



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for November 19, 2018

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:

Alameda County Historical Society – Ed Clausen

Bike East Bay – Rick Rickard

CALM – James Vann

Community for Lake Merritt – Adrian Cotter

East Bay Rowing Club – Jolie Krakauer, Virginia Roe

Golden Gate Audubon Society – John Bowers

Lake Merritt.org – John Kirkmire, Katie Noonan

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Judy Johnson, Mike Udkow

Rotary Nature Center Friends – David Wofford

Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Joanna Adler, Joel Peter, Grace Sullivan, John Sutter
City of Oakland:

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Public Works – Kristin Hathaway

2. The agenda was adopted as published.

3. Minutes of 9/17/2018 were approved by consensus.

4. Semi-annual Project Status Summary & report - Lesley Estes

Lesley distributed copies of the [November 19, 2018 Project Status Summary](#), which is also posted on the Coalition web page in the [City of Oakland Resources section](#).

She noted that projects highlighted in yellow are considered active and that the report format had been revised to show the project manager. Drawing on the document's detail, she briefly discussed the status of the following active projects. Her remarks closely followed the spreadsheet's "Project Status" column, with a few additional points noted below:

- Lake Merritt Water Quality
- Lake Merritt Improvement Project/Garden Center & Grande Ave entrance
Lesley reported garden gates installation with no affordable solution yet.
- Snow Park/Lakeside Green Street Project
- Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue Trail
- Livingston Pier Trail Connection
- Harbor Master Trail Connection
Lesley confirmed that the Coalition supported an alternate trail alignment around the Harbormaster building, as negotiations have not been fruitful.

- Embarcadero Cove Trail Improvements
- Waterfront Trail at High Street Bridge
No engineering solution is expected to be acceptable to Alameda County. Progress will depend on policy-level agreement, likely entailing staff direction from the County Supervisors.
- Waterfront trail at Park Street Bridge
Same as High Street.
- Waterfront Trail at Fruitvale
- Estuary Park
- Lake Merritt Channel at 7th street Project and Pedestrian Crosswalk
- Lake Merritt to Estuary connection
- Creek Restoration of Courtland Creek

Regarding the High and Park St. bridge crossings, a brief discussion ensued about how to encourage policy-level agreement between the County and City.

5. Review of staff report to City Council Public Works Committee re: Waterfront Trail progress- Lesley Estes

The November Public Works Committee Meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. We have been advised that therefore the Bay Trail progress report will be presented at the Public works Committee meeting in January 2019.

6. Process for Coalition Letters – Bill Threlfall

Bill noted an increase in requests by representatives of organizations participating in the Coalition to send an advocacy letter in the name of the Oakland Measure DD Coalition. A number of these have been urgent, last-minute requests that have not had the opportunity for discussion to the point of consensus. The Coalition has offered no process guidelines or protocol to address letters, and so confusion has sometimes resulted. He suggested the following guidelines:

1. Proposals for letters should be submitted in advance of the meeting to the Agenda Committee for distribution with the agenda.
2. The rationale and foundation for the letter shall be discussed at the meeting and consensus reached about action
3. The practice of authorizing an urgent letter to be written by one or more Coalition participants without steps 1&2 above shall be reserved for rare situations.
4. If a Coalition participant is authorized by the Coalition to write a draft for sending prior to full Coalition review, the draft will be subject to review by the Agenda Committee or Coalition Administrator.

A discussion ensued, and James expressed concern about guideline 3, wondering if it was too restrictive. He also raised a question about who may sign Coalition letters. Nancy expressed concern that these guidelines might somehow limit the Coalition from focusing on matters outside the scope of Measure DD and emphasized that the Coalition is a group that has an over-arching perspective on Lake Merritt matters. In response to both, Bill noted that the guidelines refer only to process, not to the content of Coalition letters or Coalition actions. After further discussion, the above guidelines were referred to the Agenda Committee to be finalized, as deemed appropriate

Katie Noonan distributed copies of a model personal letter in support of the Rotary Nature Center and encouraged those interested to send it as addressed.

Virginia Roe distributed copies of a model personal letter in support of the maintenance and improved accessibility onto the water as part of Oakland's redevelopment of Estuary Park. She encouraged those interested to send it as addressed.

After some discussion, it was suggested that Katie and Virginia send web links for their letters or digital file copies of their letters to Bill Threlfall with the request that he send them to entire Coalition email list of 228 with a note such as: "Those in attendance at the Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting of November 19, 2018 expressed consensus that the following model advocacy letters might be of interest a wider audience. These model letters were not written by the Coalition itself; instead, they were prepared by two organizations that participate in the Coalition. Nevertheless you may wish to consider using one or both as the basis for a personal message:"

7. Lake Merritt Encampments Update – James Vann, John Kirkmire, Naomi Schiff

James described court actions that have thwarted the City's plan to move homeless encampments away from the Lake. John reiterated the limitations and shortcomings of the "Tuff Shed" plan.

8. Change of Measure DD Manager

Jennie Gerard complimented Lesley Estes, highlighting her many accomplishments from the inception of Measure DD through the present. In particular, she credited Lesley for generating policy-level support for a Lake to Estuary route. Lesley then introduced Kristin Hathaway as the successor Measure DD Manager and noted Kristin's long-standing behind-the-scenes involvement with Measure DD projects. Lesley was presented with a letter of recognition signed by those in attendance.

9. Announcements and updates

- Weed Warriors workday – December 1
- Lake Merritt Advocates – January 10
- [Estuary Park community meeting #2](#) – December 5 @ JLAC

10. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants:

- Katie and Virginia to send model letter links or files to Bill
- Bill to distribute these model letters to 228 Measure DD Coalition email subscribers as described in item 6 above.

11. Agenda suggestions for January 21, 2019 Meeting:

- Statement of recommendations for Estuary Park project - Virginia, Jolie

The next Coalition meeting will be January 21, 2019 (MLK Day), at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.