



# Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

## **Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for November 19, 2012**

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

BART – Robert Raburn

CALM – James Vann

EBBC – Dave Campbell, Rick Rickard

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

Friends of Oakland Parks & Recreation – Judy Johnson

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Carol Agnello

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Annalee Allen, Naomi Schiff

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

Waterfront Action – George Duncan, Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

City of Oakland

Public Works, Watershed Program Supervisor – Lesley Estes

Measure DD Manager – Joel Peter

**2. Agenda Revisions:** Oak to Ninth Interim Trail was added to the end of the agenda.

**3. Minutes of 9/17/2012 were approved by consensus.**

### **4. Invited Presentation: Lesley Estes, Watershed Program Supervisor**

Lesley Estes discussed planned signage at Lake Merritt and showed a few samples of early preliminary drafts that will be subject to considerable revision. The sample topics included *Waterfowl*, *Wildlife Refuge*, *Tidal Lagoon*, and *Rain Gardens Slow and Cleanse Runoff*. She indicated that education was a key goal of the signage, which might also be used to help reduce inappropriate public behavior. (e.g. "Why not feed the waterfowl?")

Several Coalition members encouraged the use of simple language and relatively brief text. Naomi suggested using smart-phone scannable "QR" codes as links to online translations in alternate languages, and Lesley noted that this idea is included in the plan. James inquired how these new signs would relate to the existing signs from the *Once Upon a Time, Happily Ever After* public art project, and Lesley advised that there really is no relationship because those signs are temporary and subject to removal.

Later in the meeting, Coalition members went to the wall to more closely examine the sign samples. Lesley advised that once design is complete, samples will be available on the City's web site.

### **5. RFQ for Administrative Support for Coalition - Joel Peter**

Joel announced that on November 16, he had distributed an RFQ for Coalition Administrative Support for 2013 to a number of organizations active in the Coalition, including Waterfront Action, Friends of Oakland Parks & Recreation, Oakland Parks Coalition, Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt, and East Bay Bicycle Coalition. Responses are due by November 29, 2012.

## **6. Update on current DD projects - Joel Peter:**

Joel distributed copies of the 11/19/2012 Project Status Summary, and this document has been posted in the [Progress section of the Coalition's web page](#). Highlights:

### 12<sup>th</sup> Street Project

Joel reported that landscaping is going in, but in some areas has been slowed by irrigation system delays attributable to East Bay Municipal Utility District. In other areas, a group of about 500 plants was uprooted and vandalized. Many of these plants were saved and re-planted, but some loss occurred. He noted that adverse weather has slowed progress enough that completion of all work is not expected until January, though he hopes that the project will be substantially complete and the site open for public access by the end of December.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Four bids were received and all exceeded the estimated cost and funding allocated to the project. To make up the funding shortfall, it may be necessary to divert some funds originally allocated to the 7th Street project. Currently, each bid is being examined to determine if it is responsive to the RFP specifications, and the expectation is that the award will be made to the lowest responsive, responsible bid. Work is expected to begin in spring of 2013.

### Snow Park - Lakeside Green Streets Project

It is expected that the project will go to bid in January.

### Sailboat House Shoreline and Bellevue Avenue Reconfiguration

Design work is progressing in each of these areas.

### Estuary Park Bridge Landing

The contract for design and related environmental work for a pedestrian/bicycle bridge has not yet been awarded; negotiations with the firm of Moffatt & Nichol are in progress.

### Phoenix Commons

Although it is not a Measure DD project, Joel described plans for this site, the former location of the Tiki Tom's business that was destroyed in a fire. The new owners plan to build a senior co-housing facility at the site adjacent to the southeast side of the Park Street Bridge. BCDC is requiring the owners to build and maintain a segment of Bay Trail that will extend the existing segment from the southeast to the bridge. Joel noted that the design shows a wood surface with planking running in parallel to the trail path. Several Coalition members registered concern about this planking alignment, describing it as hazardous to bicycles and inferior to crosswise planking or an alternate paved surface. These members expressed their intention to communicate this concern to the BCDC Commissioners.

### ConAgra to 23rd Ave

Further discussions with ConAgra are anticipated in the coming weeks.

### High Street Bridge

Design work is now in progress for the crossing under the High Street Bridge.

## **7. Retirement Plans - Joel Peter**

Joel announced his intention to retire from the City of Oakland effective December 28, 2012. After a pause, Coalition members inquired about plans for his successor, and Joel advised that he was not sure what approach will be taken. One member asked Joel if he was training someone to follow him and he said not yet, but that he would inform the Coalition when someone was selected.

## **8. Lake Merritt Blvd Opening Celebration Committee Report**

James reported that on November 8, members of the committee met with City staff including Samee Roberts, Marketing Manager, Cultural Arts & Marketing; Jim MacIlvaine, Special Events Coordinator, Cultural Arts & Marketing; Joel Peter, Project Manager, Public Works Agency.

The group agreed on goals and set up subcommittees to perform much of the planning work. The tentative target date for the event is Saturday, May 4, 2013, and the group expects to meet again in early January. Notes from the November 8 meeting are available in the **Committee Notes** section of the Coalition's [documents archive web page](#).

## **9: Interim Bay Trail at Oak to Ninth**

Bill Threlfall noted the approach of two key dates pertaining to the Oak to Ninth project:

- December 31, 2012 BCDC permit for Oak to Ninth expires
- January 31, 2013 Deadline for close of escrow for project

Extensions of both deadlines are likely to be sought, and such extensions would continue to delay the implementation of the interim Bay Trail required by BCDC.

It was agreed that the Interim Bay Trail Drafting Committee should prepare and send letters to both BCDC and the Port requesting that further delays be mitigated by accelerated installation of the entire interim Bay Trail. Those letters are available in the **Coalition Position Statements & Advocacy Letters** section of the Coalition's [documents archive web page](#).

## **10. Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Program Update**

Joel noted that the next work day will be December 8 and encouraged interested parties to check for more details at the [Lake Merritt Weed Warriors Facebook events page](#).

## **11. 2013 Meeting Schedule**

Bill Threlfall advised that 2013 Meeting Schedule will continue on third Mondays of alternate months: 1/21, 3/18, 5/20, 7/15, 9/16, 11/18.

One member noted that January 21 is Martin Luther King Day, and Bill confirmed that we have scheduled a meeting on that holiday each year due to arrangements concerning Ebell Room availability. The full schedule is posted on the [Coalition's web page](#).

## **12. Agenda Suggestions for January 21, 2013 meeting:**

1. Committee report: Lake Merritt Blvd Opening Celebration
2. Committee report: Interim Bay Trail Drafting Committee

## **13. Review of Work Assignments to Coalition Members:**

1. Sandy Threlfall, Naomi Schiff, James Vann, John Sutter: draft & send Bay Trail letters.
2. Sandy Threlfall: Submit public records request for Oak – 9<sup>th</sup> escrow account transactions.
3. Rick Rickard, Dave Campbell, Sandy Threlfall: draft & send letter to BCDC re: wooden Bay Trail surface at Phoenix Commons.

The next Coalition meeting will be Monday, January 21, 2013 at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center.

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.