



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for July 17, 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 Joel Peter.
Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

Alameda County Historical Society – Ed Clausen
Bike East Bay – Robert Prinz, Rick Rickard
BART – Robert Raburn
CALM – James Vann
East Bay Rowing Club – Jolie Krakauer, Virginia Roe
EBALDC – Emily Busch
Jett Landscape Architecture & Design – Bruce Jett, Jesse Markman
Junior Center of Art & Science – Dominique Enriquez
Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carole Agnello
Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard, Joel Peter
Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Mike Udkow
Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman
UrbanCore Development – Michael Johnson
Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall
Interested Citizens – Carolyn Burd, Sam Burd, Grace Johnson, Kyle Milligan,
Bob & Myra Redman, John Sutter
City of Oakland
Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes
Hui Chang Li

2. The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Minutes of 5/15/2017 were approved by consensus.

4. Presentation of 12th St. remainder parcel landscape conceptual design

Hui Chang Li introduced the project team for the landscape design for the Lakehouse Commons Park and Plaza, including Bruce Jett and Jesse Markman of [Jett Landscape Architecture & Design](#). Michael Johnson of [UrbanCore](#), the developer, and project partner Emily Busch of [EBALDC](#) also participated.

The presenters showed design drawings, emphasizing that the design was at a conceptual stage and subject to further development and revision. They solicited Coalition input during the meeting and by email to jessem@jett.land. They finished by responding to a few questions presented by Coalition participants. Based on the issues raised in the discussion, the existing remainder parcel subcommittee (James, Naomi, and Joel) will meet the design team to review the next design iteration.

5. Measure DD project update – Lesley Estes

Lesley briefly commented on the status of the following projects:

- Lakeside Green Street – Construction is at about 25%.
- Lake Merritt Improvement Project – Construction is at about 20%.
- Estuary Park – Design firm recommendation delayed at Public Works Committee until September.
- Lake Merritt Channel at 10th Street Project – The roadway is now open. A project opening celebration will be planned for October, and Lesley solicited Coalition participation in the planning. James Vann volunteered himself and Naomi Schiff.
- Bridges at High Street & Park Street – Relocation of utilities poses an issue at High Street but less so at Park Street, which has newer utilities. Accordingly plans are being adjusted to develop agreements for the Park Street Bridge crossing first.
- Crowley Site – John Sutter commented that the East Bay Regional Park District has entered into an exclusive negotiating agreement (ENA) with the Port for a long-term lease of the site. The District has asked the City to proceed with plans for a temporary trail here, and trail design is 100% complete.
- Harbormaster site – Bill Threlfall reported receiving an additional Port lease document covering this site. It shows that the land leased for the tenant's exclusive use includes the fenced-off area that obstructs the planned Bay Trail alignment. The lease term extends to 2054. Under these circumstances, the options include: a) continuing negotiation with the tenant, and b) adopting a revised trail alignment.
- "Dealmaker" – As encouraged by the Coalition during its March and May meetings, Lesley has engaged a consultant with experience in negotiation and deal-making for waterfront public-access projects. Coalition participants express appreciation for this new direction.

6. Lake Merritt Channel Topics – Lesley Estes

Lesley briefly commented on the status of the following projects:

- a. 7th St Pump Station
- b. Channel pathways and shoreline
- c. UPRR bridges – She described the railroad's project to replace one of the bridges shown [here](#) with a new one at the same grade level which allows little clearance to the water surface below at high tide. She reported that the Coast Guard may ask for the new bridge to be raised, and that some parties from the City were considering a project to raise it. However, even after such a project, the other bridge would still be at grade level, offering an unchanged obstruction to the passage of watercraft. Several Coalition participants expressed comments about the feasibility and desirability of raising the bridge, but there was consensus not to allocate Measure DD funds.
- d. Embarcadero bridge
- e. Lake Merritt to Bay Trail bike/ped bridge – Lesley introduced the topic of a potential additional allocation of Measure DD Bond funds to the Lake Merritt to Bay Trail (LM2BT) bridge project. Such an allocation would be in addition to the \$800k to 900K of DD funds that have already been spent. A lengthy discussion ensued, with a range of questions and opinions expressed, including these:
 - *Which section of the bond would the funds come from?*
 - *What would be the impact to that bond section's remaining projects if the allocation were approved?*
 - *What would be the consequence to the bridge project if we waited 6 months or a year?*
 - *We shouldn't take money from the bay trail projects for this, and Estuary Park includes a Bay Trail segment.*

