



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for November 16, 2020

The virtual meeting was called to order over Zoom at 7:10 p.m.

A video recording of this meeting is available: [view recording](#)
Specific video links for major agenda items are embedded in the minutes below.

The meeting was chaired by Jennie Gerard with support from Agenda Committee members Adrian Cotter and David Wofford. Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

Bike East Bay – Robert Prinz, Rick Rickard
CALM – Kathryn Kasch, James Vann
Community for Lake Merritt – Adrian Cotter
East Bay Rowing Club – Jolie Krakaur
Friends of Sausal Creek – Anna Schmidt
Lake Merritt Institute - John Bowers, Charles Brooks
Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard
Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff
Rotary Nature Center Friends – Katie Noonan, David Wofford
Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman
Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall
Interested Citizens – Linda Morton, Bob Redman, Myra Redman, Sam Burd
City of Oakland:
Measure DD Program Manager – Kristin Hathaway
Public Works Agency, Building Services – Craig Pon

2. The agenda was adopted without revision.

3. Minutes of 9/21/2020 were approved.

4. Measure DD Project Updates – Kristin Hathaway ([video link](#))

Kristin commented on the status of most projects, with her remarks closely following the notes in the project status column of the [November 16, 2020 Project Status Summary](#) spreadsheet. Before discussing each project, she noted that the City's Finance Department will be starting the Series C audit soon, with an expectation to complete it in Spring 2021. Sandy Threlfall noted that the [Coalition's January 21, 2020 audit request](#) specified a preferred format and inquired if that preference will be addressed. Kristin indicated she will be sure that request is considered when she meets with the firm performing the audit.

For a few projects, Kristin responded to Coalition questions or comments:

- Tidal Gate Operations Guidance for the 7th Street Flood Control Facility: Katie asked a detailed question about language of the operations memo. *The matter remains in progress, with the goal of setting agreed operational protocols. Kristin clarified the difference between "flood control" and "non-flood control" operation. After further specific questions, Katie was encouraged to follow-up after she has an opportunity to read the memo.*

- Lake Merritt Channel: *In response to a question from Adrian, Kristin confirmed that she had submitted the Coalition's [proposed Channel Improvement Project](#) to the Capital Improvement Project process and that further steps would likely take place after February.*
- Other: *Kristin announced that Coalition volunteers had arranged a tour of the park sites at Brooklyn Basin, which was announced and subsequently cancelled by Brooklyn Basin management, who noted that the park would be open to the public for access shortly.*

5. Lake Merritt Path Pothole Status – Jennie Gerard ([video link](#))

Jennie briefly reviewed the problem. She reported that the Coalition had requested that OPW provide an oral or written report and presentation on the condition of the decomposed granite pathways around Lake Merritt and options for addressing that condition. She then introduced Craig Pon, from OPW Facilities Services, Representing Derin Minor, OPW Building Services Manager.

Craig advised that he was new to the pathway condition issue and did not have a report yet. He therefore had reached out to Joel Peter for relevant background concerning material, vendors, and involved contractors. Craig indicated he plans to invite the relevant vendors to visit the site and provide input about the issues. Craig reported that he visited the site last Friday and confirmed the reported condition problems.

He noted that OPW does not have an identified source of funding to address the needed ongoing maintenance, but assured it was “on everyone’s priority list.” He mentioned Measure Q as a possibility that may be considered.

Naomi encouraged a sense of urgency about the issue, and said “one lawsuit would pay for filing all the potholes”. She commented that cost estimates for needed maintenance ought to also set against potential liability costs from injury.

David Wofford emphasized the value of archiving knowledge such as that provided by Joel, and then asked a few questions about the Measure DD and the CIP process which Craig addressed. Jennie clarified we do not see the pothole repair as a capital project, but instead as a maintenance project that cannot rely Measure DD bond funding.

With support from his manager, Craig agreed to return to the January Coalition meeting to advise on OPW’s emerging plans to address the issue.

6. Discussion of “wish list” priorities – James Vann ([video link](#))

James reviewed the Coalition’s “wish list” concept and 2015 process. He noted that in September we said we should come up with a means of prioritizing the wish list items, which seem to be a mix of maintenance and capital projects.

James prepared a rating sheet with the original “wish list” items from the 2015 Lake Merritt Needs Survey as well as a few additions he’d made, two of which were located on the Channel, not Lake Merritt. Jennie said the plan is to listen to a brief reading of the items by James, and then the Agenda Committee would email a version of the rating sheet to participants for response within the month.

