

Measure DD Coalition
Minutes of July 21, 2008 Meeting

In attendance: Ken Benson, Dinah Benson, Rick Rickard, Naomi Schiff, John Sutter, Karl Osterloh, Ken Pratt, John Klein, and Kathy Raymond.

City Staff Attendees: Joel Peter, Jennie Gerard, Pat Mossburg

The meeting began at Children's Fairyland where C.J. Hirschfield gave a tour to the group of the improvements that have occurred from the use of the Measure DD funds. We toured the new children's theater that will be used for their own performances as well as for children's groups around the bay area. The theater, entitled, Aesop's Playhouse, seats 200 and is decorated with characters from the classic Aesop tales. We also toured the park overall and saw many of the upgrades of some of the older sets, including the small stage and the chapel which was renovated as it had been suffering from dry rot and other damage.

Project Updates:

The East 18th Pier reopening was the previous Saturday it was a good opening and had some press coverage in the Tribune and Montclairian. It was noted that they do not have an old picture from the street side of the pier so it would be great to know what used to be on the grand wall of the pier back when it was originally built. It was asked if anyone found a picture of this to let Joel know.

The Lakeshore/El Embarcadero project low bidder was Gallagher and Burke, they have been awarded the contract but it will probably be September before the contract is finalized.

All the trees that were slated for removal have now been removed. Joel stated that the appeal on the lawsuit against the removal of the trees was dismissed by the Superior Court as the group never filed a brief after the notice to appeal.

The City has a preliminary commitment from the Federal Government for \$13 million for the 12th St. project. They are hoping by October this would be official as they are still filling out more paperwork. They hope to go out to bid again late this year and then start by next spring. They have submitted and the environmental paperwork. They are working through CalTrans to secure the funding.

The Lakeside project landscaping work portion from 14th-19th bids have been opened and the contract has been awarded to McGuire & Hester as the low bidder. It will include park improvements, the multi-use pathway, removal of existing parking lot and the building of the new lot as well as the reconfiguration for more parking on the street, landscaping and the grand stairway. The structural work on the building is complete. The owners of the Beach Chalet signed a lease a couple weeks ago and they are hoping to open in April 2009. They will be taking over the interior renovations once City portion is complete. It was asked if they had any commitment to local hiring, which was not known but it was thought that they tend to hire locally. They have signed a 20 year lease.

The City is ready to award the contract for the Derby to Lancaster part of the bay trail that is about a block long. Starr Construction should be award the contract next month.

For the East Oakland Sports Complex Turner Construction was awarded a CM at Risk type of contract. This is faster than the traditional process. They were chosen out of 5 companies responding to the RFQ. The City will lose a \$3 million dollar grant for this project if they do not by March of 2010. The main part of this project for phase 1 is a large indoor swimming pool.

The City made an offer to the Port for the Brooklyn Basin property so they could turn it into Bay Trail. The Port rejected their offer as they thought the price was too low and they are going to have their own appraisal done.

An easement was obtained for the US Audio site. They now need to do a full design which may take a while as parts are actually in the water and would need to be built on piers. When done they will have a continuous trail from Fruitvale Bridge to the High Street Bridge.

There is some land the Army Corps would like to sell to the City but they do not know how toxic this area is which needs to be determined. Also, the Coastguard doesn't want the channel narrowed for a boardwalk so they are working on this but it will be a long process.

Media efforts: John Klein has been working to get some press coverage and he did get the Tribune to do an article, though it wasn't a quick process. It was suggested to see if we could contact local list serves of neighborhood groups to help spread the news of the projects that have been completed. It was also suggested to try to get the Council to put into their correspondence to residents about these projects, even ones that are outside of their immediate district. Some time was spent brainstorming on how to get the Chronicle to get interested in doing a larger issue on the DD projects and it was also suggested to broaden the outreach to include TV coverage. It was suggested perhaps a kids performance on the new Fairyland stage could get some coverage or the Lakeshore Grand Opening.

Naomi and John discussed briefly the rezoning efforts that are ongoing by the City. CALM is trying to get the City to include lower height limits around the lake to protect it from towering buildings. There appears to be some pressure from developers to have no height restrictions.

Suggestions for Next Meeting:

An update on projects that have been stalled or may be downsized, i.e. sailboat house.

Update on the Lake Merritt Channel.

Update on where we are with current bond funding (noted \$52 million to date has been spent out of the \$70.5 million issued in the first series.)

It was suggested to perhaps have a walking tour of the Bay Trail but it was decided that for the next meeting for Joel to bring his diagrams of the entire trail plans to see where we are and have a meeting more focused on the bay trail.

It was also noted that perhaps the group may discuss possible contingency plans for the Oak to Ninth area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.