

## MEASURE DD COMMUNITY COALITION MEETING

April 16, 2007

Lakeside Garden Center

Agenda Committee: N/A

Minutes by Kathy Raymond, Executive Director, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation

In Attendance:

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Ron Bishop

Chabot Park Highlands Homeowner – Ken Benson

Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt – James Vann

East Bay Bicycle Coalition – Rick Rickard

East Bay Regional Parks – Doug Bell

Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation – Kathryn Raymond

Garden Center, Inc. – Anne Woodell

Jack London Aquatic Center – Robert Kidd

Waterfront Action – Sandy Threlfall

From the City of Oakland:

Office of City Administrator – Joel Peter

Council Member Kernighan's Office – Jennie Gerard

Council Member Reid's Office – Pat Mossburg

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. and the group introduced themselves.

### PROJECT UPDATES:

Geese Management Study: There have been lots of complaints in District 2 and 3 about the Geese. Jones & Stokes, environmental consultants, were hired to do study. The study is currently focusing around Lake Merritt. The report is in draft stage and a community meeting will be held June 14<sup>th</sup> (note: now planned for July 26 at the Garden Center) cohosted by Council Members Nadel and Kernighan, please contact Jennie Gerard at [jgerard@oaklandnet.com](mailto:jgerard@oaklandnet.com) for more information. Anne Woodell suggested that they invite the Lawn Bowling group and the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club. The study is looking at the coexistence between people and geese. They have done counts and the resident population is not that big, around 200 to 300 with only about 15 breeding pairs. The City stopped the 3:30 feeding program. However, between May to late June is the molt migration and they need safe place because they loose feathers, up to 2,000 come then a smaller peak in Sept. and October. Couple ways to control by dogs, Goosebusters is one such company, also by Addling, which is putting vegetable oil on the eggs so they don't hatch. However, the permits for addling were handed off to the states by the Federal Govt. and all past permits are null and void and yet the state program is not set up yet so can't yet issue permits.

East Oakland Sports Complex: Have \$10 million from DD, \$3 million from Measure I and a \$3 million state grant. The state grant will go away if don't complete the project by

2010. They are now looking to do something on a less grand scale that can be phased and expandable. Architects have come up with 3 possible concepts. Concepts A and B use existing gym and expanding and Concept C would knock down the gym and building a new complex. Concept C would be a more cohesive design if allowed and easier to expand but more costly. The plan would include an indoor pool with slides, would be a play pool with small lap element but more recreational. With additional funds there will also be an outside competitive lap pool 25 meters by 25 yards and a fitness center. Also, with option C if more money was found they could expand the gym but this could not be done with the other 2 options and you could also get more field space. However, a few people mentioned that the gym wasn't built that long ago so if could reuse it would be nicer than wasting that investment. It was asked if this would be a facility that you would have to pay to use, the fun pool would require payment and not sure on other areas. They are going to be costing out the options and then go out to the community for input. They would need this built by March 2010 in order to not lose grant funding, so already the schedule is extremely tight.

Embarcadero Bridge: The replacement is not through DD funds it is a seismic retrofit project. The plans went to BCDC and now will be going back after comments. They did not like the railings. It was noted that the renovation could cause issues with access to the Jack London Aquatic Center and that signage, etc. would be needed. It was said that they are looking at detour plans and hope to have it worked out by September.

Waterfront Trail: The draft standards are on the Company web site. The standards would be for downtown, industrial and marshland and would impact private property owners. These would be subject to extra regulations if they are on the waterfront trail. There are already existing regulations by BCDC but the City wanted to go further than those. Standards would include wider paths overall and bicycle and pedestrian paths with higher end materials. It is currently in the hands of the planning department, so far the feedback is that it is too complicated so they are looking at how to simplify, Elois Thornton is contact. It is looking like sometime in June it would go to the Planning Commission.

The Coalition participants wanted to send a letter about the designs for the kiosks and railings. There was a unanimous feeling that these were too tall, too intricate and not necessarily needed. Naomi Schiff worked up a draft statement and read a letter from Robert Kidd. The group agreed that they liked Robert's letter and wanted to support his opinion. They also wanted to add in that markers should be on opposite side of path from the water so as not to block the views. It was also mentioned that above all they should be functional and direct people to the waterfront and perhaps markers were more needed downtown. Should provide destination, direction and distance, perhaps add mileage indicators. Sandy Threlfall brought a Powerpoint slideshow of other City's markers. Changes to the plan would go through planning commission sometime in June. The Coalition asked that they get notified before that meeting and to continue to provide comments through Elois.

Land Swap: 9.7 acres of public trust land is being lifted so housing can be built so there is a look for mitigation to do some land swap. The Port has not yet found an amount of comparable value. Sandy Threlfall brought up some ideas of how perhaps this land could be found. Perhaps 2.3 acres of land on North 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. could be put back in so could have Channel Park for a festival site. Also, perhaps the Park Street Triangle, could make this Trust Land. There is a Greek Restaurant here that would remain but it would still make it more accessible to the public. These types of proposals should be suggested to the Port, as it was thought the land should stay in Oakland. The Port could also use this in the Army Base or offer a buyout, but it was stated that the Public Trust was not in favor of a buyout. Another thought was Webster Green from Chinatown to Jack London Square. The Port must hold a public meeting before a trade is made, the State Lands staff needs to make sure there are no trades before a public meeting is held. It appears the State, City and Port are having closed door negotiations and feeding information to State Lands Staff. The land could be industrial but public use is preferred. Most likely some of this will go to an Army Base parcel but Sandy indicated that Oakland should fight to get something out of it and figure out a priority for these different options.

Waterfront Trail: There are still a number of companies that are not willing to permit access to their properties to complete the waterfront trail. The City is continuing to pursue agreements with these companies to receive an easement or purchase the land.

Updates on Lawsuits: Nothing new to report on the trees lawsuit. There was one RFP for the Terminal that is being reviewed. The developer is saying it is not opposed to a reuse of the terminal. The review that is being done is winding its way through the City Process though it appears the process is somewhat unknown to public. They are fast tracking this so can get before council on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Oak to Ninth lawsuits are moving along slowly the referendum lawsuit is behind the CEQA suits.

It was suggested that the next couple of meetings should be walking tours so we can tour the areas we are speaking about. Sandy Threlfall and Jennie Gerard will aid in putting together a walking tour around the waterfront trail for the May meeting. Ron Bishop and Jennie Gerard will work on setting up a Lakeshore Ave. tour beginning at Lakeview in June.

Ron reminded everyone of Bike to Work Day.

The next meeting will be held May 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.