



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for September 21, 2020

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 David Wofford with support from Agenda Committee members Jennie Gerard and Adrian Cotter. Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

Bike East Bay –Rick Rickard

CALM – James Vann

Community for Lake Merritt – Adrian Cotter

East Bay Regional Parks – Dee Rosario

East Bay Rowing Club – Jolie Krakaur

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 & Recreation Foundation – Mike Udkow

Rotary Nature Center Friends – Katie Noonan, David Wofford

Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Laura Abbot, Vince Geronimo, Bob Redman, Myra Redman,
City of Oakland:

Measure DD Program Manager – Kristin Hathaway

Public Works Agency - Ha Nguyen

Public Arts Program – Kristen Zarembo

2. The agenda was adopted without revision.

3. Minutes of 7/20/2020 were approved.

4. 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 [September 21, 2020 Project Status Summary](#) spreadsheet. For a few projects, she responded to questions or comments:

- At several sites, progress toward the necessary agreements was stalled by property owners' concerns about the City's ongoing management of the homeless population. Discussion followed, with Coalition participants seeking more information about the City's plans for managing encampments.
- Regarding Estuary Park, Kristin affirmed that there will be additional opportunity for public input when the design process is resumed.
- Lake Merritt Channel at 10th Street: Wetland repair is planned but has not gone to bid pending resolution of homeless encampment impacts. Ha Nguyen advised that on September 22, 2020, Council would consider a draft homelessness

encampment management policy which may help address the issue, and she described a few details included in the draft proposal. James Vann noted that Council has already designated Lake Merritt and its parks as a “no camping zone” and inquired if enforcement of that action can be re-started. Discussion ensued with much attention devoted to the extent and impacts of encampments and their management through fencing and enforcement.

- Lake Merritt to Estuary Connection: *Kristin reported that Public Works had spent approximately one million dollars of Measure DD funds on the bridge. She provided a [report detailing these expenditures](#) for publication in the **Expense Tracking** section of the [Coalition's Archive Page](#). One Coalition participant complained about this expenditure and its outcomes. Design is at about 50% for the bridge project, which is estimated to cost in the tens of millions and has no identified further funding. The project has been transferred from Public Works to the Department of Transportation.*
- Tidal Gate Operations Guidance for the 7th Street Flood Control Facility: *The matter remains in progress, with the goal of setting agreed operational protocols. Kristin noted that the contractor's first draft work product did not meet expectations and the City is now seeking a revision. The requested revision has not yet been received. Considerable discussion ensued about County protocol for operation of the gates.*
- Lake Merritt Channel at 7th Street: *In response to a question, Kristin reiterated her understanding that the County has no expressed intention to move forward with pump station improvement in the foreseeable future.*
- Courtland Creek Restoration at Courtland Creek Park: *Kristin highlighted a recent grant award and other fund raising initiatives that are in progress to help leverage Measure DD funds.*
- Other: *James Vann asked if park construction at Brooklyn Basin has progressed sufficiently that the Coalition might arrange a tour of the park sites. Kristin agreed to explore this possibility. Katie Noonan asked about resumption of the Lake Merritt Water Quality Technical Committee, and Kristin confirmed an intent to resume.*

5. Lake Merritt Path Pothole Status – Jennie Gerard ([video link](#))

Jennie gave a description of the problem and noted that as a bond, Measure DD can fund only capital projects, not maintenance. She has identified the head of the facilities unit within Public works that is responsible for maintaining parks. After brief discussion, there was consensus that the Coalition adopt a position requesting that Public Works provide a report of the condition of these pathways and options for addressing that condition for its November meeting. Bill Threlfall and Jennie Gerard offered to draft the request and forward it to Kristin to convey to Public Works staff as appropriate.