For most of the items on the list, James simply read the item aloud. However, as shown in the video link, there was considerable discussion of Item "C": *Construct a formal path at the "hiker-made pathway" across Bandstand Beach near the water and up to Lakeside Drive*. For several other items, questions were unanswered because their purposes, rationale, and proponents were unknown.

Jolie Krakaur asked if items at Estuary Park could be considered for the wish list, but Jennie advised that such items would be funded from a different bond section where it is yet not clear whether funds will remain. Kristin replied that such issues might be addressed in the Estuary Park plan.

Adrian Cotter suggested the addition of addressing paths in the vicinity of the Rotary Nature Center.

Sandy Threlfall suggested that parking issues for 1200 Lakeshore were really not a DD issue.

Bill Threlfall asked that in the future, we have a more well-developed discussion of items receiving support to ensure that we understand the purpose, rationale, expected benefits, and the number of persons who would benefit.

Jennie summarized that the Agenda Committee will send out an email with a revised list and directions about how respondents should register their views. This would then be followed at the January meeting with discussion of the high-priority items.

7. Managing homeless impacts at the Lake and Channel – James Vann ([video link](#))

James gave an overview of recent history of the issue, noting the Council's recently adopted encampment management policy, which will not go into implementation until after January 1. He also noted that per CDC guidance, Oakland's enforcement of the policy provisions is on hold and there is some remaining controversy about the policy adopted by Council. He proposed that the Coalition make no further requests at this time, pending resolution of these issues.

Sandy pointed out that [BCDC's cease and desist order](#) pertaining to Union Point Park was the third violation notice received by the City.

Naomi emphasized the value of providing alternate housing as part of any homeless relocation plan.

James suggested that it might be helpful to ask the City to advise how it intends to comply with BCDC's directives. Jennie raised the possibility of inviting Daryel Dunston to speak to our concerns at the January meeting.

8. Cryer Site Update – Naomi Schiff ([video link](#))

As shown in the video link, Naomi reported on the November 13 fire that consumed the historic building at the Measure DD [Cryer Site](#). She noted that the City and Measure DD in particular had spent a great deal of money on remediation of the site which was challenged by long-standing toxic soil conditions, some of which remain. She commented on the City's lax oversight of vacant public buildings as well as the potential value of

learning whether the building was insured and the disposition of possible insurance settlement proceeds.

Kristin agreed to explore the City's next steps and look into the insurance question by contacting the Real Estate department.

9. Announcements and reports ([video link](#))

- Rotary Nature Center Friends Report – as shown in the video link, Katie Noonan invited folks to this program:

A Lakeside Chat: Title: An Unsolved Mystery: The Enigmatic Beach-Hopper of Lake Merritt

Fri, Dec 4, 2020 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

https://lakemerritt-mystery_drjimcarlton.eventbrite.com

She advised that they are looking forward to monthly talks of this type.

- Dock at JLAC. Jolie Krakaur reported that funding has been secured to replace the launch dock for kayaks and other small boats. The project is going to Council on December 1.

Naomi highlighted how these docks provide another example of how the City has allowed its built structures to deteriorate. She inquired who at the City should be the target of any concern we might wish to voice, suggesting maybe the Interim Public Works Director. Kristin noted that David Ferguson is the Interim Public Works Director. Jennie commented that Measure DD, though not responsible for maintenance, has a proper role advocating for maintenance of its completed projects.

- Parks at Brooklyn Basin parks. Jennie noted that the opening for public access is imminent.

10. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants: ([video link](#))

- James and Agenda Committee to update and send out email to seek feedback about wish list items.
- Kristin agreed to look into the City's next steps and the insurance question at the Cryer Site by contacting the City Real Estate department.
- Kristin to advise if a future Coalition field trip to Brooklyn Basin parks is arranged.

11. Agenda suggestions for next Meeting:

- Lake Merritt pathways update – Craig Pon or other Public Works
- Management of homeless impacts at the Channel and Lake - Daryel Dunston
- Cryer Site update: insurance, plans - Kristin
- Report of "wish list" feedback received – James and Agenda Committee

The next Coalition meeting is scheduled January 18, 2021, at 7:10 p.m. Over Zoom.

Adjourned at 9:17 p.m.