



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for September 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order in the Ebell Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:13 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Mike Udkow and Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

BART – Robert Raburn

CALM – James Vann

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

Garden Center, Inc. – Anne Woodell

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carole Agnello

Lake Merritt Institute – Charles Brooks II, John Kirkmire,

Laney College – Amy Bohorquez

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

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

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Sam Burd, Joel Peter, Bob & Myra Redman, Brian Stanke

City of Oakland

Measure DD Program Manager – Lesley Estes

Watershed Specialist – Rebecca Tuden

Economic & Workforce Development – Hui-Chang Li

2. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Minutes of 7/21/2014 were approved by consensus.

4. Measure DD Project Update – Lesley Estes

10th Street Bridge update

Lesley distributed photos to illustrate the status and reported that completion is expected in summer of 2016. A brief discussion ensued.

Lake Merritt to Bay Trail bridge planning

Comments were shared about the August 7, 2014 public meeting. Lesley announced that the project has received a \$3.2M Federal Transportation Grant to fund design, and that only a very small portion of the project costs will be funded by Measure DD. She distributed a few early design drawings. Joel encouraged interested Coalition members to visit the project website at <http://www.lm2bt.com> to view these drawings and the extensive information available. Robert Raburn briefly mentioned that \$1M was required of Caltrans by BCDC in mitigation of the impacts of the Fifth Ave. overcrossing rebuild. These funds are being held in escrow by the Coastal Conservancy and might be applicable to the bridge project.

Schedule for third round of bond sales

Lesley reviewed the bond sale status: 1. First round sold & spent. 2. Second round sold & all but \$18M spent. 3. Third round: Department of Treasury won't allow sale until nearly all of 2nd round has been spent – possibly summer of next year.

Progress with Port Staff regarding Bay Trail Improvements on Port land

The City has selected WRT to perform design and construction management of the trail enhancements at the four key sites. The contract with WRT is in progress and not yet finalized.

Sailboat House project

Two coalition members expressed concern about parking impacts of this project and urged Lesley to communicate related construction schedule information to the main organizations using the park.

Lakeside Green Street project pathways

The project will include new concrete sidewalks and a new shoreline pathway. The bid process is projected for spring 2015, aiming for construction start summer 2015.

Love Our Lake Day 2014

Measure DD did not participate because only a table, not a booth, was available and because not enough Coalition members responded to the call for volunteers.

Measure DD Project Status Summary Spreadsheet

James inquired about the possibility of periodic updates of this document, which was most recently updated December 20, 2012. After some discussion, the consensus was that the document had value and should be updated periodically but there was no need for Lesley to print and distribute copies at each meeting. Accordingly Lesley agreed to update and post the document on the [City's Measure DD web page](#). Lesley also agreed to present the Summary Spreadsheet at the Next Meeting and semi-annually thereafter.

5. Invited Presentation: Lake Merritt Water Quality

Lesley introduced Rebecca Tuden, Watershed Specialist from the City's Watershed and Stormwater Program. Rebecca then described her background and experience and went on to review the history of water quality at Lake Merritt, noting recent progress. She described the key goals for water quality improvements, which included 1) tidal flow increases, 2) minimizing construction impacts, 3) use of BMPs and construction of wetlands, bioswales, and rain gardens, and 4) trash capture. Finally, she described the water quality monitoring plan, which relies on four sampling stations distributed around the lake.

She noted that the City's water quality improvement efforts are constrained to some extent by the flood control district's requirements. After some discussion, Rebecca suggested that it might be useful for her to return to the Coalition in about a year to report on the water quality changes that are expected to result from enhanced tidal flows in the coming months.

Some Coalition members expressed interest in the Lake Merritt Water Quality Technical Committee. Its next meeting is scheduled for October 14th, 2014 from 1:30 – 3:00, 5th Floor, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza. In the coming weeks, Rebecca plans to post additional information about these committee meetings on the [City Watershed Program Lake Merritt web page](#), and Bill plans to post a link to it on the Coalition's web page.

6. Report on "12th St. Remainder Parcel" Wind and Shadow Studies

James introduced Hui-Chang Li, Urban Economic Analyst II for the City, who has major involvement in the project and Project Manager for the "Remainder Parcel" development. She noted that the draft reports are not yet publicly available and indicated that findings are expected to be presented to the Planning Commission in December. James asked if the

reports could be presented to the Coalition then as well. Several members expressed concern about wind impacts at the south end lake surface, noting that there are already problematic wind impacts from tall buildings at the north end.

7. Open Question: Should the Director of Parks & Recreation be invited to a Coalition Meeting to discuss issues arising from increased weekend usage at park areas along Lakeshore Ave?

Lesley passed around an example of signs now being implemented by City Parks and Recreation specifying rules about park behavior. During the following discussion, the signs were criticized for being too small, having too much text, and seeming negative and legalistic.

Some Coalition members expressed concern that City Parks and Recreation might plan changes to the park to accommodate the increased usage and that these changes might degrade the aesthetics and environment. One member suggested that the Coalition monitor the agendas of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) as a means to "keep an eye on the issue". To facilitate this monitoring effort, it was requested that Bill post a link to the PRAC agendas on the Coalition web page.

PRAC meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month except for August, 4:30 pm, at the Lakeside Park Garden Center: [PRAC Agenda web page](#).

When the discussion was refocused on the open question above, no consensus emerged.

8. Maintenance and Announcements

Committee on Enhanced Maintenance for Lake Merritt

Naomi mentioned the need for greater advocacy for parks maintenance budget allocations. She suggested that the Coalition authorize this committee to prepare an appropriate letter to be sent from the Coalition at budget development time. Bill mentioned that the [advocacy letter the Coalition sent last year](#) is available on the Coalition's archive page in the Coalition Position Statements & Advocacy Letters section.

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Report

The next regular work day will be Saturday, September 27, 2014.

Channel Tidal Flat Update

Joel Peter gave a positive report, but noted that nearby campsites have contributed to trash accumulation.

9. Other Announcements:

- James briefly mentioned the September 14 "Love Our Lake Day" activities
- Robert Raburn reported that the East Bay Greenway received \$2.6M additional funding.
- Naomi advised that the Lake Merritt Station Area Specific Plan would be going to the Planning Commission soon

10. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Members:

- Lesley Estes – Update and post Measure DD Project Status Summary Spreadsheet
- Bill Threlfall – Post web link for Lake to Bay Trail Bridge project plan.
- Bill Threlfall – Post web link for PRAC Agendas.
- Bill Threlfall – Post web link for information about the Lake Merritt Water Quality Technical Committee meetings.

- Enhanced Maintenance Committee consisting of Jennie Gerard, Glenda Barnhardt, George Duncan, and Naomi Schiff – Draft maintenance budget advocacy letter for Coalition review.

11. Agenda Suggestions for November 17, 2014 meeting:

- Kristen Zaremba to discuss public art
- "Impacts of development activity along the channel" Naomi et al.

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, November 17, 2014 at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.