At this point ([video link](#)), the meeting departed from the agenda as David asked if the Coalition should be seeking a presentation on homeless encampments from Daryel Dunston. In response, James proposed that he send to the Agenda Committee for transmission to Daryel a question whether the City will move on removing the homeless encampments from the Channel and Lake. He then indicated he would “send something to the Agenda Committee”. Further discussion ensued, resulting in a plan to resume the agenda and continue the matter later under Suggestions for November Agenda items.

6. Available interest and Bond Section I funds for “wish list” items – Kristin Hathaway. ([video link](#))

Kristin reviewed the bond’s allocations in the Lake Merritt category. After some detail, she indicated that there are approximately \$4 million to be considered available for “wish list” additional expenditure at the Lake and adjacent parks.

7. Discussion of “wish list” priorities – James Vann ([video link](#))

James discussed the Coalition’s expressed interest in these “wish list” items:

- Upgrade of pathways and walkways around the Lake
- Name Installation at 18th Street Pier

Kristin highlighted the need for the Coalition to provide the support needed for CIP approval. James proposed that the Agenda Committee conduct a survey seeking ranking of potential wish list projects.

8. Channel Improvements Project Discussion – Adrian Cotter ([video link](#))

Adrian noted that the Channel Work Group had updated the [draft project request](#) based on feedback received. He discussed a few of the details and then

Jennie expressed concern that the hip-height fencing planned by the City, as described by Ha Nguyen, be revised to stand taller to better impede homeless intrusions into the marsh shoreline.

James Vann asked whether the revised proposal included paving the walkway on the east side of the channel, and Adrian indicated that no feedback had addressed that issue. Bill Threlfall suggested that the point of the proposal was to get the project moving again, not to specify every detail, many of which would be addressed in the design process when the project goes forward.

Naomi moved that the Coalition request that Kristin cause the project to move forward within the CIP ranking and to seek a project manager. The Coalition expressed consensus to support this motion. Appreciation was voiced for Adrian and his workgroup colleagues.

9. Downtown Specific Plan – Naomi Schiff ([video link](#))

No update – plan meetings have been delayed.

As shown in the video link, Naomi also reported briefly on the Kaiser Convention Center.

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

- [Rotary Nature Center Friends Report and Update on 150th Anniversary](#) – as shown in the video link, Katie Noonan reported and encouraged people to view the free program: *The 150th Anniversary of the Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge Online Celebration is Oct 23rd 7-8 pm, live streamed on KTOP*. Free sign-up on Eventbrite at <https://lake-merritt-wildlife-refuge-150th.eventbrite.com>

David Wofford described the appeal of the [video of the 150th Celebration](#), giving credit to John Kirkmire of [Lake Merritt.org](#) and Katie Noonan of Rotary Nature Center Friends.

- Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie announced the group is in “pause mode” at this time due to coronavirus constraints. No weeding sessions are planned.
- East Bay Regional Parks – Dee Rosario gave an update on the encouraging progress of the Park District negotiations with Hansen Aggregates regarding Bay Trail installation. He also noted that conceptual plans for the Crowley site are now in development and that EBRPD has expressed interest in leasing the adjacent property site from the Port of Oakland.

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

- Bill and Jennie to provide language to Kristin for Coalition request to OPW for Lake Merritt Pathways condition report and options for action.
- Kristin to take steps necessary to advance the Channel Improvement Project.
- Kristin to explore the possibility of a Coalition field trip to Brooklyn Basin parks.
- Bill to post the LM2BT expenditure report from 5/18/2020 as a pdf for publication in the Coalition archive.
- Agenda Committee to conduct a survey re: “wish list” items per James Vann. The Committee will identify a list of email recipients for the survey.
- James Vann to draft letter for Agenda Committee to send to Daryel Dunston regarding homeless encampment enforcement.

12. Agenda suggestions for next Meeting:

- Lake Merritt pathways condition and options – Public Works staff to be invited
- Management of homeless impacts at the Channel and Lake

The next Coalition meeting Agenda is scheduled November 16, 2020, at 7:10 p.m. Over Zoom.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.