



# Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

## **Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for July 20, 2015**

The meeting was called to order in the Vista Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:10 p.m.

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

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

A Cleaner Bay Foundation – Chris McKay

Alameda County Historical Society - Ed Clausen

BART – Robert Raburn

Bike East Bay – Rick Rickard

CALM – James Vann

East Bay Regional Parks – Bob Nisbet

Fairlyland – C.J. Hirschfield

Friends of Sausal Creek – Dee Rosario

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carole Agnello

Lake Merritt Institute – Charles Brooks III

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Annalee Allen, Naomi Schiff

Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation – Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow

Our Oakland – Gene Anderson

Spokes Family Bike Collective – Brian Drayton, Pearly Tan

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Joanna Adler, Sam Burd, Kathryn Kasch, Bob Redman, Myra Redman, John Wilson

City of Oakland

Council District 2 – Jennie Gerard

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Public Works – Brian Carthan, Woojae Kim, Brooke Levin, Tora Rocha

### **2. The draft agenda was approved by consensus after a minor revision.**

The 8:20 item, Presentation by Brooke Levin, was moved to the top of the agenda.

### **3. Minutes of 5/18/2015 were approved by vote.**

### **4. Presentation by Brooke Levin, Director of Public Works, City of Oakland**

Director Levin introduced Brian Carthan, Parks and Tree Manager for OPW. She then expressed appreciation to the Coalition for its efforts to secure the additional allocation for Lake area maintenance of DD projects. She noted that the allocation is exceptional because it is from the general fund. She proposed expenditures for three new full-time staff, electric carts, plant maintenance material and supplies. She confirmed that the new staff will be "dedicated to the lake" and there will be "no thinning of the existing lake crew", which per Tora Rocha currently includes two full-time staff. New hires will occur within one to four months, depending on the recruitment requirements imposed. In response to a Coalition question, she indicated that the annual allocation of \$400k will not be in a restricted fund, but based on the account structure, reports can be created to show expenditures from the special allocation.

She also noted that funding for parks maintenance is a city-wide concern that needs attention and solution. Tora Rocha commented that city LLAD funding cannot begin to address the use impacts that result from large numbers of parks visitors residing outside Oakland.

Comments of C.J. Hirschfield, Executive Director, Fairyland. C.J. addressed concerns about security and problematic citizen behavior to OPW Director Levin, and urged improved communication. Director Levin suggested reconvening the Lakeside Park stakeholders group which might consider problems, issues, and communication tactics.

## **5. Measure DD Project Update – Lesley Estes & Woojae Kim**

Lesley introduced Woojae Kim and described his role in specific projects, including Port lands Bay Trail gap closures, Con Agra, Bridges to Alameda, etc.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Update

The sequence of project activities has been altered to work around AT&T fiber optic infrastructure relocation issues, which will require months to resolve. Project completion is still expected by Fall 2016.

### Sailboat House

Re-opening event will occur July 22 at 1PM.

### Bay Trail Improvements on Port Land

Woojae reviewed the plans for Bay Trail connections at four projects: 1) the "Crowley site", 2) Harbormaster's site, 3) Embarcadero Cove, 4) Livingston Pier. He advised that the Harbormaster's site was requiring patient discussions with the involved parties. Lesley indicated that the Port's key staff continued to be supportive and progress was being made toward the necessary agreements for right-of-entry, easement, and maintenance.

### Henry J. Kaiser Auditorium

Lesley advised that the staff recommendation, for the Orton project, will go to council for approval on 7/21.

### Drought Irrigation Practices

Brian Carthan described the efficiencies implemented by the City, indicating they have met most East Bay Municipal Utility District standards. Some areas of Lakeside Park are irrigated by recycled water.

### Alameda County Proposals for Bridge Crossings

The county has submitted a counter-proposal concerning the required utilities relocation.

## **6. Report of Committee to Secure Funding for DD Maintenance**

Jennie Gerard thanked Naomi Schiff and James Vann for their leadership and efforts, and the Coalition attendees expressed their appreciation as well. Naomi gave a brief overview of the advocacy efforts and emphasized the need for effective lobbying for enhanced budgeting for parks maintenance. Sandy Threlfall suggested that it may be time for the Coalition to turn its attention to an accounting of the City's use of the \$1.7M annual Port of Oakland payment for Lake Merritt services in support of the Public Trust lands around the lake.

## **7. Report of Committee to Plan Lake Merritt Blvd Walking Tour**

Annalee Allen briefly described the planned tour, which initially will be offered under the auspices of the Oakland Heritage Alliance. Committee members indicated that the goal was

that the tour ultimately would be part of the City of Oakland Walking Tours program, which is offered without participant fees.

## **8. Design Concerns: Shoreline Park**

James Vann distributed a [document regarding the design of Shoreline Park](#), now part of the Brooklyn Basin development. He asked that attendees review the document and be prepared to decide at the Coalition's September meeting "whether the DD Coalition might want to make and submit comments to staff and the Planning Commission as considerations for design and planning of the Bay Trail and its relation to Shoreline Park."

## **9. Lakeside Park "Snack Shack" Use**

Brian Drayton, founder of the Family Bike Collective, initiated a brief discussion of the snack shack and proposed it be put to an "appropriate use". He suggested a family-oriented, bicycle-related function. The current condition of the building was described in general terms by Tora Rocha, who noted that any uses would need to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) and added that use proposals must be accompanied by a City staff report. She indicated that if the Coalition reached consensus about such a use proposal, she would be happy to write the required staff report.

Naomi commented that the building may have historic status. It is mentioned on page 134 (IV-53) of the [Lake Merritt Master Plan](#). (17mb pdf) Lesley confirmed that the building is not included in any Measure DD project currently planned. Coalition recommendations pertaining to the building could be considered for inclusion in the list of unplanned potential additions to be funded if there is Series C money that remains unexpended after all planned projects are completed.

Brian suggested that Coalition participants who wish to engage in discussion about possible uses of the building contact him at [brian@familybikecollective.org](mailto:brian@familybikecollective.org).

## **10. Informational Updates**

### New Policy on Barbecuing and Fires at Lakeside Park

Mike Udkow reported that the PRAC has adopted new policies that will be implemented in the coming months.

### Status of Lake Merritt Blvd. "Remainder Parcel" DDA

James Vann reported that the City has scrapped its plan to sell the "remainder parcel" to Urban Core for construction of market rate apartments as previously presented to the Coalition and is starting over with a new RFP.

## **11. Maintenance and Announcements**

### Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Report

The next regular work day will be Saturday, July 25, 2015. Location: Municipal Boat House.

### Channel Tidal Marsh Update

Jennie reported that cages are saving juvenile plants from wildlife attack. No work days are scheduled at this time.

**12. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Participants:**

- All participants – review [document regarding the design of Shoreline Park](#) per item 8 above

**13. Agenda Suggestions for May 18, 2015 meeting:**

- Begin discussion of the Port's \$1.7M annual payment for Lake Merritt services.

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.