



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for March 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 Jennie Gerard.
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 – Dee Rosario

East Bay Rowing Club – Jolie Krakauer, Virginia Roe

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Mike Udkow

Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Joanna Adler, Sam Burd, Adrian Cotter, Jack Easterling,
Joel Peter, John Sutter

City of Oakland

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

2. The agenda was adopted without revision.

3. Minutes of 1/15/2018 were approved by consensus.

4. Measure DD project update – Lesley Estes

Lesley provided brief updates on three projects currently in construction:

- Lakeside Green Street Project. The change to a "cycle track" was attributed to the new City transportation department and was funded from other sources; it incurred no additional DD expense. The project is scheduled to open at the beginning of next year.
- Lake Merritt Improvement Project. The Garden Center and Grand Ave entrance improvements are nearly complete, and the garden gates will be installed this summer.
- 10th Street Project. It is essentially complete.

Lesley commented that the contract for the design of Estuary Park had been awarded, clearing the way for that project. Virginia Roe and Jolie Krakauer asked if renovation of the docks at the Jack London Aquatic Center is included in the Estuary Park project, and Lesley said the docks were not explicitly included in the Measure DD project but that the upcoming design process will offer an opportunity for such suggestions.

5. Expenditure report

Lesley distributed and reviewed this [3/19/2018 Expenditure Report by Bond Category](#), noting that there was some uncertainty about the figures due to ongoing accounting changes. She noted that the apparent deficit of \$1,734,000 in bond Category IV, Youth and Public Recreation Facilities, was in fact paid by Bond interest not shown on the report. The report is posted in the **Expense Tracking** section of the section of the [Coalition's Archive page](#).

6. Bay Trail updates on 14 remaining gaps

Lesley offered these updates:

- Port trails. No bids were received for these projects, and none of the on-call vendors responded when approached. Staff are planning to re-bid by combining several projects to create a larger, hopefully more attractive job.
- Harbor Master trail connection. The port's tenant, [Oakland Marinas LLC](#), operates marinas at Jack London Square, Harbor Master/Embarcadero Cove, and also at Union Point Park, where the behavior of the homeless has become objectionable. Oakland Marinas has therefore now introduced a new issue into the Harbor Master project negotiations; they require resolution of the homeless problem at Union Point Park prior to making any agreement about the Harbor Master site trail connection.
- Waterfront trail at Fruitvale. Design for the crossing is underway, but the City is still in negotiation with the new property owner.
- Waterfront trail at High Street and Park Street bridges. Lesley described the new approach for these connections – a route through existing "storage rooms" that are essentially high-ceilinged tunnels that are nearly at-grade and align well with adjacent Bay Trail segments. The engineering feasibility work has been done and preliminary cost estimates are in the \$5M to \$7M range, with a hope that these will be decreased as conditions become better known. There is agreement about this approach among the involved agencies, and the next step will be release of a City RFP for the design.
- Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue Trail. (formerly known as Con Agra/Miller Milling) Miller Milling negotiations are near agreement. CEMEX is in a third round of negotiations. The Outboard Motor Shop site has many owners involved and negotiations have been fruitless and are challenging.

John Sutter argued that this site is the sort of obstacle that requires decisive action by the City and urged the Coalition to propose that the City threaten to exercise eminent domain in order to close the gap. Lesley advised that City management will not allow her to do so, and discussion ensued. An alternative suggestion was to urge the City to develop a plan with specific goals and dates for closure of the Bay Trail gaps. In the end, the matter was referred to the Coalition's Bay Trail Committee for a recommendation to be presented at the May 21 Coalition meeting.

Bill Threlfall reported that on March 13, 2018, the Council's Public Works Committee received an informational staff report titled: *Status Update On Progress Of Implementation of Continuous Bay Trail in Oakland*. This staff report was a six-month follow-up to a similar report last July and is [available for download](#). As before, staff noted that most trail gaps were the subject of negotiations. Council questioned staff about the overall schedule and plan and inquired about the strategy for managing stalled negotiations. They emphasized Council interest to advance the trail and reiterated Council's policy position in support of completing the Bay Trail connections through

Oakland. The Committee asked staff to come back with an updated report every six months on an ongoing basis.

7. LM2BT bridge funding work group report – Rick Rickard

Rick reviewed the history of the funding request, which sought \$2M for capital grant matching and an undefined additional amount for staff costs. He then noted that the work group faced two questions:

1. *Would filling the bridge funding request would adversely affect completion of the remaining Bay Trail projects?* To answer this question, the group met with Lesley on February 6, determined that bond section II (Estuary & Bay Trail) was the only feasible source of DD funds to meet the request, and asked Lesley to provide a spending plan for bond section II.
2. *Would filling the bridge funding request be a sound DD investment in a viable project?* The work group agreed to address this question only after the issue presented in question 1 was resolved.

Lesley then distributed a first draft of the requested spending plan. The work group noted that they had not seen it previously and would need to study it further. Lesley cautioned that costs for some of the "big ticket items" were very preliminary rough estimates, including Estuary Park and the Park / High Street Bridge crossings. She expects to develop more informed estimates for the bridge crossings in the coming months, but a better estimate for Estuary Park will await design and engineering.

In this situation, the work group advised: "At this time, we recommend no additional funding from Measure DD for the LM2BT project. This recommendation is subject to revision as more information about bond Section II spending develops." By consensus, the Coalition adopted this position and requested that Lesley implement it.

8. Lake Merritt Campers – James Vann

James reviewed the history of the issue and indicated that a compromise agreement had been reached with the Homeless Encampment Management Team to clear encampments along the west side of the channel under the Lake Merritt Boulevard bridge while allowing those on the east side to remain. After some discussion, the consensus was to reject this compromise and instead pursue a "no camping zone" designation for Lake Merritt and the Channel. Toward this end, personal email messages to the Homeless Encampment Management Team were encouraged, and a list of relevant email addresses was distributed.

In addition, the Coalition reached consensus on a statement advocating a strictly enforced "no camping zone" designation for the Lake and directed that it be transmitted to Assistant City Administrator Christine Daniel and others in the Homeless Encampment Management Team. The resulting [no camping advocacy letter](#) may be found in the **Coalition Position Statements & Advocacy Letters** section of the [Coalition's Archive page](#).

9. Brief Updates/Announcements

- [Oakland Civic Auditorium](#). Naomi Schiff brought copies of design documents to share and discuss, but due to lack of time, the item was deferred until the May meeting. Interested participants may view [the design drawings here](#).

- Downtown Specific Plan. Nancy Sherman mentioned the importance of the plan and encouraged those interested to learn more at [this City of Oakland web page](#).
- Weed Warriors Work day: March 31
- Lake Merritt Advocates: March 20.
- Agenda Committee proposal. James Vann distributed [this proposal for matters related to the agenda committee](#) and asked that it be read by Coalition participants and placed on the May 21 agenda for consideration.

10. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants:

- Bay Trail Committee to develop recommendation for a Coalition advocacy position on City goals, plan, and dates for Bay Trail completion.
- Bill to format and transmit Coalition letter advocating "no camping" at the Lake.
- Rick to update the [Bay Trail Gap Chart](#) to reflect tonight's reports.
- LM2BT funding work group to review preliminary spending plan for bond Section II.

11. Agenda suggestions for May 21, 2018 Meeting:

- Bay Trail gap update – Lesley
- LM2BT funding work group update – Rick, Jennie, Bill
- Agenda Committee proposal - James
- Oakland Civic Auditorium - Naomi
- Encampments update – James

The next Coalition meeting will be May 21, 2018, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.