



# Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

## Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for November 16, 2015

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

The meeting was jointly chaired by Mike Udkow and James Vann.  
Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

### 1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

Alameda County Historical Society – Ed Clausen

Bike East Bay – Rick Rickard

CALM – James Vann

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

Friends of the Gardens at Lake Merritt – Dick Austin

Friends of Sausal Creek – Barbara Goldenberg

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carol Agnello

Lake Merritt Institute – Charles Brooks III, James Robinson

Laney College – Amy Bohorquez

Oakland East Bay Garden Center – Susan Veit

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Annalee Allen

Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Judy Johnson, Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow

Oakland Tours Program – Annalee Allen

Urban Permaculture Institute – Hope Freije, Casey Harper, Jack Madons, Iva Maurin,  
Larry Maurin, Nancy Sherman

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Joanna Adler, Carolyn Burd, Sam Burd, Joel Peter,

City of Oakland

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Public Works – Kristin Hathaway, Kristen Zaremba

### 2. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

### 3. Minutes of 9/21/2015 were approved by vote.

### 4. Introduction of Discussion Document: Coalition Governance, Purpose, & Scope

Bill Threlfall introduced the topic by distributing [this discussion document](#), which proposes that the Coalition seek consensus on its governance, purpose, and scope. He suggested the Coalition begin a thoughtful discussion of the matter at its January 2016 meeting. He urged participants to prepare for the January discussion by reading through the questions posed in [the handout](#) and studying the included citations from minutes and founding documents.

James Vann suggested that the Coalition act more swiftly by appointing a committee to draft answers to the questions posed in the discussion document. One or two individuals indicated an interest in joining such a committee and agreed to provide their contact information to James. The meeting facilitators sought to have members of long-standing Coalition participants join the committee to help bring past experience to bear on the committee's recommendations.

## **5. Measure DD Project Update – Lesley Estes**

### 10<sup>th</sup> Street Project

In a couple of months, the roadway will be partially opened to permit through traffic.

### Lakeside Green Street

Project has received a \$9m grant and will go to bid in early 2016.

### Bellevue/Grand Entryway Project

Project is expected to go to bid January 2016.

### Bellevue Avenue (through Lakeside Park) Project

Is now out for bids; will close December 3.

### ADA Access

Lesley noted an increased emphasis on ADA compliance, not only for DD projects, but in some instances for adjacent areas that need upgrades.

### DD Funds re: 7th Street Pump Station & Water Quality Upgrade

Lesley advised that the City had sent a letter to the County offering to fully fund equipment that would address County staffing limitations at this station, with the aim of improving tidal connections and water circulation to the lake.

### Bay Trail Improvements on Port Land

The City will soon be ready to go to bid on three of the projects: 1) the "Crowley site", 2) Embarcadero Cove, 3) Livingston Pier. The Harbormaster's site is still in discussions with the involved parties.

### Sausal Creek Restoration Project

This project is underway and progressing very rapidly. Completion is expected by "next spring".

## **6. Sausal Creek Restoration Project – Kristin Hathaway, Public Works Agency**

Kristin gave an overview of the project, noting that it is now about 60% complete. She shared an extensive set of large, color photos that revealed the project's progress. The channel work was performed from 8/17/2015 through 10/13/2015 and is now complete.

## **7. Art in Measure DD Projects – Kristen Zaremba, Public Works Agency**

Kristen mentioned a few changes that had been implemented for the controller system for art lighting at the 12<sup>th</sup> St project and noted that art design for the 10<sup>th</sup> St. project is temporarily on hold while these changes are evaluated. She suggested bringing Wowhaus back at a future Coalition meeting to update their presentation of the Lakeside Green Street Project art.

One attendee inquired why the City cannot remove or repair the "Green Monster" sculpture that is fenced off at the Lake Merritt beach. Kristen and Lesley explained that such actions require the identification of funding and take considerable time.

## **7. Report of "Pilot Walking Tour of Lake Merritt Blvd & Estuary" – Judy Johnson**

Judy reviewed the Tour Committee's charge and membership and then described the August 23, 2015 pilot tour outcomes. She noted an identified need to tighten and refine the tour and to insure that it highlights the accomplishments of the Measure DD bond. She again recommended that it be accompanied by a brief handout that is yet to be developed with content such as a location map, points of interest with web links for those points, and a brief summary of Lake Merritt Boulevard. She also mentioned that the tour is not now being subsumed under the City of Oakland walking tours program and needs a "permanent home." Judy noted that Gene Anderson's [Oakland Urban Paths](#) organization has agreed to sponsor the tour for 2016. The [committee's final report](#) is available on the Coalition's Document Archive page under the Miscellaneous heading.

