

Measure DD Community Coalition
February 9, 2004 – 7 – 9 p.m.
Montclair Recreation Center
Agenda Committee: Naomi Schiff, CJ Hirschfield, Nancy Rieser and Stana Hearne
Minutes by Kathy Raymond, Executive Director, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation

In Attendance

Beat 15x NCPC – Jim Ratcliff
Butters Land Trust – David Barron, Dolores Apton
Chabot Park Highlands Homeowners Association – Ken Benson
Children's Fairyland – C.J. Hirschfield
Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt – James Vann
East Bay Bicycle Coalition – Rick Rickard
East Bay Regional Parks District – John Sutter
Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation – Kathryn Raymond, Don Walls
FROG – Theresa Nelson
Lake Merritt Institute – Elizabeth Borowiec, Stana Hearne
Lake Merritt Rowing Club – Jerry Denham
Lake Merritt Breakfast Club- Aileen Frankel
Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff
Oakland Parks Coalition – Jennie Gerard
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission – Theresa Nelson
San Francisco Bay Trail Project of Association of Bay Area Governments – Brian Wiese
Spanish-Speaking Unity Council – Rita Torres, Evelyn Johnson
Waterfront Action – Sandy Threlfall

Also:

From the City of Oakland:

District 4 Council member Jean Quan's office – Richard Cowan
District 7 Council member Larry Reid's office – Pat Mossburg
Community & Economic Development Agency – Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris
Public Works Agency – Joel Peter
Public Works Environmental Services – Lesley Estes

The Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. and presided over by CJ Hirschfield. A special thank you was given to all the volunteers that help to make this process successful.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. There was no Audit Committee Report.

Update from Risk Management Committee

Ken Benson reported that there isn't a Risk Management Committee at the City, open to citizen input. The City's Risk Manager, Stephanie Garrebrant-Sierra, deals more with issues around Worker's Compensation and not really with contracting risk issues. Stephanie did indicate to Ken she would like to be invited to one of our meetings to provide an overview of the City's Risk Management role but that contracting wasn't her area of focus. The Coalition's Risk Management Committee,

comprised of Ken, Don Walls and Matt Webb, believes that City Attorney John Russo, speaking at the Coalition's December meeting, was looking more globally on the contracting issues involving potential risk. Don Walls mentioned that he had sent a letter to Mayor Jerry Brown about embracing public/private partnerships. Don Walls also mentioned that he had a conversation with Raul Godinez, the City's new Public Works Director, and that he seemed positive about the need for a contract template for the City to use with non-profit organizations. Raul's view was that this issue really wasn't a conspiracy; it's just that everyone is doing his or her own individual tasks and it is not coming together, everyone is looking at this issue from a slightly different direction. It was decided that to get anything resolved we need senior leadership. Naomi Schiff asked if John Russo would be able to delegate a point person, such as Doryanna Moreno who handles contracts, but the committee felt this was more of a policy issue and it needed the top leadership. Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris, DD project manager from the Community and Economic Development Agency, had written an email to Bill Noland, Acting Director of Finance and Administration, asking if he would like assistance in coordinating a meeting to discuss various City's positions and come up with a coordinate approach to work on improving the City's relationship to non-profit organizations wanting to contract with the City to construct buildings, parks, etc. The committee felt, however, that this matter might be somewhat out of Bill's prime area of expertise. It needs to be someone familiar with contracting. Don Walls and Kerry Jo mentioned that there are already some templates in place with the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation's Rockridge-Greenbelt Contract and the Unity Council's Union Point Park contract and perhaps the City could review the templates already created. It was thought that to get the issue resolved the Measure DD Coalition should invite City Manager Deborah Edgerly, John Russo and Jerry Brown to get involved and attentively urge passage of a policy to have agreements that truly facilitate cooperative public/private partnerships and don't impose onerous insurance liability on the non-profits. Naomi asked if it would help to get the Coalition to write letters to City Council members to help move this issue forward. However, it was pointed out that this is a policy issue and that there are several obstacles including the solution that was brought before the Council for a Trust for Public Land contract to renovate Bertha Point Park, which was entirely funded by private philanthropy. This contract almost wasn't approved because the City Council wouldn't vote to waive Public Work's Agency's standard project fees. Council Members thought this might set a precedent. It was decided that we should invite Deborah and Jerry to the next meeting.

