



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for January 18, 2021

The virtual meeting was called to order over Zoom at 7:10 p.m.

A video recording of this meeting is available: [view recording](#)
Specific video links for major agenda items are embedded in the minutes below.

The meeting was chaired by Adrian Cotter with support from Agenda Committee member Jennie Gerard. Bill Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

Bike East Bay – Rick Rickard
CALM – Kathryn Kasch, James Vann
Community for Lake Merritt – Adrian Cotter
East Bay Rowing Club – Jolie Krakaur
Friends of Joaquin Miller Park – Mike Udkow
Friends of Sausal Creek – Anna Schmidt
Lake Merritt Institute – John Bowers
Lake Merritt Weed Warriors – Jennie Gerard
Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff
Rotary Nature Center Friends – Katie Noonan
Urban Permaculture Institute – Nancy Sherman
Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandy Threlfall
Interested Citizens – Vince Geronimo, Bob Redman, Myra Redman
City of Oakland:
Measure DD Program Manager – Kristin Hathaway
Public Works Agency, Building Services – Craig Pon

2. The agenda was adopted without revision.

3. Minutes of 11/16/2020 were approved.

4. Measure DD Project Updates – Kristin Hathaway ([video link](#))

Kristin commented on the status of most projects, with her remarks closely following the notes in the project status column of the [January 18, 2021 Project Status Summary](#) spreadsheet.

Following are a few highlights from her updates:

- Park Street Bridge: *The County has agreed to the City's "preferred alternative", which clears the way for the Coast Guard to do a preliminary public notice regarding the proposed project. If no valid objections are presented by the estuary boat users, then the project will move forward.*
- High Street Bridge: *The Park Street design cannot be replicated here because extensive and ubiquitous underwater utilities preclude pier drilling. Accordingly, staff will be pursuing a "land crossing" that connects to the Gallagher and Burke segment that the East Bay Park District is working on.*

- Estuary Park: The design contract should be executed by February so that new design work can start.
- Creek Restoration: *Unfortunately, the City was not awarded the hoped-for \$2.3M California Natural Resources Agency grant, so fund-raising will continue.*
- Other: *Kristin noted that fears of potential homeless encampments have been an obstacle to the City's negotiations to gain right-of entry agreements for the trail, and she commented that homeless impacts continue to be problematic at the channel. As yet, there is as yet no path to resolution of these concerns.*
- Series C audit is underway with completion estimated for February or March.

Adrian asked Kristin about CIP process and timing for the potential "wish list items". She indicated that it is not clear what the process would be for Measure DD items that were not submitted to the recent CIP process. The next cycle is two years off, though if there were urgency, and if full funding were available from Measure DD, it might be possible to take an "off season" request to council for consideration outside the process.

5. Lake Merritt decomposed granite pathways – Craig Pon ([video link](#))

Craig, representing Derin Minor, OPW Building Services Manager, provided a brief update on the problem:

Funding. He advised that after investigation, it was determined that currently there are no funds available for repair or replacement of failed sections of the pathway. He mentioned the CIP process and Measure Q as possible long-term funding options. Derin Minor is expected to meet with "upper management" and the City Administrator to discuss use of Measure Q funding for this purpose.

Repair material & vendor resources. After consultation, Craig learned that the material used for the original pathway installation has been discontinued and cannot be used for repairs. Nevertheless, OPW is hoping to soon have a plan in place to bring one alternate vendor onsite to do a sectional test repair.

Department of Transportation involvement. Craig spoke with DOT staff about possible involvement in future routine maintenance, but no agreement was reached. A future follow-up meeting is expected in the next few weeks.

A few questions followed. Jennie Gerard asked if Craig had been designated as project manager for this issue, but no clear answer emerged. James Vann asked what is the calendar for availability of Measure Q funds. Craig indicated that it is unknown at this time. Naomi Schiff and Jennie Gerard indicated that the Coalition would be pleased to assist by providing advocacy to advance solutions and asked that Craig work through Kristin to coordinate such advocacy.

6. Management of homeless impacts at the Channel, Lake, and Union Point Park – James Vann ([video link](#))

Though invited, neither Daryel Dunston nor his designee were available to join the meeting. Instead, James Vann gave an overview of the City's encampment management practices, which are essentially on hold for now as described in the video link.

It was concluded that for now, there is unlikely to be much change in the adverse impacts.

Naomi noted the Cryer Site fire as an example of related problems that need City attention.

Further discussion revealed an interest in inviting Council members whose districts include DD projects to designate staff to Coalition meetings regularly for ongoing informational exchange. It was agreed that Jennie Gerard assisted by Naomi Schiff would develop a list of projects by District and then follow-up with appropriate invitations to Carol Fife, Nikki Fortunato Bas, and Loren Taylor.

7. Discussion of “Wish List” feedback received – Adrian Cotter ([video link](#))

Adrian reviewed the history of the Coalition’s “wish list” items and explained that the survey was an attempt to solicit input about item priority. He noted that the highest survey rating went to “Improve fence design to protect the tidal flats between 10th and 12th”. He then went on to briefly review the rest of the items. Discussion followed about the details for each item and whether the items ultimately would be determined to be maintenance or capital.

John Bowers “put in a plug” for the top-rated item, pointing out its benefits and “shovel ready” status, needing only funding. Sandy pointed out that the need for the fence is immediate but the need to run it through the CIP process would delay action for at least two years. Even if we have DD funds for an item, we still need a project manager and these are assigned through the CIP process. Adrian noted that it might go forward more quickly because it could be included in the Channel Improvement project that was already submitted to the current CIP process for consideration.

Jennie asked that Kristin be prepared to present information at the March meeting about the design for the fence and also about marsh water-quality fines that the City is facing due to misuse of the shoreline “as a latrine” and related pollution.

Naomi suggested a need to make a very clear statement of what each wish list item entails, with more detail and specifics.

James proposed aggregating a group of high-priority “wish list” items into a single capital project proposal to be taken to City Council for approval for allocation of surplus funds from the Measure DD budget. These would be assigned to one project manager and implemented in priority order so until funds were exhausted.

Adrian, Jennie, and James agreed to initiate work on fleshing out the items for such a package proposal.

8. Announcements and reports ([video link](#))

- Measure Q. – Jennie spoke about the new role of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission in providing Measure Q oversight. She cautioned that we need to watch the actions of the PRAC closely. It meets the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30.

- Lakeside Chat. – Katie reported that she had put a link in the Zoom chat window about the most recent presentation in this series.

9. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants: ([video link](#))

- Kristin to investigate any marsh water-quality fines that the City is facing due to misuse of the shoreline as a latrine and related pollution.
- Adrian, Jennie, and James to initiate work on fleshing out the items for a wish list package proposal.
- Jennie (lead) and Naomi to develop a list of projects by District and then follow-up with appropriate invitations to council members for staff participation at Coalition meetings.
- James to ask Daryl Dunston to come to the March meeting.

10. Agenda suggestions for next Meeting:

- Lake Merritt pathways update – Craig Pon or other Public Works
- Management of homeless impacts at the Channel and Lake - Daryl Dunston
- Design for marsh shoreline fence - Kristin
- Cryer site insurance update - Kristin
- “Wish list” package progress - Adrian, Jennie, and James

The next Coalition meeting is scheduled March 15, 2021, at 7:10 p.m.
Over Zoom.

Adjourned at 8:58 p.m.