



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for July 15, 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 – John Klein, James Vann

EBBC – Rick Rickard

Friends of Gardens at Lake Merritt – Dick Austin

Friends of Oakland Parks & Recreation – Judy Johnson

Garden Center, Inc. – Anne Woodell

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Oakland Parks Coalition – Judy Johnson, Barbara Schaaf, Mike Udkow

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Bob Redman, Myra Redman

City of Oakland

Council District 2 – Jennie Gerard

Council District 3 – Casey Farmer

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

2. Minutes of 5/20/2013 were approved by consensus.

3. Appreciation of Love our Lake Day Committee

On behalf of the Coalition, Rick Rickard expressed heartfelt appreciation for the fine work and terrific outcomes from the "Love our Lake Day" committee, members of which were named by James Vann.

4. Final report from Love our Lake Day Committee – James Vann

James Vann, Committee Chair, reviewed highlights of the event, focusing on the dedication, entertainment, and opening of the new public facilities. He indicated that Coalition volunteers began work in October 2012, holding five joint meetings with City staff and four meetings as an independent committee. Notable accomplishments included raising \$11,750, sending 52 letters of special invitation, preparing a concise handout to describe the Coalition, assisting with advertising, planning the amphitheater program, speakers, and entertainment, for which Naomi Schiff and James Vann served as co-masters of ceremony. Many additional Coalition participants joined in staffing of the Measure DD informational table, where the public displayed considerable interest. James noted that full detail is available in the notes of the Committee's final meeting, which can be found in the **Love our Lake Day Celebration** section of the Coalition's [documents archive web page](#).

James distributed copies of the concise one-page handout describing the Coalition, and it too has been added to the same section of the Coalition's documents archive web page.

Finally, he advised that Measure DD Coalition Love Our Lake Day Committee members would be recognized at the July 16, 2013 City Council meeting. A photograph of the City Council resolution

honoring the organizers, producers, and attending staff of Love Our Lake Day is also posted on the archive page.

Bill Threlfall mentioned the great coverage of Love Our Lake Day in the 5-minute film from StreetFilms titled *Oaklavia Opens Streets to Celebrate the Renewal of Lake Merritt*, which is [available online here](#).

5. Measure DD Project Update – Lesley Estes

Lesley initially responded in inquiry from Coalition participants on four points:

- City support for Mandela Parkway maintenance. Lesley confirmed that the City is employing a contractor to provide maintenance of the 16-acre linear Mandela Parkway, and she emphasized that the special history of this parkway, constructed by Caltrans and then dedicated to the City, led to a unique City Council decision to adopt a unique approach for its maintenance. By contrast, park projects constructed by the City, such as Measure DD projects, are maintained by City staff.
- Excess property at 12th St./First Avenue. Lesley indicated that this 1-acre "wedge" of property will be developed. The City has entered into an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with UrbanCore-Integral, LLC, who plan a 24-story mixed-use residential tower on the site. Lesley noted that there will be several public meetings regarding the plans. Some members expressed the long-standing view that revenue from the sale of the site, estimated at around \$4M, should be directed to Lake Merritt.
- 18th Street Pier nameplate. Lesley commented that although the Coalition selected a name for the Pier at its last meeting, the City had no available staff resources and no budget to actually design and install this name on the Pier using approved methods. A discussion ensued regarding strategies, but no clear consensus emerged.
- Timing of Necklace lights. Barbara Schaaf noted a lack of synchronization in on/off times between various sections of the Necklace of Lights at Lake Merritt and encouraged staff to adjust the appropriate settings.

Lesley then offered the following project highlights:

Lake Merritt Channel Improvement at 10th Street:

The contractor, N. Ball Construction has started work on utility relocation.

Lakeside Green Street Project

PWA has been awarded a \$7 million Alameda County Transportation Commission One Bay Area Grant and is being considered for an additional \$2M award. To comply with grant requirements, the project will have to be federalized, which takes 12-18 months.