Lesley Estes of the Public Works Agency's Environmental Services Division pointed out that we may want to talk to Randy Hayes who has recently joined the Mayor's office to try to sell improved public-private partnerships as a matter of City sustainability. It was decided that the Coalition should develop a standardized letter to send to the City Council on this issue. Don Walls will draft the letter.

Update from the City's DD Project Managers

Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris, Community & Economic Development Agency (CEDA) DD project manager, mentioned the RFP to be released will focus on Fund Development rather than Grant Writing. A final version of the RFP will be out on the street by March 1st. The Scope of Work will include identifying key organizations that can promote the fund development. The City will use existing staff resources to develop the Measure DD city web site; they have a person spending 25% of her time towards this effort. They hope to have the site up in 30 to 45 days. They will have

independent tabs for projects on the web site. They are also working on narrated vision pieces that will run on KTOP and hopefully will provide a nice piece for Fund Development endeavors. CJ Hirschfield asked if the City wanted independent resources that specific groups might have to aid in the web site or the KTOP pieces, such as videos, etc. Kerry said all resources are welcome. Sammy Roberts, City Marketing Manager, is aiding by providing a graphic artist to help develop citywide measure DD signage. They hope to have a user-friendly sign format visible to motorists and pedestrians. The only question was whose phone number to put on the sign and Kerry mentioned she would like to get a specific number set up for Measure DD questions. Don Walls mentioned this would be the perfect place to put the web site information and have people go there. The Coalition thought that adding the web site address was a good idea but also thought a phone number was also needed.

Kerry was asked the date of the City's next Executive Team meeting which would be attended by two of the current Agenda Committee members. She said the date hasn't been set yet but will take place sometime towards the end of March.

Kerry reported that the City has submitted an application for an Urban Parks Act of 2001 (under State Parks and Recreation Department) grant of \$3 million for the Cryer site, which is Phase II of Union Point Park, and that the following organizations and agencies submitted letters of support: Children's Fairyland, East Bay Conservation Corps, Coastal Conservancy, East Bay Regional Parks District, Jack London Aquatic Center, Lake Merritt Institute, Oakland Parks Coalition, Unity Council, Urban Ecology and Waterfront Action. Kerry said she tried to position the request so that the State couldn't turn us down completely, illustrating that the Cryer site development could be done in a phased approach. Staff should hear in about 45 days if the application is complete and then will set up site visits. Final decisions will be made by August 2004.

Kerry hopes to have the Friends contract signed by the City within 2 to 3 days. Kerry also mentioned that she is working with Kathy at Friends about creating a specific donor package for benches at Lake Merritt Park. This started with Friends having a donor that wants to put a bench at a site of a past historical home. John Sutter, on the board of the East Bay Regional Park District, suggested City staff look at the District's policy regarding acceptance of donations for park benches, because there is an implicit expectation to maintain a donated bench, which may be difficult over many years. Theresa Nelson also noted that the City Parks and Recreation Advisory Council has a policy and approves all plaque language.

Joel Peter, Public Works Agency DD Project Manager, reported that Studio One renovation/retrofit planning is moving forward. The consultant architect and Studio One advisory group toured three different Bay Area art centers to get ideas. They will be having a meeting on February 20th and will decide on the design process and timeline. Aileen Frankel asked if there would be public meetings set up around the design. Joel said there would be and they will be discussing when to have these meetings at their meeting on the 20th.

The March 16th City Council meeting will have a number of DD issues on the agenda: 1) 12th street project is coming along and the contract will be awarded to Rajappan & Meyer; 2) The Municipal Boathouse renovation design contract will be awarded to the Wallace Roberts Todd team (as an amendment to WRT's existing Master Plan

contract.) and as-needed consultants' list, including landscape architects, architects and engineers, will also be approved, some of these will be used for smaller Measure DD projects, such as creek enhancement projects. Sandy Threlfall asked if there was an appeal process for consultants who bid but were not selected for the as-needed list. Joel said there was not an official process but they could talk to the Project Manager and find out why they didn't make the cut. He said there were many worthy applicants but they had to choose a select number and some had just outstanding qualifications.

Naomi mentioned that it would be great to make the media aware of progress on DD projects since it's easy for the citizens to lose the connection with what their tax dollars are funding. It was asked if the Coalition should do a press release about these awarded contracts. It was suggested that the Coalition let the reporters know beforehand and then have it released right after the March 16th City Council meeting. Kerry pointed out that if a speaker wants to address an item on the City Council Agenda, thereby drawing attention to it, the item would be taken off the consent agenda and be moved to the agenda with no scheduled time. The Agenda Committee agreed to notify the press.

