



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for January 20, 2020

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

The meeting was chaired by Naomi Schiff. Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

Bike East Bay – Robert Prinz, Rick Rickard

CALM – James Vann

East Bay Regional Parks District– Dee Rosario

East Bay Rowing Club – Virginia Roe

Lake Merritt Institute – Katie Noonan

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Rotary Nature Center Friends – David Wofford

Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall. Sandy Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Vince Geronimo, Bob Redman, Myra Redman

City of Oakland:

Measure DD Program Manager – Kristin Hathaway

2. The agenda was adopted after the addition of an item in recognition of Martin Luther King requested by James Vann. This recognition was held immediately at this point in the agenda, with James reading several quotes from Dr. King.

3. Minutes of 11/18/2019 were approved.

4. Celebrations of garden gates completion

A brief celebration with refreshments was held, and Naomi Schiff distributed photos of the completed installation.

5. Measure DD Project Updates – Kristin Hathaway

Kristin commented that due to recent loss of three staff, she had been unable to update the November 18, 2019 Project Status Summary spreadsheet. However, she provided oral updates on the status of the following projects:

- Lake Merritt Water Quality: *Boom project moving forward with new subcontractor with higher costs than original subcontractor bid. Anticipate construction in next couple of months.*
- Lake Merritt Improvement Project/Garden Center & Grand Ave. entrance: *Gates installed!*
- Lakeside Green Street Project: *Punch list items remain.*
- Union Point Park to 23rd Ave Trail (aka E. 7th St to 23rd Ave, Miller Milling to Cemex): *Miller Milling has declined the required agreements after failing to reach agreement with the City about possible homeless encampment impacts; Cemex segment might go ahead once adjacent bridge crossing is designed.*
 - *Note:* Kristin offered relevant updated information that was obtained from the project manager the day after the meeting: “Apparently they *are* willing to give the City an

access agreement to do the geotechnical study (so we can move forward with design that will form the basis of easement negotiations) but as stated, will not grant an easement for use or construction until their issues with the homelessness crisis are addressed.”

- Harbor Master Trail Connection: *In progress, expected by spring.*
- Waterfront Trail at High St. Bridge: *Plan pending Park St. Bridge outcome.*
- Waterfront Trail at Park St. Bridge: *Coast Guard will query the public about a below-bridge design after it is provided by the City; Public works staff will update an existing design for this purpose.*
- Waterfront Trail at Fruitvale: *Design completed. Negotiating required easements.*
- Estuary Park: *Hargreaves engagement has been terminated; City to issue new RFP.*
- Lake Merritt Channel at 10th Street: *Wetland repair on hold pending resolution of homeless encampment impacts.*
- Tidal Gate Operations Guidance for the 7th Street Flood Control Facility: *In progress.*
- Lake Merritt Channel at 7th Street Pedestrian crosswalk: *Design complete. Bid package being prepared. Construction expected this spring.*
- Courtland Creek Restoration at Courtland Creek Park: *Preliminary design work and technical studies initiated. Awaiting word on possible \$1 million grant from the Department of Water Resources.*

In addition, she noted that East Bay Regional Parks is moving forward with design plans for park development at the “Crowley Site” and is also in design and in negotiations with property owners for easements for the planned trail segments at Gallagher and Burke and Hanson Aggregates.

When discussing the County pump station, Kristin indicated that the County has expressed no strong interest or plans to upgrade and that she has advised them that we eventually may need to redirect DD funds for other projects.

Kristin announced that she will be delivering a waterfront trail status report to the Public Works Committee on February 25, and she will make this report available to the Coalition.

6. Lake Merritt signage

Kristin announced that a contract has been awarded to [Wildways Illustrated](#) for interpretive signage at the Lake. Approximately six ADA-compliant signs, about six feet wide, will be made from graffiti-resistant material and installed at locations to be determined with public input. Naomi Schiff suggested that the signs not be made from material that identifiable as valuable for salvage or recycling sale. She also suggested purchasing second copies of the completed signs to reserve as replacements for theft.

7. Nomination of new Agenda Committee – James Vann

James reviewed the [related guidelines](#) and commented that if no other nominations were forthcoming at the March meeting, he would move adoption of the existing committee for a second year.

7. Use of remaining fund/interest earned – James Vann

After brief comments, it was agreed to make this a discussion topic for the March meeting. Coalition participants requested links to the “wish list” shown here:

- ▶ [Lake Merritt Needs Survey](#) 3/17/2015
- ▶ [Series C Residual Priorities \(aka: "Wish List"\)](#) 11/16/15

8. Report: LM2BT expenditure tracking – Rick Rickard, Bill Threlfall, Jennie Gerard

Rick and Bill announced that the group had met in collaboration with Kristin and agreed on several shared tasks that are now underway. Outcome reports will be forthcoming when available.

9. Coalition request for audit of Measure DD expenditures – Bill Threlfall

Bill opened the topic with these points:

- “Monitoring financial accountability” is one of the five Coalition functions included in its [Statement of Purpose](#) sanctioned by the City Council.
- Per language in Measure DD, an audit of bond Series 2017C is now due to be ordered by Council.
- That audit will be most useful if it includes detail like that shown on page 4 of the [July 22, 2009 through June 30, 2012 audit of Series 2009B](#).
- Of the more than 16 years of Measure DD financial activity, only six have been audited.
- Unaudited expenditures against Series 2009B after June 30, 2012 have continued at least through the end of FY 2017-18. Accordingly, the Coalition may wish to request an audit of Series 2009B for that unaudited period.
- These two requests are presented in [this draft letter](#).

Discussion ensued, ending with the consensus that the audit request letter should be sent to Kristin as written, with copies to Council. There was also a request that Kristin provide a progress report at the March meeting.

9. Announcements and reports

- [Lake Merritt Weed Warriors](#) – Jennie announced that employee volunteers from Williams-Sonoma joined the most recent work session.
- [Ballot Measure Q](#) – Jennie distributed informational material about Measure Q and urged Coalition participants to make personal contact with friends and colleagues to promote the measure. Those wanting additional informational material, including yard signs, may contact Jennie at info@lakemerrittweedwarriors.org.
- [Downtown Oakland Specific Plan](#) - Naomi Schiff briefly mentioned that new documentation about community benefits is being considered.
- [Discussion/recommendations re: Channel improvements](#) – This topic will be carried over to the March meeting, when Adrian Cotter will attend. In the interim, the Coalition urges Adrian to assemble his workgroup to draft a Coalition position statement about the importance of establishing such a project and to collaborate with Kristin in a preliminary meeting to discuss the necessary requirements for progress.
- [Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge](#) - Katie Noonan noted that March 18, 2020 will be the 150-year anniversary of Lake Merritt as a wildlife refuge, and she shared a poster/banner that is in development for city publicity to recognize this event.

10. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants:

- Bill to transmit Coalition's audit request letter.
- Adrian to prepare "Channel Paths and Shoreline Improvement" proposal and draft a related Coalition position statement.
- Adrian to coordinate a Channel workgroup meeting with Kristin when convenient.

9. Agenda suggestions for next Meeting:

- Discussion re: Use of remaining fund/interest earned and discussion of "wish list" – James Vann.
- Discussion of "Channel Paths and Shoreline Improvement" as a future project and consideration of related draft position statement from the channel workgroup. – Adrian Cotter
- Audit Progress report – Kristin Hathaway
- LM2BT expenditure tracking progress report – Bill Threlfall
- Appointment of next Agenda Committee

The next Coalition meeting will be March 16, 2020, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.