

MEASURE DD COMMUNITY COALITION
De Fremery Recreation Center, 18th and Adeline Streets
Notes of the November 17, 2003 meeting

Meeting Chair Sandy Threlfall
Meeting Recording Secretaries Judy Johnson & Brian Wiese

Sandy Threlfall called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM as chair. Judy Johnson and Brian Wiese served as recorders.

Announcements: Sandy Threlfall announced that Save the Bay has just launched a new web site and that Council member Danny Wan has been named by Save the Bay as an Honor Roll member for his work on Measure DD. In addition, Save the Bay is sponsoring a kayaking event called "The First Flush" scheduled for December 6th in the Oakland Estuary. The first flush refers to the first major rains washing down all sorts of "stuff" into the Estuary.

Lake Merritt Water Quality Improvement Project

Lesley Estes, City Watershed Program supervisor, Public Works Agency, reported that the Lake Merritt Water Quality Task Force has been reconvened, with representatives from the Cities of Oakland and Piedmont, the Alameda County Flood Control District and the Lake Merritt Institute. There has been discussion of increased pollution source control (street cleaning, etc.) Oakland has installed the first 'CDS unit' ('swirl separator') to separate out solid waste from water. Two more are planned. The \$7 million culvert took five years to design. The Alameda County Flood Control District put out a RFP, but the bids came in too high, so the County is putting the RFP out once again. However, 60 storm drains empty into the lake. A new 6 x 10 ft. culvert is planned from Lakeshore Ave., which would require a 'room-sized' separator. The City has also evaluated the use of oxygen monitors. Staff has prepared a grant application for a part-time Watershed Coordinator.

There is also a need to staff and implement a goose management program. There was discussion about a volunteer program (Lake Merritt Institute, Golden Gate Audubon, etc.) but Lesley Estes feels strongly that there is a need for some paid staff time. Liz Borowiec said that the Task Force spent a year studying the issue. They came up with a laundry list of ideas, but need someone to make them happen. Lesley said that t-shirts, signage, education, and outreach will not get done without additional paid staff time. This program is discussed in the Lake Merritt Master Plan and could be funded within the 3% non-capital administrative costs under Measure DD, but there was reluctance to use this money if another alternative could be found. Lesley said there is lots of grant money for water quality improvement projects and emphasized the need to get a grant soon, before dollars dry up. The Task Force meets next on November 25 at City offices.

Municipal Boathouse

Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris, Project Manager, Waterfront Open Space, reported that Measure DD funds \$6.5 out of an estimated \$8 million for renovation of the municipal boathouse in the initial sale of DD bonds. The City's goal is to bring in a private partner to renovate and manage a restaurant by 2006. Staff is recommending amending and extending Wallace Roberts and Todd's (WRT's) contract for the Lake Merritt Master Plan to oversee this project and peer-review other historic restoration/renovation projects in the future, including the El Embarcadero redesign and the widening the Lakeside park borders. Naomi Schiff questioned doubling a \$500,000 contract (to 11% of an estimated \$6 million in contracts) without an RFP and competitive bidding process. She also questioned WRT's qualifications on historic review and restoration. Ken Benson shared his experience on a phonation talking to voters about a proposed fire

assessment district in the hills. He reported that a number of citizens were very concerned about the way Oakland does business, and the large amount of distrust of the City's use of special funds. There was general discussion. Kerry Jo was asked whether there is going to be a public process to get restaurateurs on as a partner for the Boathouse. Kerry Jo said a RFP was being developed and that the City was looking at other models. She went on to say that each project would have adequate public review.

Children's Fairyland

CJ Hirschfield, Executive Director of Fairyland, reported that the projects to be funded by Measure DD are ready to go to bid but that Fairyland is not able to pass 'go'. The City Attorney's office has told Fairyland that, because it is not a licensed contractor, the City of Oakland cannot enter into a contract with Fairyland for it to supervise a construction effort. The City has also asked Fairyland's board of directors to consider a City-proposed operating agreement similar to that adopted by the Oakland Zoo. That proposal would require Fairyland to have liability coverage - currently covered under City of Oakland liability policy. That requirement is a serious problem for potential non-profit contractors. She said a recent meeting with the City Attorney proved unproductive. CJ said that Fairyland was allocated \$3 million from the initial sale of DD bonds because it was known that they could get the job done. Everyone is frustrated with the delays, particularly now that the rainy season has come. City Attorney John Russo is scheduled to attend the next DD Coalition meeting to discuss risk management and the role of non-profit organizations in Measure DD projects.

