

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for November 21, 2011

The meeting was held in the Ebell Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:10 PM.

The meeting was chaired by Rick Rickard and Sandy Threlfall served as recorder.

1. Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

CALM –James Vann

EBBC – Rick Rickard

EBRPD – John Sutter

East Bay Garden Center – Anne Woodell, Bruce Cobbledick

Friends of the Cleveland Cascade –, Robert Fleming

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

Peralta Community College District - Charles Neal

Waterfront Action –Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens –John Wilson

City of Oakland

DD Manager – Joel Peter Council District 2: Jennie Gerard

2. Additions to agenda

Artist contract for Garden Gate design was added

3. Minutes of 9/19/2011 were approved by consensus.

4. Joel Peter: Update on current DD projects:

Joel distributed copies of the 11/18/2011 Project Status Summary, and this document has been posted in the [Progress section of the Coalition's web page](#). Highlights:

12th Street Project

Council approval will be sought to increase the project contingency reserve from 10% to 20% to permit minor enhancements and unanticipated conditions that may arise during pile driving. Despite this increase, the overall project cost will remain within the project budget. Work is progressing on schedule and is expected to be completed late 2012. All traffic is expected to be in its permanent location by mid-January.

Cleveland Cascade

Work has been halted and the railings are being redesigned. The Office of the California State Architect approved the modification, which will permit the historic benches to remain, a goal that Coalition members strongly supported. The timeline for completion of the handrails is uncertain because the contractor must prepare new shop drawings. The bollard lights have been revised to use LEDs and are not nearly as bright as the original installation.

Pergola

Re-painting will occur in spring, when the weather is appropriate.

Lakeside Pathways

The planned segments from the Pergola to the Nature Center and behind Fairyland will be installed in spring, when the weather is appropriate. In other areas, the decomposed granite paths that have been revised with new material are proving more durable.

Boardwalk under the High Street Bridge

The County Board of Supervisors approved the cooperative agreement with the City. There will be a meeting in December with City and County staff to discuss next steps.

Sailboat House/Shoreline

Joel Peter brought photographs of the Sailboat House in the 1930s and then the 1950s to show the large amount of fill that occurred at the nearby shoreline prior to the 1950s. The current plan is to create a more "natural" shoreline with a pedestrian pathway. The Lake Merritt Master Plan had proposed greatly reducing the parking area, but a couple of Coalition members expressed concern about this direction as the Sailboat House is a rental facility and parking is difficult in the evenings. Joel showed a preliminary plan with about 34 parking spaces – far more than in the Master Plan but fewer than currently available.

Snow Park Project

Joel Peter brought a current set of plans, but not the final version, as it is still a work in progress. He noted that completed plans may be available for our January 16, 2012 meeting. He advised that the current plan documents may be viewed on the city's [20th St./ Lakeside /Harrison /Snow Park Project Page](#).

Tiki Tom Site (29th Street)

The site has been purchased by a new owner who has submitted plans for a senior co-op housing development. BCDC is expected to require Bay Trail implementation by the new owner.

High Street Trail to EBRP Boat House

The EBRPD staff is having ongoing meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to get an easement for trail development along the shoreline. They have met with Terrance Salt of ACOE who is in the Washington DC office. John Sutter will provide his easement request letter as a model for distribution to the Coalition, and members were encouraged to write to Mr. Salt regarding the value of connecting the trail along the shore. Copies of the letter should be sent to Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senators Boxer and Feinstein.

Sausal Creek Restoration Project Plan

There will be a public meeting on Saturday December 10th to discuss the plan. Details are not set, but when available, Joel will provide them for distribution to the Coalition.

Bellevue Entrance to Garden Center

The artist turned in the requested materials to the City in July, but to date, the contract has not been approved due to staff limitations in the Public Art and legal departments. The project can go forward only after contract execution.

Clean-Up of Lake Chalet area

The Lake Chalet has cleaned up the plantings around their site. Barbara Schaaf volunteered to draft a letter of appreciation for review by the 11/21/11 Coalition meeting attendees.

5. Naming of the East 18th Street Pier

Anne Woodell did not have a report on the pier naming and possible dedication. Perhaps it will be available for the January DD Coalition meeting. Once we have consensus, an appropriate report and recommendation to City Council will be required.

6. Tenth Anniversary Event Committee Report

The Committee has not worked on a plan as yet. Right now, the hope is that the anniversary of November 2002 can be combined with celebration of the completion of the 12th Street Project.

7. Advocacy:

Con Agra. Rick Rickard made successful telephone contact with Mr. Doyle who is the VP of Real Estate and located in Omaha Nebraska. Mr. Doyle once again indicated his interest in coming to California but offered no specific plan. It will be important that he meet with key players and possibly a representative of the Port of Oakland with regards to the Homeland Security issues.

There was a suggestion that we send him a pdf of the site showing a proposed fence barrier between the mill and the trail.

Gaps in the Bay Trail on Port Property. The Coalition decided to take a step in the direction of the Port Commissioners in hopes of helping them to understand the value of completing the trail. There are three trail areas where the Port has been resistant to any trail discussion. A subcommittee was set up: James Vann, John Sutter, Sandy Threlfall and John Wilson. The committee will review the three areas based on Joel Peter's materials and attempt to meet with at least three of the current Port Commissioners to discuss the issue. In the past, only Port staff has been approached.

8. Ongoing Maintenance Issues

Joel described recent problems with graffiti and a general discussion of re-painting ensued. Joel advised that at a future time, he will be asking for volunteers to "adopt" the Pergola as an ongoing maintenance project, with the notion that local community groups might be effective in both managing and reporting maintenance issues. James Vann suggested that the Coalition consider an "adopt a garden" program in which corporate sponsors adopt a specific region. After brief discussion, the matter was set aside for future consideration.

8. Volunteer Work Day at Lake Merritt – Jennie Gerard

Jennie Gerard reviewed the hours of volunteer participation in the Lake Merritt Master Volunteers program, which kicked off its monthly workdays at locations of Measure DD improvements along Lakeshore Avenue and Lakeside Drive in December 2010. In the last six months there have been on average 15 volunteers each month participating in weeding, pruning, mulching, planting and litter picking up, under the direction of the Public Works Agency. The hours for these six months total over 5 weeks of maintenance time donated to the City (200 hours). That works out to a contribution worth \$4,000 to the City. Clearly the program is making a difference.

9. Possible agenda suggestions for January 16th meeting:

- E 18th St. Pier naming
- Advocacy
- Maintenance strategy/issues
- Lake Chalet lease status, operations, gondola, etc.
 - Invite Hamid Ghaemmaghami, Real Estate division of CEDA
- Ongoing Maintenance issues with possibility of an "Adopt a Site" program
 - Invite Jocelyn Combs to speak about volunteer maintenance programs

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Our next meeting will be Monday January 16, 2012 at 7:10 PM at the Ebell Room.