- *There are too many "moving parts" at this time for us to make any decision.*
- *If the funds were to be drawn from Estuary Park, isn't that project already underfunded?*
- *If the requested DD "seed" funds were allocated and then the bridge project did not go forward to construction, what would become of the allocated DD funds?*
- *No! No more DD funds.*
- *Why are the funds being sought from DD now?*
- *We don't have enough information to proceed with any decision.*
- *Might the Bicycle and pedestrian improvements section of Measure KK's \$350M Streets and Roads Projects section be an appropriate source of seed funds?*
- *If choosing between use of the Measure KK bike and pedestrian funds for city-wide safety projects or for the LM2BT bridge, I'd rather see the bridge project die.*
- *Exactly what is being proposed? We have seen no concrete written proposal.*
- *The Coalition has a "wish list" of mostly small projects that we understand will be considered for priority and funding if and when it becomes clear that funds remain to address them. I don't think this project should "jump the line" to be considered now, ahead of the rest of the wish list.*
- *Given the pressure to allocate DD funds for the LM2BT bridge, it seems strange that Public Works management would ask the Coalition if it would prefer to spend those funds on the Embarcadero railroad bridge instead.*

No consensus to allocate additional Measure DD funds emerged. There did seem to be consistent opposition to the idea of using funds from Section II (Estuary Waterfront Access, Parks, and Cleanup) funds.

During the discussion, Lesley mentioned that approximately \$11M remains unspent in Section III, Lake Merritt to Estuary Connection. However, the discussion did not clarify how the requested allocation might affect completion of the remaining Section IIIA and IIIB projects planned.

At the close of the discussion, Lesley suggested that she convey the Coalition's request for a written proposal to the City's LM2BT bridge staff.

7. Bay Trail Subcommittee Report – John Sutter

Bay Trail Subcommittee Report –

John advised that the subcommittee held a useful meeting and discussion with Matt Nichols, the Mayor's Policy Director for Infrastructure & Transportation. John also mentioned the subcommittee's continuing interest in the proposed "Bay Trail Summit" that Lee Huo introduced at the Coalition's May meeting.

He concluded by describing the Council's 7/11/1017 Public Works Committee presentation of a City Staff Bay Trail Implementation Report. Council members expressed concern about the pace of progress and requested January 2018 presentation of an updated staff report with an additional column to show 6-month progress. Rick Rickard and John Sutter spoke at the meeting, encouraging elevated priority for Bay Trail projects. Coalition participants may wish to [view a video of the report and speakers](#). *Note: Some browser settings may prevent the video from starting automatically. In that event, click item 3 from the agenda below the video area.*

The main substance of the report has been abstracted to this [Bay Trail Gap Tracking Chart](#) for use by the Subcommittee. The chart will be updated periodically and be available on the Coalition's web page at the bottom of the [Measure DD Progress](#) section.

8. Update on Warriors reimbursement – Jennie Gerard

Jennie reported that repeated attempts have as yet yielded no information about payment of the invoice for 2015 rally damages. She will continue to pursue the matter.

9. Lake Merritt maintenance budget advocacy – Jennie Gerard

Jennie indicated that it is believed that the enhancement is included in the budget but we must await confirmation when the policy budget is released.

10. Announcements

- [Weed Warriors](#) - Work day: July 29, location TBA.
- [Downtown Oakland Specific Plan Workshops](#) – Nancy Sherman announced that the consultancy group hired by the City of Oakland's Planning Department has scheduled workshops on July 31 – Aug 3. Visit the group's [web page](#) for detail.
- [Rotary Nature Center](#) – Nancy Sherman commented on the value of the Center and its work.

11. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants:

- Lesley to seek written LM2BT Bridge funding proposal; Bill to assist with proposal specs.
- Lesley to prepare semi-annual project status summary spreadsheet for distribution at next meeting.
- Jennie Gerard to pursue status of 2015 compensation invoice sent to Warriors.
- Lesley to add amphitheater trees to "wish list" per request by James.

12. Agenda suggestions for September 18, 2017 Meeting:

- Semi-annual project status summary spreadsheet - Lesley
- Further discussion re: DD Bond expenditures and allocations for bicycle bridge – Lesley

The next Coalition meeting will be September 18, 2017, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.