Studio One

Joel Peter, Public Works supervisor, reported that the Studio One design bid is also ready to go, but that the architect has spent months in negotiation with the City over the contract indemnification clause.

12th Street Boulevard

Joel announced that Alan Dreyfuss is the Coalition appointee to the City's selection panel. The City has received seven consultant proposals, and the top three have been selected for the final round: Rajappan & Meyer, URS Corporation and Parsons Brinckerhoff. Interviews are scheduled for December 2 at Public Works offices. Joel invited questions for the interview panel.

RFPs re Grantmaking, Outreach and Website would not be ready for distribution until the January 2004 meeting, Kerry Jo announced.

Administrative support for the Coalition

The Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation (OPR) was the only group to submit a proposal to provide the Measure DD Community Coalition with administrative support, including providing agendas and meeting minutes, a member address book, public outreach, a web site and one annual event. The Friends of OPR Board is scheduled to review and vote on the City's agreement at its November 19, 2003 board meeting. Liz Borowiec handed out a draft letter from the Coalition and addressed to Kerry Jo supporting the contract with Friends of OPR. Liz asked for comments from the Coalition members by November 21, 2003.

East Oakland Sports Center

Joel reported that Jean Zastera (PWA) is requesting approval from City Council to apply for an Urban Parks grants for a \$3 million. This will supplement the \$1 million for the East Oakland Sports Complex from the initial sale of DD bonds. Council member Larry Reid is also seeking additional funding. There was discussion of scaling back or phasing the project; however, Joel reported that Council member Reid wants to find funding for the whole project as envisioned. Design work will not proceed until there is

adequate funding.

Measure DD Audit

Ken Benson and Caroline Kim, the Coalition's Audit Committee members, met with Bill Noland, Interim Director of Finance and Management Agency, and Joe Yew, Treasury Manager. They learned that the bond underwriter will not require an audit; the City's outside auditor will perform an annual audit. However, because the City typically gets financial information to the auditor so late, the audit information typically comes in a year behind the projects.

John Klein reminded everyone that we're nearing the end of the first year. The Measure DD bond campaign's chief piece of literature stated that an annual audit would take place once a year. Joel stated that there will be real-time, current financial and progress reporting on Measure DD projects, which will be more timely, transparent and useful to Coalition members and the public than audit information. Kerry Jo will be the main "overseer" in terms of accounts and expenditures. She will be developing a graphic flow chart for the DD funds.

Next Coalition meeting: December 8, 2003

Council member Wan: matching funds

City Attorney John Russo: contract process

Next City Executive Team meeting: December 10, 2003. Jennie Gerard and Sandy Threlfall will represent the Coalition.

Participants at November 17, 2003 meeting of Measure DD Community Coalition

Oakland organizations were represented by the following participants:

Cameron-Stanford House Preservation Association – Jo Ann Price

Chabot Park Highlands Homeowners Association – Ken Benson

Children's Fairyland – CJ Hirschfield, Matt Webb

Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt – John Klein, Aileen Frankel

East Bay Bicycle Coalition – Rick Rickard

East Bay Regional Parks District – Brian Wiese

Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation – Judy Johnson

Greater Mandana Action Coalition – Caroline Kim

Golden Gate Audubon Society – Caroline Kim

Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Aileen Frankel

Lake Merritt Institute – Elizabeth Borowiec, Stana Hearne

Lake Merritt Rowing Club – Jerry Denham

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission – Matt Webb

San Francisco Bay Trail Project of Association of Bay Area Governments – Brian Wiese

Studio One – John Momper

Waterfront Action – Sandy Threlfall, Brian Wiese

Interested citizen – Dean Johnson

Also attending were the following representing the City:

City Auditor – Roland Smith

District 2 Council member Danny Wan's office – Pat Kernighan

District 4 Council member Jean Quan's office – Richard Cowan

District 7 Council member Larry Reid's office – Pat Mossburg

Community & Economic Development Agency – Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris

Public Works Agency – Joel Peter, Lesley Estes