

Measure DD Coalition
Minutes of March 24, 2008 Meeting

In attendance: David Mix, Rick Rickard, John Wilson, Naomi Schiff, Ken Pratt, Sandy Threlfall, Anne Woodell, John Klein, Jim Ratliff, John Sutter, James Vann and Kathy Raymond.
City Staff Attendees: Joel Peter, Pat Mossburg, Jennie Gerard

Project Updates: The EIR was certified but appealed and so the appeal will be heard by City Council on April 1st. In Late June Children's Fairyland will be hosting a grand opening of their new children's theater. C.J. Hirshfield contacted Kathy Raymond prior to the meeting to see if the Measure DD Coalition may like a private tour before the opening. The group all agreed that this would be a good thing to do and would like to see the site. Studio One is almost complete, they are just finalizing final punchlist items. Joel mentioned it looks very nice and was worth a drive by to take a look at the renovated facility. The East 18th Pier is moving along, the base is complete and they are working on reconstructing the historic railing. The Cleveland Cascade is still close to a bid package, they have been in delay as the cost was more than they could afford so are looking at paring down the elements in the Phase 1 design. The scope for phase 1 is predominately the railings. The Lakeshore/El Embarcadero project was advertised for bid on Friday, this includes the path along Lakeshore.

66th Ave. is moving along and looking good, about 3 to 4 more weeks until completion, this includes a boardwalk. This gateway will make the waterfront trail more visible. 66th Ave. is a joint project with DD funds and the East Bay Regional Parks district. The hardscape work is being done through DD and then some of the plantings will be done through programs with the East Bay Regional Parks District. East Oakland Sports Complex has a completed conceptual design that will go before the Planning Commission on April 2nd. If this passes, which they think it should, then they will move into more detailed design drawings. The Natatorium (indoor Swimming Pool) is funded for phase 1. They are still trying to raise more money to do more of the work as well.

Derby to Lancaster St. has received another \$300,000 of federal funding for the waterfront trail, includes about one city block and the streets on either end.

It was asked if the slowdown in the building trades may produce more competitive bids, it was not known but it was stated that it had in some past projects and that they hope this would occur.

John Wilson asked if there was any thought to doing any text information about the pacific flyway in that project. Joel stated probably not as this is a public art project and he didn't believe that was a part of the concept.

Joel was asked about what the estimated cost of the two proposals were for Lakeshore. Joel didn't have the numbers in front of him but recollected he thought it was around \$5 million for Plan B and over a million dollars higher for Plan A. He stated that if the bids came in high then they would work with the bidders to see if there was a way to value engineer the project or find some middle ground on the bid numbers. The City Council will ultimately decide on the bids. It was also asked for clarification about the statement that the left turn lane could also be used for a passing lane. Joel said that traffic engineering had said this was ok but it was mentioned the intention of this is really for cars to be able to get around cars, parking, etc., not to speed around cars going slower than them. The 12th St. project is still in the Federal Funding process and when that is complete will go back out to bid with the same design but that would probably not happen until the end of this year.

It was stated there was a new bid going out for the groundwork at the boathouse but Joel didn't know the parameters of this funding off the top of his head. Due to a number of circumstances that was found during construction the boathouse project is projected to come in higher again and will need to go back to council again to approve more funding, somewhere around another \$1.5 million.

It was also asked if Joel could somehow note the changes on the project update sheets somehow to clearly show where the changes have happened since the last update. Joel stated this was difficult to do in Excel so has not been doing that. It was suggested perhaps just indicating those areas with an * or something.

It was brought up if this group should discuss the LLAD or at least the issue around how all of this new park land will be maintained as we are short of staff now to maintain all the parks and the parks maintenance budget is in deficit. It was decided that this should be an agenda item at some point but he

LLAD would be mailed out in early May and that it may be too late to specifically discuss the LLAD piece. It was asked if there was a 3 year establishment period built into the funding for some maintenance help. Joel indicated that around planting projects they were building an establishment period into the budget.

It was noted that there are a number of projects nearing completion and that there should be an effort made around publicizing this. Joel stated that he would be working to get all of these projects publicized.

The City met with the Port on some of the properties they own that impact the waterfront trail. The Port is now open to look at an offer from the City on the Brooklyn Basin property and the City is now doing an appraisal to determine what they will offer. This site would probably become a park. It would include replacing a sea wall and would connect the bay trail about an acre and a half, there is trail already on both ends. This area is subject to Tidelands Trust. The City is also looking at the 10th Ave. Marina, another portion where they are trying to work with the Port.

It was asked at the last meeting about why the underpass tunnel was closed. Jennie Gerard checked into this and said that due to unsavory activities in the tunnel the police, particularly Paul Berlin, requested that the tunnel be closed. There were a number of individuals at the meeting that expressed concern that people are taking their lives into their hands by trying to cross 12 lanes of traffic here as the two closest crossings are a ways away. It was suggested that at minimum there should be an interim crosswalk, though some felt that this would cause a false sense of security and that you would never get traffic engineering to do this. It was also noted that the tunnel should be reopen and that the police needed to figure out a way to deal with the problem activity. It was also noted that perhaps the tunnel could be opened during the day and gated at night, this had been an original solution but couldn't find someone that would open and close it each day. David Mix and John Wilson will form a subcommittee to look at this issue.

It was brought up by some attendees that meeting every other month was not enough to discuss all of the issues around DD. However, it was noted that the coalition participants at the November meeting decided how often they wanted to meet and it was every other month and that they worried too many meetings would prevent people from participating. A motion was put on the floor to vote on the existing meeting policy. 8 wanted to keep the current schedule, 3 wanted more meetings and 3 abstained. It was decided to keep the same schedule but that we could call special meetings when needed.

Naomi brought up the issue of the rezoning of the business district that Nancy Nadel and Pat Kernighan were looking into. Apparently, there are some conflicting elements between the zoning and the landuse designation. As this may impact the Lake Area, Naomi wondered if we wanted to look at this more closely. David Mix thought this wasn't appropriate to put on the agenda, however some of the participants thought this may be worth discussing more at a later meeting and perhaps Eric Angstad from the Planning Division should be invited as he is heading this up.

Some suggestions for future meetings:

1. The issue of the new parcel at 12th St. that will be created due to DD projects. David Mix had done a write up and brought some information on this and Joel had handed out an overlay we could use for discussion.
2. The rezoning issue – invite Eric Angstad.
3. A tour of Fairyland (perhaps special meeting for this)
4. Maintenance around DD projects
5. Information about a potential parks district bond extension (AA Bond). Would have funds for coastline and bay trail elements. There is an informational meeting on April 12th.
6. How to increase public outreach of this coalition.

It was suggested that the agenda committee should change every 2 meetings as we will only meet 6 times a year currently, and that there should be one person overlap on each committee with a minimum of 3 people. This vote passed with 3 abstentions. David Mix asked to be removed from the agenda committee as he didn't believe his work that he had put forward was put to good use. Jim Ratliff offered to fill in the open spot.

Naomi Schiff, Jim Ratliff and John Wilson are the agenda committee for May. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19th with a possible extra meeting for Fairyland that Kathy Raymond will follow up on with C.J. Hischfield.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.