The East Oakland Sports Complex is still the topic of discussions among District #7 Council member Larry Reid, District # 2 Council Member Danny Wan, the consultant for the project and the staff of the City's Treasury Department. Pat Mossburg on Council member Reid's staff mentioned that one of the things that is happening is that the Olympic size pool will be reduced to a 25 meter pool and this would reduce the overall cost from around \$56 million to around \$32 million. Currently, There are approximately \$16 million in funds identified for this project (including a \$3 million grant application submitted to the State on Jan. 15th, 2004 prepared by Public Works Agency project manager, Jeanne Zastera).

Joel also pointed out that on the walls there was an underwater (bathymetric) map of Lake Merritt prepared by URS the map shows the flows in and out of the lake and will be used to prepare a computer model. He also shared a Tribune article about the installation of the first storm water filter funded by Measure DD. Jennie Gerard asked if there were a determined number of storm water filters that had been decided on and Joel said that it was undecided at this time, and that the Lake Merritt Water Quality Task Force is considering additional filter units as well as other projects. One more had been determined by the Rotary Nature Center.

CJ said that Children's Fairyland has signed a design contract and is moving forward with the design of improvements there to be funded by Measure DD.

Report on Lake Merritt Water Quality Improvements

Lesley Estes, Public Works Agency, reported on the City's approach to determining what projects to undertake to improve the Lake's water quality. A recently reactivated Lake Merritt Water Quality Task Force is meeting on a regular monthly basis looking into structural options. Dr. Alex Horn from U.C. Berkeley spoke at their last meeting, stimulating discussion about a wide array of options. The Coastal Conservatory has set aside \$1million for water quality improvements but the City needs to officially write a grant, and to do so will require more specifics. The Task Force is trying to find solutions that will not need a lot of electrical usage or create maintenance issues, and that will address the anaerobic nature of the water on the

lake floor. They hope to improve the water quality in Lake Merritt by increasing dissolved oxygen and eliminating trash. The Task Force will develop a plan over the next year. Lesley mentioned if there were some items that everyone agreed on they may be able to go forward with some of these smaller issues but they will need an overall plan before the main components can go forward. For example, they are currently trying to put in additional CDS storm water filters where possible.

Creek Restoration and Acquisition

Creek Restoration and Acquisition: City staff wishes to conduct more public outreach before particular creek projects can move forward with the limited Measure DD funds. It was stated that The Measure DD bond allocates a small amount \$5.5 million for restoration and \$4.5 million for acquisition. Staff has a list of potential creek segments from six years ago that compose preliminary priorities for the funding. The list was developed with criteria from a consultant. Lesley said she had been going to some community meetings and provided a handout illustrating how interested groups could submit projects for consideration and what criteria the proposed projects will be judged against. She hopes to begin the public process in the spring of 04 and hopefully decide on the list of projects by summer. Don Walls asked since the money is so small for acquisition could some be redirected to restoration. Kerry said no, the bond language was very specifically written for these categories. It was asked if the acquisition budget could be used for purchasing conservation easements and the city is looking into. It was stated that some of the acquisition money would be used for Butters Canyon. Rich Cowan, from District #4 Council Member Jean Quan's staff, explained that the Butter's Trust was able to acquire an option on some pristine land for \$75,000 but the trust doesn't have the money for purchase and has asked that this acquisitions be funded DD money. There may be other property that can be acquired here as well. Lesley wasn't sure exactly, but possibly \$300,000 or \$400,000 that could be allocated for this project.

Lesley spoke about two creek projects that are well underway and have identified funding but may be eligible for some DD funding if the committee sees fit. One project is on Arroyo Viejo Creek where the Oakland Zoo is doing creek restoration and an educational element. The design is 80% done and about 90% of the funding is in place. Work will begin this summer and it probably wouldn't need DD money. The other project is on Lion Creek at the Coliseum Garden. Where the Oakland Housing Authority is creating the park and it has a large concrete channel running through it that they hope to renovate. Kerry pointed out that there is a master plan underway for the Coliseum Gardens Park; Lesley said her group was working on the creek portion. Theresa Nelson asked about other potential projects that may also be ready for funding other than these two, such as along the Temescal Creek in the Rockridge and perhaps the upper Temescal as well. The group did not think they could make an informed decision on just these two projects without knowing what other projects might be worthy of consideration. A Creeks Committee was set up to review these issues the committee participants will be:

Rich Cowan, Dolores Apton, David Barron, Theresa Nelson, John Sutter and Bruce Douglas

To a question about matching funds, Lesley mentioned that she is looking into other funding opportunities. And most RFP's for matching funding wouldn't be until July as an early estimate.

