



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for March 16, 2015

The meeting was called to order in the Ebell 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, Jim Townsend

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carole Agnello

Lake Merritt Institute – Charles Brooks III

Laney College – Amy Bohorquez

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

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

Oakland Tenants Union - Brian Geiser

UrbanCore-Integral, LLC – Michael Johnson, Ron Turner

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Joanna Adler, Sam Burd, Stephen Cunningham, Joel Peter,
Steve Rochon, Sergio Romero

City of Oakland

Council District 2 – Jennie Gerard

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Economic & Workforce Development – Hui-Chang Li

2. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

Following approval, one participant noted that a number of agenda items did not pertain to Measure DD projects. A brief discussion ensued, leading to the suggestion that future agendas be more focused on Measure DD.

3. Minutes of 1/19/2015 were approved by consensus.

4. Measure DD Project Update – Lesley Estes

Measure DD Project Status Summary Spreadsheet

Lesley prepared and distributed a March 12, 2015 revision of this document which now focuses on projects that are active or upcoming. This document has been posted to the Coalition's web page in the [City of Oakland Resources section](#).

Lesley very briefly highlighted the status of the following ongoing or upcoming projects as described on the [Project Status Summary](#) spreadsheet:

- Sailboat House
- Sausal Creek Restoration
- Bellevue Avenue Reconfiguration
- Grand Avenue Entry
- Lakeside Green Street Project

10th Street Bridge Update

The AT&T infrastructure relocation issues which have delayed the project are now expected to be resolved in about 6 months.

Bay Trail Improvements on Port Land

The Port has been very cooperative, and conceptual designs have been completed, setting the stage for execution of the necessary agreements. Matching funding from a transportation grant source is being pursued by staff. Designs for three of the sites were straightforward, but existing use patterns at the Harbor Master's Office site may require more specialized planning and an element of innovation to address safety concerns expressed by tenants.

Henry J. Kaiser Auditorium

Lesley advised that the RFP award will be announced at an April 2015 Council meeting.

Brooklyn Basin Shoreline Park

Lesley mentioned that this park is now in design. It is not a Measure DD project and instead will be constructed by the developers of Brooklyn Basin. Much of the park area will be built in the footprint of the Ninth Avenue Terminal section scheduled for demolition. A rambling discussion followed, with some general questions and comments about the Brooklyn Basin project, schedule, and impacts.

Lake Merritt "Needs" Inventory

In the past, Coalition participants have expressed interest in the missing elements in DD projects completed to date. To begin identification of these concerns, Lesley led an exercise soliciting Coalition input. She posted a Lake Merritt map and invited participants to place adhesive markers on the map designating targets of interest. Finally, she recorded descriptions of the "holes" identified by participants. More steps in the process will follow later, but Lesley did offer the caution that there is no guarantee that funding will allow any of the items identified to be built, corrected, or remedied.

5. Informational Presentation from UrbanCore-Integral, LLC

Michael Johnson of UrbanCore-Integral presented an updated overview of the Lake Merritt Boulevard Apartments project. Although the development is not a Measure DD project, Coalition participants have expressed interest because the project site resulted from the realignment of East 12th Street and is located in close proximity to the Measure DD improvements at the Lake Merritt Channel.

Most of the presentation was very similar to that of given to the Coalition on November 18, 2013. Michael Johnson did note that design revisions and community benefit agreements have been made in response to Coalition and community input. He advised that the plans call for .75 parking spaces per residential unit and noted that secure bicycle storage capacity has been increased to 100 bicycles.

6. Bay Trail

John Sutter described the importance of the Bay Trail, both as a key element of the Measure DD Bond and as a vital element of the general plans of the City of Oakland, the East Bay Regional Parks District, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. He highlighted certain opportunities: the potential availability of County Measure BB funds for trail construction and maintenance, and the unique open view of the water from the Embarcadero available across the "Crowley site" property.

He proposed that the Coalition appoint a Bay Trail Subcommittee to provide research, energy, and advocacy to advance Measure DD Bay Trail projects. The consensus supported this plan and the subcommittee was appointed, with John Sutter as Chair and members including Rick Rickard, Sergio Romero, Mike Udkow, and Joel Peter.

