

Minutes of the Measure DD Coalition meeting January 25, 2010

The meeting was held at Oakland City Hall in Hearing Room 4 at 7 PM.

Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

East Bay Regional Parks – John Sutter

Friends of the Cleveland Cascade – David Bolanos, Barbara Newcombe

Garden Center, Inc. Anne Woodell

OEBGCI – Bruce Cobbledick

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Oakland Parks Coalition – Judith Johnson, Barbara Schaaf

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens –

From the City of Oakland:

City of Oakland DD Manager – Joel Peter

The meeting was chaired by Naomi Schiff and Sandy Threlfall served as recorder.

Administrative Support Contract: Joel Peter.

Joel Peter opened the meeting with the announcement that the Administrative Contract for the DD community Coalition had been awarded to Waterfront Action after issuance of an RFQ to several community organizations. Bill Threlfall provided materials to the attendees listing the goals for the web site and encouraged the attendees and Measure DD Program Manager to review the new site at www.waterfrontaction.org/dd. He also asked that the agenda for March 15 include a discussion of the content of the Document Archive page.

David Bolanos asked about the difference between the City's DD site and the new DD Coalition web site. Joel Peter responded that there was some overlap, with the City's focus on project descriptions, plans, and documentation, and the DD Coalition's site's focus on community participation and public education about Measure DD projects and progress.

Report on Projects from Project Manager, Joel Peter:

- Measure DD Bond Sales. Series B Bonds were sold on July 30, 2009 and proceeds are available to fund Series B projects. The largest Series B allocations will be to 12th street and 10th street. Other projects will include Snow Park/20th/Harrison, part of 7th Street, and other projects.
- 12th Street Project. The scope of the project is from East 18th Street around the south end of the Lake to the Courthouse and the DD project cost is estimated at \$45 M for 500 work-days, or roughly 2.5 years. There are grant funds of \$8 M coming from the California Coastal Conservancy, \$13 M from a Federal program.
 - The bids were opened December 3, 2009 and the response was very favorable. There were 7 finalists with bids under \$45M, and 5 were particularly low. McGuire & Hester's bid of \$32M is being recommended for award. Two lower bidders were deemed non-responsive to the bid invitation as they submitted a cost for mobilization that exceeded the City specified limit of 5%. One bidder plans to protest at the Council meetings The contract award is scheduled to go to Public Works committee on February 9th and Council February 16th.

- The federal contribution may decrease due to the low bid received. To the extent that the contract award is lower than the project allocations, any savings will be reserved for project contingency until further into the project construction period. Unexpended contingency funds may then be made available for other Lake Merritt projects.
 - Pending Council approval, contracts will take about 6 weeks to get through the contractor and the various departments. April may be the start date, with a ground breaking event possibly around May 1.
- 10th Street and part of the 7th Street projects will go out to bid later this year. Combined with 12th Street project, the total in Measure DD was \$65 M for all three projects which also includes a traffic signal at 7th Street for pedestrian crossing when the tunnel is flooded or threatening.
- Snow Park/20th/Harrison project includes a realignment of Lakeside and Harrison. Proposed is a triangular park in the area where Lakeside Drive will be eliminated just before Harrison. There will be a community process on this project.
- East Oakland Sports Center. Joel Peter provided a photograph of the work status – the foundation is being built.
- Cryer Site. Remediation of contaminated soil is complete. The Unity Council's request for a flexible play space will be included in the parking area.
- Derby/Lancaster projects are behind schedule, and the contractor is accruing \$1,000 per day liquidated damages.
- Lion Creek Restoration. This was a cooperative project with Alameda County's Flood Control District and the City . It is located above San Leandro Blvd. Grading is complete and landscaping will start soon.
- Major Acquisition behind Dunsmuir House: 64 acres and 2 creeks, as a result of a partnership with East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). Excellent article in the December 30 East Bay Express – A link to this article is listed in the "Measure DD in the News" section of the new web page.
- Cleveland Cascade. Lyle Oehler will be meeting with Ray's Electric to finalize the contract for the work at the Cascade. Contracts take about 6 weeks to get through the various departments. David Bolanos reported that he has been in email contact with the City regarding the pruning and removal of some trees. He expressed his concern that if the tree work is not completed prior to installation of the handrails, there could be damage to the rails. Joel Peter indicated his belief that the City will do the work in a timely manner. Barbara Newcombe expressed concern over the City staff changes in the tree work division.
- Lake Merritt discussion:
 - Barbara Schaaf asked when the black tarps will be removed from the new lawns around Lake Merritt. Joel Peter said that 8 weeks was a minimum projection, but the longer the tarps are there the better opportunity to establish the lawn without foot traffic.

