



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for March 17, 2014

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

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

1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

Alameda County Historical Society – Ed Clausen

BART – Robert Raburn

CALM – James Vann

Bike East Bay – Rick Rickard, Tom Willging

Dillingham Associates, Landscape Architects – Reed Dillingham

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

Friends of Sausal Creek – Dee Rosario

Garden Center, Inc. – Anne Woodell

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carole Agnello

Lake Merritt Institute – John Kirkmire

Laney College – Amy Bohorquez

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Oakland Lawn Bowling Club – Zarka Popovic

Oakland Parks Coalition – Judy Johnson, Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Joel Peter, John Wilson

City of Oakland

Council District 2 – Jennie Gerard

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Public Works Agency – Denise Louie, Lily Soo Hoo, Ali Schwarz

2. Minutes of 1/20/2014 were approved by consensus.

3. Invited presentation from Sailboat House Shoreline Project staff

Denise Louie, City Public Works Agency, advised that the project plans have been finalized and the project bid is in process. The notice to proceed is expected around July of 2014, with completion expected by summer of 2015. Denise introduced Reed Dillingham of Dillingham Associates, Landscape Architects, who presented the plan drawings and highlighted the key new environmental, pedestrian, parking, and infrastructure features of the plan. He noted that project specifications call for replacement of several sections of deteriorated seawall/bulkhead.

On behalf of the Oakland Women's Rowing Club and other groups, Anne Woodell expressed strong opposition to the planned changes to the parking lot, citing the high demand for parking in the area to serve diverse uses beyond those of the sailboat house itself.

4. Invited presentation from the Grand/Bellevue Ave. Entryways Project staff

Ali Schwarz, City Public Works Agency, noted that the design is 95% complete and the project is now being "federalized" to satisfy federal grant requirements. Bidding is expected in summer or

fall of 2014 with construction in 2015. To address various procedural and grant requirements, the project will combine planned revisions to the Fairyland entry and the Bellevue Avenue entry, including both the entry roadway and nearby pedestrian pathways. The project will narrow the roadway entry to Bellevue Avenue by constructing a "bulb-out" at the Fairyland corner. Improved safety and ADA access will be achieved.

Zarka Popovic suggested that the project incorporate improved informational signage to help direct visitors through the Bellevue entry and to the park features beyond. Naomi Schiff commented on the short service life of banners and encouraged use of more permanent signage.

Naomi asked if any trees will be removed during the project and if so, whether they would be replaced. Ali replied that a few trees are in the way of the new pathway and will be removed, but the removal will be mitigated by new plantings.

James Vann asked if the Garden Center gates were being fabricated and Ali advised that they are in progress.

5. Invited presentation from the Lakeside Green Streets Project staff

Ali Schwarz, City Public Works Agency Green Streets Project lead, gave a brief update on the project: Bidding is expected in summer or fall of 2014 with construction beginning in 2015 and extending for 12-18 months. The project is expected to involve significant disruption to pedestrian and vehicle activity during construction.

Although the project design has been essentially complete for some time, minor adjustments have been occurring while the project has gone through the processes required for the Alameda County Transportation Grant. At this time, there is no plan to include a "dog park", but the project will feature new running paths as well as rain gardens typical of those found in Portland, Oregon. Most of the design remains consistent with the March 21, 2011 presentation to the Coalition by Ali.

Bill Threlfall mentioned the Coalition's May 20, 2013 consensus about the value of including interpretive signage at the site about the historic role of Henry Snow and the Snow Museum, a precursor to the Oakland Museum of California, and he inquired if such signage will be included in the design. Ali indicated that that the request and related information has been referred for implementation to Placeworks LLC, the project consultants.

