

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for January 17, 2011

Meeting was held in the Ebell Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:15 PM. Special thanks to Robert Raburn for arriving early and setting up the room! And thank you to those who arrived by 7:10 – we got the meeting off to a great start!

The meeting was chaired by Barbara Schaaf and Sandy Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

CALM – Naomi Schiff, James Vann

BART – Robert Raburn

EBBC – Rick Rickard

EBRPD – John Sutter

Friends of the Cleveland Cascade – David Bolanos

Friends of OPR - Anne Woodell

Oakland Parks Coalition –Barbara Schaaf

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Marian Beil, George Duncan, Thomas Charron, Gordon Piper, Steve Rochan

City of Oakland:

DD Manager – Joel Peter Council District 2: Jennie Gerard

2. Reports and Announcements

A. MLK, Jr. day clean-up at lake Merritt

Approximately 100 volunteers took part in the clean-up with 14 different stations to choose from, and a supervisor at each site. Mayor Quan was there.

B. District 33 X

James Vann reported that there were over 250 people who participated in the clean-up of the East Oakland district. There were morning and afternoon shifts.

C. Announcements

Oakland Parks Coalition is having its first annual meeting on Wednesday January 26th from 5:30 -7 PM in the Garden Center.

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area is having their League Day at the Metro Center (8th and Oak) on Saturday, January 29th. The topic: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Taking It to the Next Level. Time: 9 AM to 2 PM.

3. Minutes were approved by consensus.

4. Update on DD Projects – Joel Peter

East Oakland Sports Center update: Located on Edes Avenue at Jones St., the pool is full! Contractor anticipates that the project will be "substantially complete" by the end of January, with remaining punch list work done by the end of February.

Operations and maintenance – Measure DD bonds cannot provide maintenance funds for the project, and a pool raises the level of maintenance significantly. The director of OPR is considering alternatives, one being membership.

The DD group asked if there would be a field trip opportunity once the contractor is finished. Joel said that he would explore that possibility.

Fruitvale – High St. Gap in Waterfront Trail: There is an 800 foot gap on the trail in this location, and a contract to close this gap has been awarded to Vortex Diving, an Oakland firm located on Livingston Pier. The process for executing the contract is underway.

Brooklyn Basin Trail segment

A City Attorney was recently assigned to help craft a maintenance and liability agreement with the Port.

Cryer Site

The project is complete except for preparation and installation of an interpretive porcelain/steel sign relating the history of boat building. Sign creation has been contracted and is in process. A question about the sign – will it show the BART station? Answer – no.

Snow Park

The proposed reconfiguration is looking a lot like the Lake Merritt Master Plan originally had it. The plan will calm traffic, enlarge the park and provide more plantings while reducing turf (fewer geese?).

12th Street Project

A concrete pour for one of two key retaining walls 18 feet high is scheduled for January 18th – this will be one of the two walls that will support the bridge at the Lake Merritt Channel. They hope to start up again on the final pile driving in September.

Cleveland Cascade

Ray's Electric installed the conduit for the aluminum LED handrails, but the railings themselves are still being fabricated. Project completion is anticipated in late February.

Lion Creek at 66th Avenue (former Coliseum Gardens Housing Development)

The Measure DD restoration work includes creation of a natural creek adjacent to the flood control channel. There is a trail on both sides of the creek but it does not go over the freeway. The plantings are finished. Someone spotted at the creek a "lesser yellowlegs" water bird, which is rare for the west coast.

Lakeshore Avenue

The contractor has replaced a lot of dead plants in the area. The salt water spray creates some difficulty for plants, so replacements have been chosen to perform better in this environment. The pergola area has been replanted also. The contractor's responsibility for plantings was extended to mid-February. There is a "mini-pond" where drainage is problematic – the geese then drink and waddle in it, turning the pond into a muddy marsh. The design element of a gentle swale in the lawn is an invitation for water collection. A number of alternative approaches are being considered. The costs of reworking design problems are the City's responsibility and are currently covered by the contingency reserves.

