



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for September 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the Ebell Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:10 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Nancy Sherman. Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

Bike East Bay – Robert Prinz, Rick Rickard
CALM – Kathryn Kasch, James Vann
Community for Lake Merritt – Adrian Cotter
East Bay Regional Park District – Dee Rosario
East Bay Rowing Club – Ken Croley
Friends of Sausal Creek – Anna Schmidt
Golden Gate Audubon Society – John Bowers
Lake Merritt Institute – Richard Bailey, Katie Noonan, James Robinson
Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard
Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff
Oakland Rotary Club – Robert Kidd
Oakland Tours Program – Annalee Allen
Uptown/Downtown CBD – Andrew Jones, Steve Snider
Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman
Volunteering for Oakland – Sam Burd
Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall. Sandy Threlfall
Interested Citizens – Vince Geronimo, Judy Johnson, Bob Redman, Myra Redman
City of Oakland:
Public Works – Ali Schwarz

2. The agenda was adopted after the addition to the Announcements section of an item requested by James Vann.

3. Minutes of 7/15/2019 were approved.

4. Measure DD Project Updates – Kristin Hathaway/Ali Schwarz

Project Status Summary:

Kristin was absent from the meeting but provided written copies of the September 16, 2019 [Project Status Summary](#), which is also posted on the Coalition web page in the [City of Oakland Resources section](#).

Ali Schwarz referred to the Project Status Summary detail and briefly commented on the status of the following projects. Her remarks closely followed the spreadsheet's "Project Status" column:

- Lake Merritt Water Quality
- Lake Merritt Improvement Project/Garden Center & Grand Ave. entrance – Ali commented on the plan to erect banners at the entrance.
- Snow Park/Lakeside Green Street Project – During her remarks, Ali expressed appreciation to the Uptown/Downtown CBD leaders for that organization's assistance at the site.

- Estuary Park - When discussing the status of the Estuary Park design, Ali offered an explanation of the issues that must be resolved before the design is settled.

Rick Rickard reported on the status of the Park Street Bridge crossing negotiations:

- The County has now firmly rejected the option of a crossing using the maintenance tunnel.
- Accordingly, Kristin is reopening negotiations with the Coast Guard about the catwalk option, which may be better received under the new leadership of the local Coast Guard.

Snow Park Historic Plaque:

Naomi Schiff distributed copies of two draft versions with identical text. One included a picture, which may be used if satisfactory print quality can be obtained. This version was preferred by several meeting participants, who also expressed a preference for larger print size. The consensus was that the signage project should go forward as drafted after a minor edit to delete the final words "still going strong" since those words refer to Measure DD and may become inaccurate in the future. Ali Schwarz advised that with this "go-ahead", the plaque would be prepared and installed in one or two park locations and that Public Works will keep spare replacements.

Channel Path Improvements:

Adrian Cotter indicated his committee was developing a "wish list" for the improvements, with the aim that a related allocation, project and row on the Project Status Spreadsheet would be created. He said that the group's work was hampered by a lack of understanding of the available funds.

Bond Section III (Channel) – remaining funding capacity and expenditure report:

As Kristin was absent from the meeting, she sent [this email report](#) to the Agenda Committee. It was distributed at the meeting but due to the press of time, the Chair suggested that meeting participants read it later and send any questions via [email to Bill Threlfall](#) who can collate and forward these to Kristin. There was no further discussion.

Bill suggested to Adrian that Kristin's report may help address his committee's question about available funds.

5. Lake Merritt Water Quality Report

Richard Bailey, Ph.D., Lake Merritt Institute founder, gave an overview of the lake's environmental changes over time and distributed copies of a Lake Merritt water quality report. He also commented on the strengths of the curb inlet filters and nets described in the report.

James Robinson, Lake Merritt Institute director, distributed and commented on a report of trash removal volume by month/year from 2002-2019. He noted the large scope of the removal task.

Katie Noonan, Ph.D., offered two points: 1) There are low oxygen levels in the lake, and the operational practices at the tide gates impact those levels. 2) Opening the channel at 12th St. did not subsequently increase oxygen levels. She distributed a small card with a QR code that linked to this video from a dive in the Lake Merritt Channel near the flood gates: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTMzT43F0D4>.

6. Presentation: Lake Merritt-Uptown Downtown Oakland Community Benefit Districts - Steve Snider/Andrew Jones

Executive Director Steve Snider explained the community benefit district concept and offered a description of the organization's history, scope, and size. He distributed [this detailed Annual Report](#) and made reference to the map on its final page, showing the locations of the Downtown and Lake Merritt-Uptown districts in relation to the lake. Steve emphasized that the district only touches a small portion of the lake.

He then introduced Program Director Andrew Jones, who talked more about the scope of the organizations daily work and took questions.

7. Announcements and reports

- Downtown Specific Plan meeting dates - Naomi distributed a list of public meetings on the Downtown Oakland Specific Plan (DOSP) draft plan and draft environmental report. The list noted that the draft plan and EIR are available at <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/downtown-oakland-specific-plan>.

The discussion then shifted to the topic added to the agenda in response to James Vann's request. James described shortcomings of the draft plan and EIR with respect to Measure DD. He emphasized that the documents were huge and the October 21, 2019 deadline for submission of comments will occur before the next Coalition meeting. He therefore urged the creation of an emergency letter, through the suspension of step 1 of the adopted [Guidelines for Coalition Letters](#). After brief discussion, it was agreed that a committee consisting of James Vann, Adrian Cotter, Jennie Gerard, and Nancy Sherman would prepare a draft letter, circulate it to recent Coalition attendees for comment, and when finalized, sent it to the Agenda Committee for transmission over their signatures.

- Lake Merritt Weed Warriors workday – September 21, 9 a.m.-12 noon
Meet along channel near Laney College.

8. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants:

- Coalition participants to review Kristin's September 16, 2019 [Project Status Summary](#) and her email [report on Bond Section III funds](#) and send questions by email (dd@care-news.org) to Bill Threlfall, who will collate and forward them to Kristin.
- DOSP committee to fulfill above procedure
- Kristin to add "Channel Paths and Shoreline Improvement" to project status list.

9. Agenda suggestions for next Meeting:

- Discussion of report on Bond section III – expenditure report & funds remaining
- Discussion of "Channel Paths and Shoreline Improvement" as a named project.
- Committee report on DOSP letter

The next Coalition meeting will be November 18, 2019, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:02 p.m.