



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for November 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order in the Ebell Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:10 PM.

The meeting was chaired by Rick Rickard and Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

Alameda County Historical Society – Ed Clausen

CALM – James Vann

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

EBBC – Rick Rickard

Friends of Sausal Creek – Barbara Goldenberg

Garden Center, Inc. – Anne Woodell

Oakland Museum of California – Bill McMorris

Oakland Parks Coalition – Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow

UrbanCore-Integral, LLC – Michael Johnson, Mike Pyatok

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Alan Dones, Kent Lari, Shelli Lari, Joel Peter, Ken Prata, John Wilson

1200 Lakeshore Residents – Yossedek Desta, Audrey Knight,
Brian Ogan, Howard Schainker

City of Oakland

Council District 2 – Jennie Gerard

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Development/Redevelopment Program Manager – Patrick Lane

Office of Neighborhood Investment – Hui-Chang Li

2. Minutes of 9/16/2013 were approved by consensus.

3. Invited Informational Presentation from UrbanCore-Integral, LLC

Michael Johnson and Mike Pyatok of UrbanCore-Integral presented an informational overview of the development team, design concept, project standards, and planning process for the Lake Merritt Boulevard Apartments project. Although the development is not a Measure DD project, it has resulted from the realignment of East 12th Street and is sited in close proximity to the Measure DD improvements at the Lake Merritt Channel; the project and its relationship to the lake were therefore of interest to the Coalition.

The developers noted that they are developing plans under an exclusive negotiating agreement with the City. They emphasized that community feedback is an essential part of the project's design process and has already resulted in significant design revisions. In response, Rick encouraged an increase in the dedicated bicycle storage capacity, and Mike Pyatok took note of the suggestion, noting that the garage plan is currently under revision.

Several community members who have not previously attended Coalition meetings expressed dissatisfaction with the location of the project and with its expected impact on views from 1200 Lakeshore.

4. Measure DD Project Update – Lesley Estes

Lesley provided the following report:

Tide Recorder Funding Request

Lesley received a request from Dr. Richard Bailey of the Lake Merritt Institute for purchase of a digital tide recorder with Measure DD funds. She advised that she seek to determine whether this would be an allowed Measure DD expense.

Cryer Building

The RFP for the Cryer Boatworks Building reuse study will be re-issued.

City Project Managers

Lesley announced that Jose Martinez is leaving the City, and many Coalition members expressed appreciation of his work and concern at this loss. She also noted that the City will be hiring a new project manager who will cover many projects including those of Measure DD.

Discussions with Port Staff regarding: Bay Trail Improvements on Port land

Lesley noted that she has been exchanging written communications with the Port staff and expects negotiations to be ongoing. She has come to recognize that a set of "umbrella agreements" between the City and Port is needed to help move specific projects along. These agreements would address a) How the city works on Port property, b) Maintenance of City improvements on Port property, and c) Trail alignment guidelines.

5. "Brooklyn Basin" Public Outreach Meeting Report

After noting that the Oak to Ninth project has been re-branded as "Brooklyn Basin", Bill reported that he, Judy, and Barbara had attended an event at the Jack London Aquatic Center that was advertised as follows: "Signature Development Group will be hosting an outreach and information meeting to provide an overview of its Phase I infrastructure design and construction schedule. The meeting will also provide the business community with information about opportunities to participate in the project's professional services opportunities."

In fact, the presentation spent only a few minutes on design and construction schedule, with only very general information. The project's phase 1 schedule was estimated to run from 2014-2017, with infrastructure work beginning in 2014 and buildings following in 2015. The vast majority of the time was spent informing members of the business community how to become certified by the Port and City as local business. There was no discussion of the Bay Trail or parks.

6. Traffic Light Synchronization on Lake Merritt Boulevard

James reported that the Subcommittee of Jennie, Rick, James designated at the September meeting to review synchronizing traffic and pedestrian signals along the new Lake Merritt Blvd, developed and submitted a plan with the objective of aiding traffic flow along the boulevard. The City Traffic Department replied that the recommendations would be reviewed for possible implementation. James reported that two of the committee's recommendations have already been implemented.

7. King Tide Walk with Friends of Sausal Creek in January, 2014

After briefly commenting on the meaning of the term "king tide", Sandy introduced Barbara Goldenberg of Friends of Sausal Creek, who described the expected king tide events on January 29 and 30. Barbara encouraged Coalition members to visit the shoreline on these days and

witness this special natural phenomenon. Sandy agreed to organize Coalition participation in the event by planning an observation site and sign-up process to be presented at our January 20, 2014 meeting.

9. New Agenda Committee

Rick briefly described the Coalition's past practices regarding the Agenda Committee and suggested it was time to solicit new members. No volunteers responded, so it was suggested that Bill send an e-mail call for Agenda Committee volunteers to the entire Coalition mailing list.

10. 2014 Meeting Schedule

Bill announced that the pattern of meeting on the third Monday every other month will continue throughout 2014, and that the Ebell Room has been reserved for the first half of the year on these dates: January 20, March 17, and May 19. One member noted that January 20 is the Martin Luther King holiday, and Bill confirmed that we nonetheless meet on that day every year due to the need to synchronize our meeting schedule with that of the Orchid Society of California. Bill also noted that the meeting schedule is always posted on the Coalition's web page at <http://waterfrontaction.org/dd/>.

11. Maintenance

Lake Merritt Enhanced Maintenance Committee Report

Jennie reported that the committee has met three times and has decided that its immediate task is to learn how aware folks are about the deterioration of new Measure DD projects and to assess the appetite for increased levels of maintenance. Their next action will be to pilot-test a "listening meeting" to hear what a sample focus group has to say about these issues.

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Report

Jennie announced that the next regular work day will be Saturday, November 23. She also expressed disappointment that the praiseworthy efforts of this group have proved wholly insufficient to meet the needs for routine garden maintenance around the Lake, underscoring the necessity for enhanced maintenance strategies. Joel described a short-term supplementary program of planting at the tidal marsh along the Lake Merritt Channel. The contractor has supplied some additional plants for thin areas here, and a few volunteers are working to plant these. Details about both programs are posted on the Weed Warriors Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeMerrittWeedWarriors>.

12. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Members:

- Sandy: Organize Coalition participation in King Tide walk event.
- Bill: Send e-mail call for Agenda Committee volunteers.
- Lesley Estes: Invite representatives from Moffatt & Nichol for introductions and update on bridge design processes.
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13. Agenda Suggestions for January 20 , 2014 meeting:

- Moffatt & Nichol – Bridge (Lesley)
- King Tide walk event (Sandy)

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, January 20, 2014 at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.