Sailboat House Shoreline Area

The project has been delayed pending resolution of State permitting and boathouse program scheduling issues. The bid process is expected to occur before the end of the year.

12th Street Reconstruction

The contractor is working on the punch list and low water pressure problems. The 3-year plant establishment period had begun.

Cryer Building

An RFP for public outreach services will be issued this summer, with the aim of obtaining public

input regarding possible re-use of the existing building. The necessary building renovations will be performed by the tenant that is ultimately selected.

Bellevue Avenue Entry

The design will be 95% complete next month. This project also is receiving federal funds and will be required to go through the federalization process.

Graffiti Abatement

Lesley reported that the adopted budget includes one new FTE painter for Lake Merritt graffiti abatement.

Measure DD Audit

Leslie reported that a Measure DD series B financial audit was conducted under the terms of the bond measure, and no irregularities were found. Leslie agreed to provide a copy of the Audit report for the Coalition archives. When available, it will be found in the **Expense Tracking** section of the Coalition's [documents archive web page](#).

6. Follow-up Items

A series of items requiring brief follow-up were covered:

- Maintenance Strategies Committee. Jennie Gerard has agreed to coordinate scheduling of the committee's first meeting, likely sometime in August. Initial members of the committee include Jennie, Glenda Barnhart, Mike Udkow, Naomi Schiff, and George Duncan. Jennie invited suggestions for additional members and several were offered.
- Coalition invitation to Lynette Gibson McElhaney. Naomi reported that she reached out to the council member with success. The Coalition welcomed Casey Farmer, Policy Analyst from the District 3 Council staff.
- Lake Merritt signage. Lesley indicated that eight signs are planned for installation around the Lake, focused on water quality, the environment, and birds. These are updates of the same signs that Lesley introduced to the Coalition at its November 19, 2012 meeting. She noted that the signs will avoid a negative approach and will instead attempt to educate and encourage appropriate behavior (e.g. Keep Waterfowl Wild). The signs are a Measure DD project and are partly funded by water quality agencies. Naomi suggested special efforts to accommodate non-English speakers who frequent the Lake.
- Future field trips. This item was deferred to a future agenda. James Vann requested that Coalition participants e-mail suggestions for future field trips to him at jamesevann@aol.com.
- Oak to Ninth update. Bill noted that escrow closed on the Oak to Ninth (aka "Brooklyn Basin") Project, triggering a requirement that the project developer construct interim Bay Trail segments located at Channel Park and the Ninth Avenue Terminal. The BCDC permit and the City of Oakland development agreement require that these two Trail segments be completed within one year of the close of escrow. Between these segments, a wide gap will remain for a number of years under the terms of the controlling documents. The permanent Bay Trail will be installed in phases as the project is built out over a period of about 15 years.
- Weed Warriors update. Jennie reported that the next work day will be Saturday, July 27. More than 30 people signed up for the Weed Warriors program at the Love Our Lake Day information booth, though not all have actively participated.

7. Announcements

Naomi Schiff announced that the Oakland Heritage Alliance will be conducting its summer tours, which can be found on the [OHA web site events page](#). Of particular interest is the August 11 *From Lake Merritt to the Estuary* tour led by Joel Peter and John Rogers.

8. Agenda Suggestions for September 16, 2013 meeting:

- Invite presentation on Lake Merritt Blvd. Apartments by representative from UrbanCore-Integral, LLC (consortium includes Pyatok Architects, Oakland)
- Future Field Trips (James Vann)
- Issue of synchronization of traffic lights on Lake Merritt Blvd. (James Vann)
- 10th St. project visuals or conceptual design drawings (Lesley)
- Possibly show the film [Oaklavia Opens Streets to Celebrate the Renewal of Lake Merritt](#) if proper equipment and facilities can be obtained.

9. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Members:

- Jennie Gerard: Coordinate initial meeting of Maintenance Strategies Committee.
- Bill Threlfall: investigate availability of digital projection and sound equipment.

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, September 16, 2013 at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.