Union Point Park

Rita Torres and Evelyn Johnson from the Unity Council reported on the progress with Union Point Park. The Unity Council is finally moving forward into Phase 1 construction. They went out for bid last month and the City Council will be awarding the contract on Feb. 17th. Still going through the process so couldn't say whom the contractor would be. They should start construction in Mid-March. This phase would involve environmental cleanup, the parking lots and the North and South side and all the underground utilities. Phase 2 is about 95% done with Construction Documents and is now being reviewed by the city for 100% completion. They will then go out for bid for Phase 2 and the 2 phases should dovetail. The Cryer site would be the 3rd phase and hasn't started a planning process. They hope to have both phase 1 and 2 done by next spring. \$4 million is from Measure DD funds and the total project for the first 2 phases is \$8.5 million and it is fully funded. It was mentioned that this would be a great place for one of the City Measure DD signs and Kerry said the Cryer site next to the park will have one of the new signs when they are completed. The committee asked that the groundbreaking be announced so the committee could attend. It was said that this merits publicity on the success of how Measure DD is going. Naomi asked if there was a process on who should put out press releases, as we didn't want to step on the City's toes here. Kerry said she wasn't aware of a current process but will work with Sammy to come up with a procedure for Press Releases.

Measure DD Community Coalition Web Site

Kathy Raymond spoke about possibilities for the Friends Measure DD Community Coalition Web Page. The site will be at Friends' newly launched www.oaklandparks.org. It will have a list of organizations participating in the Coalition, minutes of the Coalition's meetings, notes from the Executive Team meetings attended by the Coalition representatives, and the times, locations and agendas of meetings, as well as a place for comments and responses, links to the city site and other org. sites, a list of organizations that participate, etc. Theresa Nelson suggested that one of the sites, either the City's or Friend's should have a map showing all the DD project locations and the ideal would be if you could click on an area and see the project description.

Don Walls mentioned that the flatwater kayak and canoe Olympic Trials, scheduled for Mid-April on Lake Merritt, would be a good place for a booth to publicize the status of implementing Measure DD.

Liz Borowiec was going to report on Water Quality but Lesley had covered most. Jennie Gerard asked about the use of fountains, specifically the Glen Echo fountain, now unplugged. Liz and Lesley stated that they were looking into this option but hadn't gotten there yet. Lesley said it didn't look like a great option to answer the oxygen issue but there may be a place for them as they do help stratification somewhat.

It was asked if the storm drain backups on Lakeshore and Grand cause an issue. Lesley stated that none of the water quality improvements address that problem; however, a second, large culvert will be installed shortly on Lakeshore Avenue by Alameda County. They are not looking at issues related to flooding or maintenance

though they are big issues. It was pointed out one of the big issues is illegal dumping that takes a lot of the maintenance workers time.

Sandy announced that there is a Port of Oakland Good Neighbors Breakfast on Feb. 25th at the Jack London Aquatic Center.

The next meeting will be March 8th, location suggestions included Redwood Heights, Sanborn and Arroyo Viejo. The agenda should include Deborah and Jerry.

Other potential agenda items may be:

- Update on Oak to 9th as it relates to implementing the City's adopted Estuary Plan. Although a couple of lawsuits have been filed, the Coalition should invite Mike Ghilmetti of Signature Properties and City's Planning Director Claudia Cappio. Kerry mentioned that the City has not been presented with a formal application for the area. The Estuary Plan is the only plan the City currently recognizes for the area.
- The projects along the channel connecting Lake Merritt with the Oakland Estuary, Kerry and Joel offered a presentation on the URS study. Recommendations were made for specific speakers from the Peralta Community College and the Oakland Unified School District whose School Administration Building backs onto the channel.
- Update on Creeks, including the list developed 6 years ago and any information on other projects that may be further along. Kathy will send out the list and the handout from Lesley before the meeting. Additionally, there was a request to schedule the topic of how best to use the creeks acquisition money.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.