Bird Island in Lake Merritt

The work on Bird Island will stop soon due to nesting. Fencing will stay up along the shore opposite Bird Island during the nesting season as work continues on the mainland part of the project. If the island work is not completed in time, work will resume in August.

Temescal Creek near the North Oakland Sports Field above highway 13

Over the last five years two water mains have broken near the creek, resulting in major silting of the creek. Gordon Piper advised that on those occasions, clean-up

was minimal. He has been working on the creek in this area, sometimes getting the assistance of parolees from the county. He was pleased when the Watershed group determined that Temescal Creek was determined to be first on the priority creek list. With regret he notes that no Measure DD funds have been allocated to this creek. He reported that Lesley Estes, the coordinator for the creeks project, declined his suggestion for a grant possibility to provide additional funds. He continues to remove French broom and pampas grass and has planted nine oak trees. Gordon attended the January 17 Coalition meeting to highlight the neglect and frustration at Temescal Creek, which he described as a first priority project in the Watershed team's Measure DD list. (subsequent follow-up note from Joel: this portion of Temescal Creek is actually # 8 on the priority list, which can be viewed on the Measure DD website: <http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/docs/2043.pdf>. Work is still underway on higher ranking creek restoration projects).

5. DD Administrative Support contract award was renewed with Waterfront Action/Bill and Sandy Threlfall.

6. Alameda County Bridge Issues - Joel Peter
High Street Boardwalk

In response to the City's proposal to Alameda County, Joel Peter and City technical staff met with the County Public Works staff on November 30th. The County wants the City to cover all liability, maintenance and county staff costs for the boardwalk, if it is built. The Corps of Engineers will not grant the City a license to build the structure, but the County already has a license, so the strategy is to piggyback on theirs. Joel is continuing negotiations toward agreement.

7. Letters Task Force Report - John Sutter, Rick Rickard

Con Agra Telephone Contact: Rick Rickard reported that he initiated contact Con Agra's VP of Real Estate. Their concern about a trail by the plant is due Homeland Security's regulations governing a chemical used to bleach the flour. That chemical can be combined with two other chemicals to make an explosive. Homeland Security has really raised the bar on safety issues. John Sutter indicated the possibility of enlisting support of an EBRPD lobbyist to work on a realistic solution, if the specific chemicals and regulations can be identified. Rick anticipates a return phone call from the VP in the next month with further information. He has kept Joel Peter in the loop on the contacts.

The letter campaign for the interim Bay Trail at Oak to Ninth Avenue may have influenced the staff to making some recommendations to the BCDC Commission that were not in the previous staff report. This experience suggests the potential value of letters and meeting attendance to make our issues known to the governing agencies, such as BCDC, Port of Oakland, and the City of Oakland.

Coalition members expressed interest in the possibility of the Coalition joining with Bay Trail staff to make a joint informational presentation to the Board of Port Commissioners. The goal of the presentation would be to raise awareness of the vision for a continuous waterfront trail along the Estuary and of the need for joint Port and City efforts to close remaining Oakland Bay Trail gaps.

8. Lake Merritt Deadheaders - Jennie Gerard

The Lake Merritt Deadheaders had a limited turn out at the Saturday, December 11th event, although the holidays may have been a reason. Right now the plan is to have LM Deadheaders meet the last Saturday of the month from 10 AM – 1 PM. Meet at

the north side of the Boat House (Lake Chalet) and bring gloves, etc! Jennie asked if the Coalition might send notice of the January 29th Deadheaders session to its announcements list, and the group agreed.

Agenda suggestions for March 21st meeting

- Invite the design consultant for Snow Park to speak about the project (Joel Peter)
 - Invite Lesley Estes to talk about priorities for creek restoration, with special attention to Temescal Creek,. (Agenda Committee)
 - Maintenance issues and Deadheaders report – Jenny Gerard
 - Status report from Letters Task Force Subcommittee – John Sutter, Rick Rickard
- Invite Bay Trail staff representative to talk with us in May.

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 21st at the Ebell Room at 7:10 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.
sjt