

Measure DD Coalition
Minutes of May 19, 2008 Meeting

In attendance: Ron Bishop, David Bolanos, Rick Rickard, Naomi Schiff, John Klein, Sandy Threlfall, Anne Woodell, Bryan Caluwe, Walter Panzar, Brian Roberts, Jesse Roseman and Kathy Raymond.
City Staff Attendees: Joel Peter, Jennie Gerard

Project Updates:

The Lakeshore bid was opened, there were 5 bidders that bid on both options A and B. Gallagher & Burke was the low bidder. Approximately \$4.5 million for Option B and Option A was around \$683,000 higher. Staff will be going to the City Council in late June/early July to award the contract and they will recommend approving Option B. The Council has the authority ultimately to choose between A and B. Money is a driving factor but also the staff feels that Option B will be better for traffic operation.

The Canada Geese issue is still ongoing. The City has ordered a nature sweep machine. This will be a ½ time person job during the summer to try and clean up the goose droppings. They will also be testing Goose exclusion fencing and have some up around the play area already. However, some neighbors are complaining about the fence look. This is a pilot project during the summer. The tree cutting is moving forward and the City is planning to cut around the 12th St. area around the Lake Merritt channel and Kaiser Convention Center. They have gone out to bid and are working on a contract. It was asked if the lawsuit had been appealed, Joel stated that the Appellant had not filed a brief but had gotten an extension until June 1st and can also ask for more time. Joel stated that unless the Court issues an injunction it would not hold up the City's moving forward with the tree cutting.

Studio One is opening. Friends of Studio One is hosting a sneak peak on May 29th and OPR will have their grand opening on Saturday, May 31st. The 66th Ave. opening is Wednesday, May 28th at 10:30 am. It was noted that the artwork here is very nice.

The City is finishing up the East 18th Pier and they are looking into suggestions for renaming the pier. They are shooting for June 2nd to finalize this project. The Area of Lakeside Ave. Park around the Municipal Boathouse is going out to bid for the landscape work and the bids will be open June 9th.

The waterfront trail from Derby to Lancaster went out to bid and will be opened sometime in June. The appraisal on the Brooklyn Basin property is done and the City will be discussing with the Port about purchasing this property.

There was a lot of discussion on how to get more media coverage for the projects that are now being completed. Karen Boyd is the information officer with the City and Harry Hamilton these are the contacts to work with about publicity at the City. It was discussed how the coalition could help get more publicity around these projects. Perhaps a monthly column, both the Chronicle and Tribune should be covering these stories. John Klein offered to call Karen and Harry about ideas on how to get more coverage. Jennie Gerard was going to provide John with their contact information. Cecily Burt of the Tribune and Eric Nelson that does the outdoor section in the Chronicle were mentioned as possible reporters to contact.

It was asked if there is enough monies to implement Option B of the Lakeshore project. Joel indicated there was as the project has monies from a number of the funding sources, the bike and path funding, Lakeside, Lake Merritt systemwide, El Embarcadero and state monies. The project involves aspects of all of these sources. This is typical of the larger projects.

The East 18th Gateway is apparently no longer a DD project it will be done with redevelopment dollars. It was asked how the City plans to take care of the weeds sprouting up from the trees that have been cut. Joel said that the City will be removing the stumps in late summer or early fall most likely. It was noted that the Spring of 09 will probably be the earliest any of the new trees are planted. It was noted that it would be helpful if there were descriptive signs about what will be coming and perhaps that would help with some of the concerns. It was noted that overall the City needs updated signage.

It was asked about the Cascade and Joel did not know any new information and suggested that Lyle Oehler should be contacted with questions.

The group discussed the new parcel of land that will be created during the 12th St. project. It will be about 2 acres. The DD project will grade and hydroseed this land but that is all the project covers. It could turn into open space or it could be sold, perhaps to get more money for the DD projects. In Joel's opinion only about ½ of this space could be a buildable lot, perhaps an acre, as there is a major sewer line down the middle of the space and the plot slopes quite a bit on one side. Ultimately it will be up to the City Council what happens to this new space.

On the zoning update that was mentioned last meeting that will effect the Lake edge their will be a meeting on Wednesday with a sub-committee of the planning commission on May 21st, hearing room 1 at 4 pm If you are interested. The staff is under some pressure by developers to remove height limits according to Naomi.

The new agenda committee for July and September will be Rick Rickard and John Klein. Kathy Raymond has also agreed to help if needed.

The Fairyland Grand opening will be June 26th for their new Children's Theater.

Sandy mentioned that the Waterfront Action has put out a new Alameda and Oakland Waterfront map. It is interactive on line as well as there is a printed version. Kathy will put the link on the DD website.

In Series C is when it calls to reconfigure Bellevue and also some path improvements are in the bond for Lakeshore and Lakeside.

The City Council unanimously agreed to uphold the EIR and deny the appeal. The appellant could enter into a lawsuit if they choose but it was thought that the time had expired for that course of action.

Butter's Land Trust just completed a sale to the City and then purchased the largest undeveloped property left with the funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.