## **8. Lake Merritt Institute Introductions**

James Robinson introduced himself as the [Institute's](#) co-Director with Carl Bailey, who was not in attendance. He described the Institute's role in organizing and carrying out cleanup activities at the Lake. Lesley Estes expressed recognition and heartfelt appreciation for the fine work of the Institute over the years.

## **9. Lake Merritt Maintenance Special Allocation – Lesley Estes**

Lesley noted that filling the three new Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Gardener II positions authorized under this special allocation has been slowed by the flood of vacancies now being filled by the City, resulting in congestion in the City Human Resources Department. The hiring process is in the final stages and new staff can be expected to start early next year. She also advised that when the new 3 FTE come on board, they will be responsible for taking over the new Lake Merritt boulevard park currently being maintained under a plant establishment contract that expires May 2016, and that gardeners who service other park areas but have been helping to address increased usage at Lake Merritt may return to those other duties.

Bill Threlfall inquired how the City would handle funds from the \$400K augmentation authorized by City Council that were not expended in the current fiscal year due to the congestion noted above. He pointed out that at the Coalition's July 20, 2015 meeting, Director Brooke Levin had stated: "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", and he suggested such accounting might be important in the near future.

## **10. Updates**

### Remainder Parcel at Lake Merritt Blvd. and 12<sup>th</sup> Street – Lesley Estes

Several developers have expressed interest. The new process is ongoing and under consideration by Council in closed session.

### Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center – Lesley Estes

The selected developer is now assessing the building. An exclusive negotiating agreement is being executed.

### Shoreline Park – John Sutter

At a special meeting November 12, 2015, the existing design was reviewed critically by a subcommittee comprised of representatives from the Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, and the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. The Brooklyn Basin developer has now selected a new landscape architect for the park project,

and preliminary designs show significant improvements, including more shade and greenery, including a trellis.

### **11. Proposal: Series C Residual Priorities List – Bill Threlfall**

Bill distributed a proposal that the Coalition establish a list of potential project additions or enhancements not currently included in any completed or planned DD projects, and when needed, set priorities among the items. This document would be maintained on the Coalition's web page and would provide input to City staff concerning use of unspent Series C funds, if any. The proposal was adopted by consensus.

The initial [Series C Residual Priorities List](#) is now posted on the Coalition's Document Archive page under the **Miscellaneous** heading. Lesley Estes indicated that she will forward the list of items collected in the Lake Merritt "Needs" Inventory conducted March 16, 2015 to Bill to add to the new list.

### **12. Maintenance and Announcements**

#### Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Report

Due to the holiday, there will be no workday in November. December 5 will be the next workday.

#### Channel Tidal Marsh Update

Joel noted damage done my homeless in the area, and a brief discussion of the problem ensued.

#### 2016 Meeting Schedule

Bill Threlfall advised that the date and venue for the January meeting are yet to be determined and will be announced when set. It likely will not be January 18, Martin Luther King day. The remainder of the schedule is set as follows: Mar 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, November 21, 2016.

#### Urban Permaculture Institute

Mike Udkow invited members of this group to comment, and they explained a bit about [their organization](#), including its purpose and activities. Mike suggested members of the Institute might wish to make a presentation at a future meeting.

### **13. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Participants:**

This item was cancelled due to lack of time, but the following assignment was mentioned during the course of the meeting:

- Lesley Estes – forward work product of Lake Merritt "Needs" Inventory to Bill for inclusion in Series C Residual Priorities list.

### **14. Agenda Suggestions for January 2016 meeting: (exact date to be determined)**

This item was cancelled due to lack of time, but the following topics were mentioned during the course of the meeting or carried over from the current agenda:

- Discussion of Coalition governance/purpose/scope
- Inquiry re: Port of Oakland & Lake Merritt Services Agreement, \$1.7M Payment
- Inquiry re: Compensation for Warrior Celebration at Lake Merritt Blvd & HJ Kaiser Center
- "Snack Shack" Reuse at Lakeside Park
- Distribution of "DD Projects Summary Charts"
- Possible presentation by new landscape architect for Shoreline Park

The next Coalition meeting will be in January 2016, at 7:10 p.m. at a date and venue to be announced.

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.