



# Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

## **Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for May 19, 2014**

The meeting was called to order in the Ebell Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:15 PM.

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

### **1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:**

BART – Robert Raburn

CALM – James Vann

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

Garden Center, Inc. – Anne Woodell

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carole Agnello

LakeMerritt.org - John Kirkmire

Laney College – Amy Bohorquez

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

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

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Joel Peter

City of Oakland

Council District 2 – Jennie Gerard

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

### **2. The following items were added to the agenda:**

"Remainder parcel" discussion – Lesley Estes

Tree trimming near Glen Creek – Naomi Schiff

### **3. Following a minor correction, minutes of 3/17/2014 were approved by consensus.**

### **4. Measure DD project update – Lesley Estes**

#### Lake Merritt Channel Improvement at 10th Street

The contractor is now building retaining walls. The project is going well and protecting the environment appropriately. In response to a member question, Lesley indicated that "connection of the pathways" is included in the project.

#### Sail Boat House Shoreline Improvement

This project will begin construction in August of 2014.

#### Discussions with Port Staff regarding Bay Trail Improvements on Port land

The City is preparing an RFP for design of the trail enhancements at the four key sites.

#### Alignment of the Bay Trail through "Brooklyn Basin" at Oak to Ninth

Lesley noted that the first two sections of the interim trail will be located at Channel Park and at the Ninth Avenue Terminal and will therefore not connect. She passed around a copy of [this drawing](#) prepared by Bill, but noted that unlike that drawing, draft plans now call for the interim Channel Park segment to loop back to Embarcadero. One member expressed strong desire to

learn more about the possible location of the "bicycle bridge" touchdown on the estuary end of the Lake to Bay Trail connection project that is now in conceptual planning.

#### Upgrade of Pathways and Walkways around the Lake

Using a photo of the Lake, Lesley discussed how path improvements will occur as remaining Lake Merritt projects are completed. In particular, she mentioned the connections provided in conjunction with the Lakeside Green Street, Bellevue Avenue, Sailboat House, and Bellevue Avenue Entryway projects.

#### "Remainder Parcel" adjacent to Proposed Lake Merritt Boulevard Apartments

Lesley announced that the developer of the Lake Merritt Boulevard Apartments has asked the City for an easement to permit construction of an underground parking space connected to and expanding on the parking directly beneath the building. The proposed easement would be beneath a section of the park portion of the remainder parcel and would require relocation of certain underground utilities. The parcel is identified in [this rendering](#) as "future park", though she noted it has not been designed yet. A lengthy discussion ensued in which coalition members expressed a range of views:

1. The remainder parcel was created using Measure DD funds and the proposed land use change will impact public space and Measure DD projects. It is therefore appropriate for the Coalition to provide input regarding the proposal.
2. We should not feel any obligation to support the proposed change.
3. There should be substantial and well-defined community benefits in exchange for any agreements sought by the developer.
4. These benefits should explicitly serve Lake Merritt.
5. Such benefits should augment existing funding for Lake Merritt, not being fungible.
4. There should be no grade changes to the public space surface as a consequence of the agreement.
5. There is a need for a "shadow study" to determine the proposed building's impact on the adjacent public space.
6. If the terms of the agreement dedicate maintenance funds for the surface lands for Lake Merritt, such dedication should be in perpetuity, perhaps requiring an assessment district for the building occupants.
7. Community benefits should be defined in the language of a contract to be agreed by the City and developer.

At the close of the discussion, an ad-hoc committee consisting of Joel, James, and Naomi was charged to write a letter outlining the Coalition's position.

## **5. Invited Presentations**

#### Lake Merritt Water Quality.

Amy Bohorquez, speaking for the Lake Merritt Institute, repeated the request for \$10,000 in Measure DD funds to pay for a purchase of a digital tide recorder. This same request had been presented at the Coalition's November 2013 meeting. Subsequently, Lesley determined that it would not be an allowable expense because it is not considered a fixed capital project element.

#### Graphic Presentation of Lake Merritt Volunteer Activity

John Kirkmire offered a photo presentation. A digital projector will be needed, and Mike Udkow agreed to obtain one and work out a schedule for a future meeting.

## **6. Coalition Communications**

#### Draft Letter re: Schedule for Bay Trail at Brooklyn Basin (Oak to Ninth)

Bill Threlfall explained that the Brooklyn Basin developer will miss the June 10, 2014 deadline for completion of the first interim Bay Trail segments discussed earlier by Lesley. He provided a

draft Coalition letter to BCDC urging that there be no change to the schedule for public access required at the site. The letter also urged that if BCDC elected to consider any request for change, the matter would only be addressed by action of the full Commission following a properly noticed public hearing. There was consensus that the letter should be sent as written, and it can be found [here](#) under the **Coalition Position Statements & Advocacy Letters** section of the [Coalition's archive page](#).

#### Letter of Support for the Lake to Bay Trail Connection Grant application to California Transportation Commission

Bill reviewed the background: On May 9, 2014, Diane Tannenwald of City Public Works sent e-mail to several coalition members asking that the Coalition contribute a letter of support for the City's Lake to Bay Trail grant application to the California Transportation Commission. Follow-up communication with her revealed that the finished letter was needed by May 15, well before the scheduled Coalition meeting. It seemed that the purpose of the letter was consistent with the Coalition's goals, past discussions, and points of consensus, so the Agenda Committee (Mike & James) acted on behalf of the Coalition as an ad-hoc drafting committee to prepare a letter that was submitted to Diane on May 15. James then read the letter aloud, and after some discussion, the Coalition ratified it by consensus. The letter can be found [here](#) under the **Coalition Position Statements & Advocacy Letters** section of the [Coalition's archive page](#).

### **7. Maintenance and Announcements**

#### Lake Merritt Enhanced Maintenance Committee Report

Jennie Gerard reported that the committee's "listening meetings" will continue in future months.

#### Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Report

Jennie announced that the next regular work day will be Saturday, May 31, 2014.

#### Channel Tidal Flat Update

Joel Peter reported that the next work session will be Saturday, May 24.

#### Other Announcements

Naomi announced that PG&E wants to cut major oaks or trim them aggressively at Oak Glen Park, and she expressed concern about the environment and the areas of natural creek banks. After brief discussion, Naomi was charged to write a letter from the Coalition to address the concern.

### **8. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Members:**

- Lesley – Invite Iris Starr & Becky Tuden to next meeting.
- Joel – draft "remainder parcel" letter for ad-hoc committee review.
- Naomi – write and send PG&E letter.
- Bill – Send Coalition-approved BCDC letter.

### **9. Agenda Suggestions for July 21, 2014 meeting:**

- Iris Starr to discuss Measure DD project signage, including wayfinding.
- Becky Tuden to discuss Lake Merritt water quality.
- Invited presentation on findings from bicycle bridge design community meeting, when available.

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, July 21, 2014 at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.