



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for May 15, 2017

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
Bay Trail Project – Lee Huo
Bike East Bay – Rick Rickard
CALM – James Vann
East Bay Regional Parks – Dee Rosario
East Bay Rowing Club – Virginia Roe
Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carole Agnello
Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard, Joel Peter
Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow
Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman
Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall
Interested Citizens – Sam Burd, John Sutter
City of Oakland
Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

2. The agenda was revised to include this item:

- Proposed Bay Trail Summit – Lee Huo

3. Minutes of 3/20/2017 were approved by consensus.

4. Measure DD project update – Lesley Estes

Lesley briefly commented on the status of the following projects:

- Grand Ave entrance improvements – This project will start in a "week or two".
- Lake Merritt Channel at 10th Street Project – The project is in its final stages, but the remaining pieces will be time consuming.
- Lakeside Green Street – Construction is well underway.

5. Project Expenditure Update – Lesley Estes

Lesley indicated that there has been little expenditure change since the March Coalition meeting. One minor change is the reallocation of Coastal Commission grant funds from Lake Merritt water quality projects to the 10th St. project to meet Commission requirements. She also noted that despite the scale of the Lakeside Green Street Project, little of DD bond funds will be spent on it; most costs will be paid by grant funds.

6. Bay Trail Topics

Bay Trail Subcommittee Report – John Sutter

John advised that the subcommittee had recently met with Rebecca Kaplan and found her responsive to the goal of Oakland Bay Trail completion. At this point, the group has met with four Council members.

Subcommittee member Rick Rickard mentioned that the subcommittee has made contact with newly appointed City Transportation Director Ryan Russo.

Rick also offered the reminder that Council members have expressed an interest in hearing about the issue from a wider range of voices, and he described a model letter developed by the subcommittee with for Coalition participants to adapt and send from their organization or from themselves personally. Bill Threlfall noted that [this model letter](#) is available in the **Model Advocacy Letters** section of the [Coalition's Archive page](#).

Proposed "Bay Trail Summit" – Lee Huo

Lee gave a conceptual description of the Bay Trail Summit, an initiative proposed by East Bay Regional Park District. The idea is to bring together a range of advocates and stakeholders to raise the visibility and political energy focused on completion of the Oakland Bay Trail and nearby East Bay segments. After discussion, Coalition attendees expressed consensus in support of this initiative and a desire to participate.

British Marine Bay Trail segment – Lee Huo

To facilitate Lee's presentation, Bill Threlfall highlighted the [site drawing](#) provided on the reverse side of the Agenda. The British Marine boatyard is at the yellow segment, bottom left.

Lee reviewed the site constraints that have discouraged trail development at this location for many years. The boatyard operator wants to retain the flexibility to use varying portions of the leased site as his needs dictate and will not agree to a fixed and delineated trail route. Nevertheless, the operator does not object to the current situation wherein the public crosses through the boatyard by whatever route is available at the moment. But the ABAG counsel objects to that situation as a formal part of the "Bay Trail", judging its risks to be an unacceptable liability for ABAG.

The following discussion explored several options to address the situation:

1. Erect "Bay Trail Ends" signs on each side of the boatyard, as proposed by ABAG. At the March meeting, the Coalition rejected this approach as confusing and pedestrian unfriendly, arguing that the current unimproved situation is preferable.
2. No project at this site. As option 1 was considered unacceptable, this option calls for simply retaining the current situation without improvements.
3. Route the Bay Trail along the roadside. John Sutter noted that the roadway is wide here, and this compromise might be acceptable. But Lee Huo mentioned that as this roadside alignment is not permanent, it can be difficult to attract support and funding for an interim solution.
4. Omit official Bay Trail signage at the beginning of the segments that approach the boatyard. Lee indicated that ABAG counsel found this an acceptable alternative.

Bill Threlfall pointed out that Measure DD bond language is silent regarding the "Bay Trail", but its Exhibit A calls for: "Pedestrian and bicycle trail acquisition and construction along Estuary waterfront to provide continuous public access from Jack London Square to Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline." In many previous documents this access path has been referred to as the "Oakland Waterfront Trail" or

simply the "Waterfront Trail". He suggested path signs at the site omit the "Bay Trail" brand and instead provide wayfinding with the designation: "Waterfront Trail".

5. Provide both a roadside and water's edge alignment. One meeting participant suggested a roadside alignment for the Bay Trail, including official "Bay Trail" signage, and an additional shoreline alignment with wayfinding marked "Waterfront Trail", and several members endorsed this approach.

No action plan was endorsed by the close of the discussion, but there was consensus that several feasible alternatives exist and the project should be pursued.

Report to the Public Works Committee – Lesley Estes

The Measure DD report on waterfront trails will be presented at the June 13 City Council Public Works Committee meeting.

