



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for July 18, 2016

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:

Bike East Bay – Rick Rickard

CALM – James Vann

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

East Bay Rowing Club – Virginia Roe

Friends of Sausal Creek – Dee Rosario

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carol Agnello

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow

SKEO Solutions – Marcus Griswold

The Garden Center Inc. – Susan Veit

Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Carolyn Burd, Sam Burd, Joel Peter, Bob Redman, Myra Redman

City of Oakland

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Oakland Public Works – Sean Maher

2. The agenda was modified to add a suggestion from Robert Prinz of Bike East Bay to the 8:15 item.

3. Minutes of 5/16/2016 were approved.

4. Measure DD project update – Lesley Estes

Semi-Annual Distribution of DD Project Status Summary

Lesley distributed copies of the [July 11 Project Status Summary](#), which is also posted on the Coalition web page in the [City of Oakland Resources](#) section.

Drawing on the detail of the document, she discussed the status of the following projects:

- Lake Merritt Water Quality
- Snow Park/Lakeside Green Street
- Bellevue Avenue Reconfiguration
- Garden Center & Grand Ave Entry Improvements
- Con Agra to 23rd Ave. Trail
- Livingston Pier Trail Connection
- Crowley Site Interim Trail
- Harbor Master Site Trail Connection
- Embarcadero Cove Trail Improvements

- Waterfront Trail at High Street Bridge
- Waterfront Trail at Fruitvale
- Lake Merritt Channel at 10th Street Project
- Sausal Creek Restoration in Dimond Park
- Watershed acquisition at San Leandro Creek

John Sutter asked about the "Cash & Carry" site at Estuary Park. Lesley advised that Estuary Park will be the last major Measure DD project, and its planning and public input will occur in the future at a time yet to be determined. She then described the typical public input process that is likely to be part of that future planning.

5. Series C bond sale schedule and strategy

Lesley Estes briefly reviewed the plans for sale of Series C bonds in two phases. The sale of bonds in the first phase is anticipated sometime around October 2016, and those proceeds will mainly be used for a robust design period for upcoming projects. The second phase will follow after the first-phase design work is complete. Proceeds from the second phase will be mainly used for construction, which will begin promptly after the final bond sale.

This phased approach is intended to address concerns about the pace of bond expenditures. The guideline is that bond proceeds should be spent within three years of sale, but experience has shown that Measure DD projects have a long design period which makes it difficult to meet this timeframe without a phased sale.

John Sutter asked if the upcoming City infrastructure bond had any bearing on Measure DD. Lesley indicated there was no direct connection, and a brief discussion ensued.

Lesley commented that completion of the remaining Measure DD projects will require matching funds; the bond category allocations were never sufficient to address certain challenges such as the bay trail connections at the bridges to Alameda, Estuary Park, etc. A couple of meeting participants expressed the view that budget shortfalls should not be allowed to jeopardize the completion of the "continuous public access from Jack London Square to Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline" that is described in the [original bond language](#) and is expected by the voters.

6. Bond interest: status of expenditure

Lesley indicated that remaining bond interest will be substantially expended by September, mainly on the 10th Street project.

7. Status of "project wish list"

Lesley advised that the [wish list](#) will be considered after the next bond sale, likely after January 2017.

8. DD-Related projects and matters:

\$400,000 Lake Merritt DD maintenance allocation and request for fiscal report

Jennie Gerard reviewed Council action to allocate these special funds. She then advised that the Coalition-appointed ad-hoc committee consisting of Naomi Schiff, Jennie Gerard, and James Vann had sent this [letter](#) to Brooke Levin, Director of Public Works, requesting a fiscal report on expenditures to date against the \$400K FY 2015-2016 special Council allocation for enhanced Maintenance at Lake Merritt. Copies of the letter and the [OPW response](#) were passed among the

Coalition attendees, and both have been posted on the [Coalition's Archive page](#) in the **Coalition Position Statements & Advocacy Letters** section.

A general discussion followed, with frequent comments about an incomplete and unsatisfactory fulfillment of Council's intent for two years of enhanced maintenance of Measure DD projects at the Lake. The consensus was that the ad-hoc committee should write a follow-up letter seeking more information, expenditure detail, gardener assignment detail, and perhaps a face-to face meeting with Director Levin.

James Vann asked about the possibility of the Coalition scheduling semiannual reports about maintenance from an OPW staff leader. No consensus was reached on this question.

Informational presentation: Sausal Creek Walkable Watershed

Dee Rosario introduced Marcus Griswold of Skeo Solutions, who is the project lead. Marcus distributed a handout summarizing the planned project and gave an overview of its goals, opportunities, and process. He expressed a desire to maintain connections with the Coalition as the project moves forward. More about the project is available at <http://www.walkablewatershed.com/sausalcreek/>

Lake Merritt encampments and graffiti

James Vann briefly reviewed the concerns, which have been discussed previously. He inquired if there was interest in forming a committee to address the matter. Discussion followed with a range of views about the extent of the problem, but no consensus was reached and no action taken. The issue was suggested as a future agenda item.

Conflicts between bicycles and pedestrians at Lake Merritt

Carrying a request from Robert Prinz of Bike East Bay, Joel Peter passed on Robert's suggestion of installing stencils in the paths that provide reminders about "sharing" the right of way.

Warriors celebration damages

Lesley noted that the City had re-planted and repaired the damages and then invoiced the Warriors per their request. The amount was around \$30,000. The Warriors organization has declined to pay the invoice.

9. Status of program audits

Lesley advised that the last audit of Series B was performed in 2013 (reported to Council in 2014), and she read aloud the key conclusion that no irregularities were found. The [audit](#) can be found in the **Expense Tracking** section of the [Coalition's Archive page](#).

10. Coalition mission and performance.

James Vann commented that the Coalition has many accomplishments to its record and inquired if there was interest in forming a committee to catalog and publish them. As the hour was late, there was little response.

11. Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Announcement

Jennie Gerard indicated the next workday will be July 30, 2016 near Madison and Lakeside. Coalition participants wishing to receive email announcements about workdays can subscribe at lakemerrittweedwarriors.org.

12. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Participants:

An ad-hoc committee of Naomi Schiff, Jennie Gerard, and James Vann were assigned the task of writing a follow-up letter as described in item 8, above.

Sean Maher invited Coalition participants to contact him to discuss Measure DD at smaher@oaklandnet.com or 510-473-2610 (cell)

13. Agenda Suggestions for May 16, 2016 Meeting:

The following topics were mentioned during the course of the meeting:

- Lake Merritt encampments and graffiti
- Follow-up report from Ad-hoc committee on enhanced maintenance

The next Coalition meeting will be September 19, 2016, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:03 p.m.