

Measure DD Coalition
Minutes of November 19, 2007 Meeting

In attendance: Rick Rickard, John Wilson, Nancy Reiser, Naomi Schiff, Ken Pratt, John Sutter, James Vann and Kathy Raymond.

City Staff Attendees: Joel Peter and Jennie Gerard

Project Updates: The Lakeside Park Irrigation Control System that connects all the valves at the Park and ties to a Central Computer that will sense if there is a break, be able to set controls, etc. is now in progress. Green Acres Landscaping is doing the work, there had been a hold up due to the bond but that has now been rectified.

The East 18th Pier is now gone and some of the older pieces are being refurbished, such as the railings and historic elements. The next phase is building the new structure which will be an exact replica. The completion is estimated as May 1st. The Group thought that there should be a grand reopening around this and that May was National Historic Preservation Month so this would be a great time to do some publicity around what is happening with the DD bond.

The Boat House work continues, the foundation is finished and a new sea wall, seismically the building is now very safe. The City is still talking back and forth on the lease with the new restaurant.

Cleveland Cascade has not gone out to bid yet and PGA is still working on the design.

The Lakeshore – El Embarcadero project will go to bid in December and the bids will be opened the end of January. It was asked if the Library group is now okay with the project, Joel indicated he thought they were still not happy and would prefer to see no project or the streets reversed. He indicated that the City would still be open to discussing mitigation or other items. It was suggested a subcommittee be formed to go and speak with the Library representatives to see if there was some way they could be made happier. Nancy Reiser and Naomi Schiff agreed to be on that committee and it was suggested that they ask David Bolanos as well.

The 66th Ave. gateway is being graded. The Alameda Ave. trail by the Fruitvale bridge was finished a couple months ago. It is a 10 ft. concrete path and 3 ft DG path. It also includes a Class 2 bicycle trail that goes almost to High St. The City is still trying to see if they can get the parcel between High St. and Fruitvale before a grand opening celebration. The 66th Ave. Gateway project completion is scheduled around March, which will deserve a celebration. The project involves public art. It was suggest getting Jim Maclevane involved. It was also suggested that it would be nice to have maps of the bay trail, where it is complete and where it is not. Perhaps National Trail Month would be a good time for the celebration.

Studio One is still moving along, everything but the elevator and gate should be done by end of the month. Not sure of when the opening would be but it should certainly be back open by next summer.

The Zoo Creek restoration is complete, they had just been awaiting the signage. The creek is just inside to the left of the entrance. It is an outdoor education center and open to the public.

The EIR is going through the response to comments phase and is planned for the planning commission on Dec. 19th. (update: the date was later changed to January 16) It will be available to the public and it was noted it was a voluntary EIR. All DD projects The draft EIR is are on the Planning Dept. web site. The Hard Copy draft is available but the final will be out right before the Planning Commission Meeting. The comment phase is over but you can comment on the response to the draft or speak before the Planning Commission.

The waterfront design standards and markers are in the same place as before, with Elois Thornton. These standards really apply more to private property and there is not a feeling of urgency on them right now. It was asked if they had considered making the railing at Union Point Park a standard. Joel indicated that it had not been considered but they were going forward having a plan for 4 standards based upon the type of area, i.e. industrial, etc.

The 12th St. project applied for Federal Money and it is looking positive but a slow process. The funding would be sizable and close the funding gap. It will be about 6 months more before it is known about funding. It was asked if a cross walk could be put by tunnel, but it was noted that Traffic Engineering does not like to put cross walks in the middle of street areas. It was asked why the tunnel is closed and no one knew the answer but suspected it had been a safety issue. Jennie Gerard said she would take on trying to find out about the tunnel.

There was a discussion about the aeration water quality project around Lake Merritt. It was noted that the Series A money has mostly all been used around this area, mostly on stormwater filters. The aeration pilot system is working but gets full of trash. They plan to do more in next Series round. Dr. Bailey would like a lot of bubbler systems, 160 was mentioned as his recommendation. Joel indicated that they would start off putting the systems where they are most needed, like in the arms of the lake. It was also noted Dredging would be good in spots but how much is needed is open for debate. Joel indicated that by the bandstand area is needed. John Wilson also indicated he thought by the bird sanctuary and out by the Western Pacific Railway bridge. That bridge, however, is currently outside the scope of the DD project. The City believes the widening of the culverts and other work will still help the lake flow, but it was noted by some at the committee that the Western Pacific bridge will still be a hindrance to this goal. Nancy Reiser noted that she'd heard the figure it would only aid 6%. John Wilson asked to see the hydrological model. The reports are apparently available from a URS study. It was mentioned that Jose Martinez, in engineering at CEDA in the City would be the appropriate contact. Also Phillips Williams and Associates also did study. It was noted that the Railroad was planning to renovate their spur which could impact this, Jennie noted that this was not a done deal and that there was a lot of opposition to this in District 5. She noted Ratna Amin as the point person in District 5 on this topic.

It was noted that due to toxic cleanup and deteriorated foundations at the Boat house it has eaten away most of the contingency and has been around \$15 million. Nancy brought up that she believed in the Draft EIR that the City was supposed to submit a letter about the toxic levels to the state. Joel indicated that thereir was a difference in opinion on how this reads and that the City is making their response.

In regards to the channel widening project, Nancy referred to the Draft EIR comments regarding the high toxic levels of the channel mud (composed of Bay Fill). She referred to the letter from the State of California the same EIR which stated that the City of Oakland needed to do an Indian shell mound survey and send core samples of the channel bay fill to the State of California. She asked about the progress of the core samples and cost estimates for the clean up.

Joel said that the City had taken the samples and had them analyzed and that the City of Oakland was NOT going to send the core samples to the State. He indicated that the City was writing a letter the State of California that its involvement -- delineated in its letter contained in the 2007 draft EIR -- was not necessary." Joel noted that he believed there was a difference of opinion on how the text read and what was required.

The East Bay Sports Complex is in the design phase plan. The old gym will stay in Phase 1 and a fitness center and indoor swimming pool will be built in Phase 1. This will stay under the operation of Oakland Parks and Recreation.

The waterfront trail is currently mostly being held up due to real estate issues not funding.

They expect to put out the 12th St. bid later next year.

Lawsuit Updates:

Judge Lee threw out the lawsuit about the trees. The group has a deadline of Mid-December if they want to appeal and are deciding that now. Joel says that in the City's opinion they have a valid tree permit and they can move forward. They plan to bid out the project under both options A and B. It was noted that the trees were supposed to be red tagged. Joel says they were tagged twice but both times the tags were torn down. It was asked if they should be remarked. (It was not noted at the meeting that the trees were already in the process of being removed.)

Oak to Ninth had 3 actions. The Referendum lawsuit was withdrawn by the referendum committee. It was strictly withdrawn because they couldn't keep up with the finances of the lawsuit and it never did get to trial.

Judge Lee granted 2 other lawsuits. They granted the plaintiff part of the suit and ordered the City to void the EIR certification. Don't know if Developer will appeal, the City is indemnified. The plaintiffs lost the 9th Ave. terminal but the judge did order a revised seismic study. West 5th Ave. is channel fill and has a lot of seismic issues. Please see supporting documents for more information.

The committee decided to meet 6 times a year, every other month. It was noted that we still need more outreach. Perhaps could post about the coalition at DD projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.