6. Measure DD project update – Lesley Estes

Lesley provided the following report:

Measure DD Reports

Lesley noted that a 1/29/2014 Measure DD Staff report including a reallocation request and project update is going to the Public Works Committee on March 25 and to the full council on April 1. That report can be found on the Coalition's [archive page](http://waterfrontaction.org/dd/archive/reallocation_staff_report_1-29-14.pdf) under the **Reports** heading: http://waterfrontaction.org/dd/archive/reallocation_staff_report_1-29-14.pdf. Bill Threlfall and Rick Rickard both commented on the value of the report and its likely interest to Coalition members.

She also noted that the staff report on the 2012 Series B audit is going to the Finance Committee March 25 and to the full council on April 1. That report can be found on the Coalition's [archive page](http://waterfrontaction.org/dd/archive/agenda_report-dd_audit_12.pdf) under the **Expense Tracking** heading: http://waterfrontaction.org/dd/archive/agenda_report-dd_audit_12.pdf

Lake Merritt Channel Improvement at 10th Street

The contractor has completed relocating utilities and is installing temporary shoring on the southern portion of 10th Street. Pile driving for retaining walls by the 10th Street bridge have begun.

Upgrade of pathways and walkways around the Lake

Lesley indicated that further work on pathways will be a priority during Series C projects. She intends to develop a comprehensive overview of all pathways to determine where the need for upgrades remains. The hope is that enough residual Series C Lake Merritt funds will be available to address the needs identified. Naomi suggested that Lesley bring a drawing of the lake's pathway system to a future meeting to facilitate discussion.

Negotiations with ConAgra regarding Bay Trail Implementation

Lesley confirmed that City staff has negotiated an agreement with the Con Agra property owners for the waterfront trail behind the Con Agra site and that planning is beginning. One of the reallocations requested in the report mentioned above provides an additional \$300,000 for this project.

Discussions with Port Staff regarding Bay Trail Improvements on Port land

Lesley reported that progress toward the necessary agreements continues, though there is nothing in writing yet.

7. Awards for 12th Street Reconstruction

Lesley announced that the 12th Street project has received 3 major awards, and Mike Udkow provided additional detail regarding one of them – the [2013 Roads & Bridges Top 10 Roads award](#).

8. Maintenance

Lake Merritt Enhanced Maintenance Committee Report

Jennie Gerard reported that the committee's "listening meetings" are ongoing. These are intended to learn how aware folks are about the deterioration of new Measure DD projects and to assess the appetite for increased levels of maintenance.

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Report

Jennie announced that the next regular work day will be Saturday, March 29, 2014.

Channel Tidal Flat Update

Joel Peter reported that bird-damaged pickleweed and other recently planted salt-tolerant species are recovering and are being shielded with protective screens which will be needed until the plants are more established. Volunteers interested in joining the work along the channel should send e-mail to Jennie Gerard at jgerard@oaklandnet.com with a request that it be forwarded to Joel, who schedules the channel work sessions.

Other Announcements

Judy Johnson mentioned that there will be an Oakland Earth Day work session along the channel between 10th and 8th streets, April 26, 9am-12noon. For more information, volunteers are directed to the Oakland Earth Day web page at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/o/FE/s/ID/OAK026214>.

Bill Threlfall announced that the Oak to Ninth project, now re-branded as "Brooklyn Basin", broke ground on March 13, 2014. The start of the project triggers public access requirements that will ultimately close the largest gap in the Bay Trail along the Oakland Estuary. In a [December 13,](#)

[2013 East Bay Express article](#), Weixun Shan, Chairman of the major financier of the project, expressed a desire to greatly accelerate the pace of the development. Remarkably, he called for completion "within three to four years". Such acceleration would also speed the implementation of the permanent Bay Trail through the project area.

9. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Members:

- Lesley - bring a drawing of the lake's pathway system to the May 19 meeting to facilitate discussion.
- Lesley – bring Oak to Ninth Bay Trail alignment plans to the May 19 meeting.

10. Agenda Suggestions for May 19, 2014 meeting:

- Comprehensive discussion of the lake's pathway system
- Alignment of the Bay Trail through the Brooklyn Basin Project at Oak to Ninth

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, May 19, 2014 at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.