by the net proceeds of the bonds shall be limited to those listed in Exhibit A attached to this Ordinance."* The [complete bond text, including Exhibit A and the Oakland Trust for Clean Water, Safe Parks Project List](#) is posted on the Coalition's archive page.

5. Series C bond sale & expenditure of earned interest

Lesley Estes briefly reviewed the unexpected constraints on bond sale and expenditure of earned interest that she had initially reported at the Coalition's March 21, 2016 meeting, and then noted that those limitations had been eased. There is now more flexibility concerning the timeframe for expenditure of Series A bond interest. She also described a revised strategy for sale of Series C bonds that will better satisfy all concerns: The initial Series C sale, planned for this summer, will include less than half the Series C amount and will be expended mainly on design and environmental review. Later, the remaining Series C bonds will be sold and used for construction to be performed soon after the sale.

6. Pedestrian/bicycle bridge for channel to Bay Trail connection

Lesley Estes reminded the Coalition that this project was never fully funded by Measure DD, and it will need a lot of financial support. The preferred designs are complex and costly. She passed around design drawings showing the preferred alignments, which land on the estuary side at a "T" where the Bay Trail crosses the Embarcadero Bridge now under reconstruction. (These alignments may be viewed at <http://www.lm2bt.com/>)

7. Fiscal report on Council-authorized \$400K enhanced maintenance allocation for Lake Merritt DD landscape

Bill discussed the need for reporting about expenditures against the Council's special allocation of \$400K for enhanced Maintenance at Lake Merritt. He reminded the Coalition that at the July 20, 2015 Coalition meeting, Brooke Levin, Director of Public Works, indicated that "the annual allocation of \$400k will not be in a restricted fund, but based on the account structure, reports can be created to show expenditures from the special allocation."

The Coalition developed consensus that it should send a written request to Brooke Levin for a Fiscal report on expenditures to date against the \$400K FY 2005-2006 special Council allocation for enhanced Maintenance at Lake Merritt. The time frame to be covered by the report was discussed, with the initial suggestion as a fiscal year-end report. Further discussion warned of the possibility of a "sweep" of unexpended funds prior to the end of fiscal year and included the suggestion of requesting an essentially immediate report that would provide the basis for a request to Council to carry over unexpended allocation to subsequent fiscal years. There was consensus to appoint an ad-hoc committee consisting of Naomi Schiff, Jennie Gerard, and James Vann to pool their experience and determine the optimum time frame for the requested report in view of the typical fiscal practices of the City, draft the request, and send it forward on behalf of the Coalition.

8. Brooklyn Basin first building and shoreline park

James Vann noted that initial design drawings have been released for the first building to be constructed in the Brooklyn Basin project. He offered a few comments regarding its architecture and noted it was situated near the planned Shoreline Park. The design has not yet been reviewed by the Planning Commission. Brief discussion ensued.

9. Informational reports on matters with potential impact on Measure DD Projects:

Playground adjacent to Lakeview Library. Mike Udkow reported on a project to rebuild the playground equipment, noting that although grants have been received, the project still needs \$90,000. A "crowd-sourcing" campaign for these funds is underway and may be found at <https://www.tilt.com/>

Remainder Parcel at E 12th St & Lake Merritt Boulevard. James Vann briefly reviewed the history and status of the proposals and plans for development at this site, noting it was created as a by-project of the Measure DD 12th Street Reconstruction project.

Downtown Specific Plan. Brian Geiser commented briefly on the importance of the [Downtown Specific Plan](#), given its proximity to the Lake and Estuary.

10. Discussion: Coalition statement of purpose and accomplishments

Bill Threlfall briefly reviewed the Coalition's formal adoption of its [statement of purpose](#) at its April 12, 2003 meeting. He then distributed an updated draft analysis of the [Coalition's Accomplishments and Missed Opportunities](#) in each functional area of the statement of purpose. He noted that the listed accomplishments are only those directly related to the statement of purpose; the Coalition has many other accomplishments to its record.

He repeated his personal view that the Coalition had done well overall but been weak on "oversight" and "monitoring financial accountability" and had missed several opportunities to better inform the public about Measure DD. He lamented the failure to capitalize on the fine work of the Walking Tour Committee by implementing [its recommendations](#).

He expressed satisfaction that tonight's agenda included several items bearing directly on missed opportunities and urged those in attendance to review the material and use it to help shape agenda requests for upcoming meetings.

11. Encampments at Lake Merritt and Channel

Nancy Sherman reported that the encampment had moved out but later returned. After a brief discussion, Barbara Schaaf noted that Brooke Levin has said to call Public Works when further issues need to be reported.

11. Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Announcement

Joel Peter indicated the next workday will be May 28, 2016 at the Municipal Boat House (Lake Chalet), 1520 Lakeside Drive.

12. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Participants:

An ad-hoc committee of Naomi Schiff, Jennie Gerard, and James Vann were assigned the task of obtaining a fiscal report as described in item 7, above.

13. Agenda Suggestions for May 16, 2016 Meeting:

The following topics were mentioned during the course of the meeting:

- Series C – expanded discussion of projects, overall schedule, funding & strategy
- Semi-annual Update, distribution, and review of the [Project Status Summary](#)

The next Coalition meeting will be July 18, 2016, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.