- Question about barriers in front of the Lake Chalet - The original Master Plan called for a separation that had small short curbs with spaces in between to separate the walkway from the parking area. The design did not meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards so the temporary barriers will be in place until a special railing can be made and installed. The subcontractor is hoping it will be completed by end of February.
- The CDS filter was to be installed in front of the Rotary Center, but the hole cannot be dug until there are 7 days of no rain. So that project is in a holding pattern.
- BBI, the contractor for the Municipal Boat House and Studio One, has sued the City on multiple issues. Some of the 95 piles for the boat house failed in testing and had to be replaced, which is only one of the challenges.
- Sad note – new plantings are being removed along Lakeshore Drive. The contractors have been willing to replace them once. After that, it will be the City's responsibility.
- Midges, little clouds of gnats are frequently present over the grass in some areas. Joel advised that Alameda County Vector Control confirmed that the insects are non-biting. There was some concern that the soil amendments used under the grass were toxic waste or sewage. Review of materials used has confirmed that there has been NO use of toxic materials.

Lakeside Garden Center Gates:

Bruce Cobbledick of the Garden Center Board (OEBGCI) brought the RFO for the two sets of gates for the Lakeside Center Gardens: one set very close to the Garden Center building and the second set at the entrance to the Bonsai Gardens. The gates were discussed in the Lake Merritt Master Plan. Bruce is doing the design as part of coursework for Merritt College. He provided large photographs of the garden area to show specific locations proposed for the gates. He also requested that Stephen Huss be asked to come to the March 15 meeting with the proposed designs.

Agenda Committee for March 15th:

Judith Johnson and Naomi Schiff agreed to serve and made a strong request for Action items.

2010 Meeting Schedule:

The schedule for the remainder of the year was set for the third Wednesday of alternating months: March 15th, May 17th, July 19th, September 20th, November 15th.

Measure DD Expenditures:

Sandy Threlfall brought up her concern about non-DD projects being funded by DD monies in the early years. Coalition members agreed that since Joel Peter came in as manager, this doesn't seem to be the case and expressed appreciation for current practice. Joel Peter responded that those responsible to pay the bills are diligent about verifying eligibility for each expense. Naomi said that we are ready to question expenditures where concerned and that the DD Community Coalition's role is as a watchdog.

Joel mentioned that his June 9, 2009 update to Council provides a comprehensive overview of Measure DD expenditures and progress. This document is now available in the Reports section of the new web site Document Archive page.

With regards to DD funds' interest earnings, they must be used for DD projects. So far these earnings funds have been appropriated by City Council for use at the Boat House, Sailboat House (to backfill money transferred to Fairyland) and Studio One.

Outreach & Publicity for DD Projects:

How to build support for the upcoming 12th Street Project? The roadway will stay open throughout the project. We need to help the public realize that the Bond they passed in 2002 is doing great things. Some ideas: Tribune, Chronicle, KTOP, neighborhood newsletters, Oakland Museum as part of their opening in spring, a History Room display.

Not a DD project, but John Sutter announced that there will be a public meeting at the Metro Center (8th and Oak Streets) to discuss the Gateway Park development on February 25th at 6 PM. This development involves a number of Bay Area agencies. It will be located at the Oakland side of the Bay Bridge onramps.

Agenda suggestions for next meeting:

- Review of Document Archive page on new web site, suggested by Bill Threlfall
- Presentation by Stephen Huss of the Arts Project on proposed designs for Lakeside Garden Gates as suggested by Bruce Cobbledick
- Campaign for 12th Street Groundbreaking event

Next DD Meeting: Monday, March 15th at the Lakeside Garden Center at 7 PM.