Discussion of staff/consultant needs for negotiating real estate agreements - Bill Threlfall

Bill Threlfall noted that the remaining Measure DD Bay Trail projects present obstacles to progress that are not primarily due to a shortage of City engineering or project management staff. Instead, the obstacles include incomplete or failed negotiations to obtain the required agreements. He suggested successful negotiations may require additional staff or consultants dedicated to negotiating easements, right of entry agreements, maintenance agreements, etc.

During the discussion, Lee Huo mentioned that some organizations dedicate a full-time position to such work. Bill expressed the view that such negotiations are likely beyond the scope of Lesley's position, and inquired if there was consensus that "some amount of Measure DD funds" should be committed to employing on-call consulting or other staff dedicated to such research and negotiations. At the close of discussion, there was consensus that such expenditure would be appropriate and warranted.

Port lease at Harbormaster site – Bill Threlfall

To facilitate the discussion, Bill highlighted the [site drawing](#) provided on the reverse side of the Agenda. The drawing showed the existing bay trail alignment in red and the alignment of the proposed gap closure in yellow, which is blocked by fencing installed by the lessee.

Bill noted that Lesley had obtained a copy of the applicable lease and he was reviewing it to determine what constraints the lease may impose on the proposed project.

Lesley forwarded the lease and Bill's comments to the City's Real Estate Division for analysis.

Coalition attendees expressed consensus that Lesley should use this review to plan an appropriate strategy and appropriate timing to advance the project.

Lake Merritt to Bay Trail ped/bike bridge

DD expenditures and allocations, and project update - Lesley Estes

Lesley introduced the subject, advising that she was seeking input from the Coalition about the possible use of Measure DD funds for the bridge project. She pointed out that it seems like a DD project because it seeks to establish a Lake to Estuary connection, but it is not a named project in the [bond's Exhibit A list](#). She indicated that about \$600K of DD funds has already been directed to the bridge. A lengthy discussion ensued with varying views and points being presented:

1. The discussion included estimates of \$27M - \$30M for bridge project cost.
2. Asked how much was being sought for the bridge from Measure DD funds, Lesley said \$3M.

3. James Vann suggested the project would be a waste of money.
4. Jennie Gerard expressed the view that regardless of details, the project will happen at some point, saying that the attraction between the need and the project concept is like "two magnets coming together".
5. Sandy Threlfall mentioned the potential for use of the \$1M set-aside by CalTrans as mitigation for the impacts of the 880 overcrossing, suggesting that the bridge project conforms to the purposes for the set-aside, which is being held by the Coastal Conservancy.
6. Bill Threlfall asked about the feasibility of contributing DD funds to the bridge without adversely impacting projects named in the bond's Exhibit A. He also asked whether bridge expenditures would be charged under Section II or Section III of Exhibit A.
7. Lee Huo advised that projects of this sort, which inevitably rely on grant funding, always require local "seed money" to prime the pump.
8. James Vann proposed that the Coalition endorse a \$3M allocation, but no support for this action was forthcoming.

There was no consensus about action, and it was recommended that this matter be placed on the July agenda for a more detailed presentation and evaluation.

7. Lake Merritt maintenance budget advocacy – Jennie Gerard

Jennie reviewed the committee strategy and the target meeting dates. She noted that the committee had sent a targeted email request that the recipient speak at an upcoming Councilmember's community budget forum.

Jennie then solicited Coalition participant volunteers to speak at two upcoming budget sessions:

Wed, 5/17, 6:30-8:30 pm
Oakland Zoo, Snow Building, 9777 Golf Links Rd
CMs Rebecca Kaplan, At-large and Larry Reid, D7

Mon, 5/22 – 6:00-8:00 pm
West Oakland Senior Center, 1724 Adeline St
CM Lynette McElhaney, D3

James Vann mentioned the May 10, 2017, Oakland Magazine article [Lake Merritt Reborn: How Oakland voters transformed the city's "Crown Jewel"](#) and recommended that it be printed, along with the attached comment about funding Lake maintenance, and delivered to Council Members. Lesley and Bill agreed to implement the suggestion.

8. Self-guided walking tour update – James Vann

James stated there had been little progress. He indicated that the committee's leadership had been assumed by Ed Clausen, and that Joel Peter had volunteered as a committee resource.

9. Announcements

- [Weed Warriors](#) - Work day: Memorial Day, location TBA.

12. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants:

- Bill & Lesley to print Oakland Magazine article for council
- Mike Udkow to check status of plantings damage compensation invoice sent to Warriors
- James and Nancy to speak at Lynette Gibson budget session
- Ed to assume leadership of walking tour committee

13. Agenda suggestions for May 15, 2017 Meeting:

- Coalition detailed discussion and input re: DD Bond expenditures and allocations for bicycle bridge design – Lesley
- Harbormaster site Update - Lesley

The next Coalition meeting will be July 17, 2017, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:04 p.m.