7. Request for Coalition Endorsement of Letter to City re: Funding Coliseum BART to Bay Trail Connector

A discussion of the draft letter template submitted by Robert Raburn included the merits of the proposed trail, the difference between funding the project planning and funding the construction, and the relative priority of this request for City funds as against other Coalition requests including DD project maintenance. In the end, the Coalition did not reach consensus to send the draft as a letter from the Coalition. There was interest to revisit the issue later, likely as the Coliseum City project moves forward. The Coalition charged Bill Threlfall to immediately notify Robert Raburn of this outcome.

8. Updates

Letter re: Budget for Maintenance of DD Improvements

Naomi Schiff reported that, as directed by the Coalition, [this letter](#) was sent on January 27. James Vann proposed that members of the Remainder Parcel Subcommittee attend the March 31, 2015 City Council meeting to speak in support of the Coalition position as expressed in the letter. He also requested that Coalition participants be contacted and be encouraged to send individual letters to Councilmembers urging dedication of "remainder parcel" sale proceeds to maintenance of Measure DD projects. The Coalition asked that Bill Threlfall send to the DD list a reminder of the above.

Planning & Development Initiatives in Vicinity of Estuary Channel

Naomi offered a brief update on recent developments in the channel vicinity and promised to keep the Coalition apprised of ongoing events here.

9. Discussion Matters

Lake Merritt Boulevard Walking Tour

James Vann briefly reviewed the [background](#) for the discussion which followed. At its conclusion, the following subcommittee was appointed to work with Annalee Allen on tour development: Judy Johnson, Ed Clausen, James Vann, Barbara Schaaf, and Amy Bohorquez, who offered to liaise with and recruit Constance Taylor. As Annalee was not present at the Coalition meeting, Judy Johnson was appointed to convene the subcommittee.

Off-Street Parking at Lakeshore Avenue cul-de-sac

Again, James Vann reviewed the [background](#) and history of the matter. After discussion, there was no consensus that the Coalition should become involved in the issue.

10. Brief Reports by Persons Who Attended the Following

Feb 26: 9th Avenue Terminal Restoration & Reuse Plans (Zarsion / OHP)

Attendees briefly mentioned that the schedule for this park calls for construction beginning in summer of 2015. Other comments focused on the planned change from a grass surface to a hardscape surface, and the windy conditions expected.

Feb 26: BCDC Brooklyn Basin Project Engineering Review

No comments were offered.

March 12: Embarcadero Roadway Improvement Presentation

No comments were offered.

Bill Threlfall mentioned that none of the above meetings pertained to Measure DD projects and therefore he did not send notice about them to the Coalition list. Coalition participants interested in Brooklyn Basin meetings unrelated to Measure DD may [subscribe to email notices directly from Signature Development about future community meetings](#).

11. Maintenance and Announcements

Committee on Enhanced Maintenance for Lake Merritt

Jennie Girard reported that the Trust for Public Land has issue a report on park conservancies that may be of interest to Coalition participants considering this approach to maintenance funding. The report, titled *Public Spaces/Private Money: The Triumphs and Pitfalls of Urban Park Conservancies*, is available at https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/files_upload/ccpe-Parks-Conservancy-Report.pdf

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Report

The next regular work day will be Saturday, March 28, 2015. Location TBA.

Channel Tidal Marsh Update

Joel Peter reported that recent plantings are doing well. Pictures can be viewed on the [Weed Warriors Facebook page](#).

Other Announcements:

- Judy Johnson announced that she is organizing an Earth Day 9am-noon work session at Channel Park.

12. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Participants:

- John Sutter – Convene Bay Trail Subcommittee.
- Judy Johnson – Convene Lake Merritt Boulevard Walking Tour Subcommittee.
- Bill Threlfall – Send email reminder to Coalition list re: March 31, 2015 City Council meeting and need for advocacy about use of "remainder parcel" proceeds for DD project maintenance.
- Bill Threlfall – provide subcommittee contact information to newly appointed subcommittee chairs.
- Bill Threlfall – Immediately advise Robert Raburn of Coalition decision re: proposed DD letter about City funding of Coliseum BART to Bay Trail connector.

13. Agenda Suggestions for May 18, 2015 meeting:

- No suggestions were submitted.

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, May 18, 2015 at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.