

Minutes of the Measure DD Community Coalition meeting March 15th, 2010

The meeting was held at Lakeside Garden Center: Ebell Room at 7 PM

The meeting was chaired by Judy Johnson and Sandy Threlfall served as recorder.

Measure DD Coalition Attendance List:

CALM - John Klein, James Vann

EBBC – Rick Rickard

Friends of the Cleveland Cascade – David Bolanos, Barbara Newcombe

OEBGCI – Bruce Cobbledick

Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff

Oakland Parks Coalition – Judith Johnson, Susan Montauk

Waterfront Action – Bill Threlfall, Sandra Threlfall

Interested Citizens – Marian Beil

Presenters

Steven Huss, City Arts Program

Susan Montauk, Oakland Parks Coalition

City of Oakland

DD Manager – Joel Peter

Council District 2: Jennie Gerard

Council District 4: Richard Cowan

Minutes of the January meeting were passed with no changes.

Presentation by Steven Huss, Public Art Coordinator

Part of the Measure DD initiative included 1.5% for Art projects. The current project involves two public art gates (two leafs each) which will create "inviting entryways that identify and celebrate the gardens" at Lakeside Park. The budget for the project is \$86,000, and the submission date was March 12, 2010. There were 66 submissions for the project. There is a selection panel of three Artists and Bruce Cobbledick of the East Bay Garden Center. The first meeting is scheduled for March 19th, and the final meeting on April 16th. The panel will choose the artist, and then discuss the design goals. Steven Huss hopes to have the project ready for Council's vote in July. The Measure DD Community Coalition asked that the design be brought to our May 17th meeting for review. Steven Huss provided a copy of the "Request for Qualifications" for the project.

David Bolanos brought up the grassy area between the curb and the current chain link fence. He proposed that the fence be moved to the curb to eliminate this strip and to increase the size of the garden area. David also asked why we need a fence at all. Bruce Cobbledick of the East Bay Garden Center indicated that the contact with the Bonsai Garden requires a 10 high fence for garden safety.

David also inquired about the differences between the Measure DD project plans and the Lake Merritt Master Plan contents, and after brief discussion it was decided to make this topic an agenda item for the next meeting.

Presentation by Susan Montauk, Oakland Parks Coalition

The state of City Parks is changing with each day since the budget cutbacks started. Although OPC did a survey in September 2009 and the effects of reduced staff were not seen then, sharp changes have occurred since. In 1989-1990 fiscal year the City supported 98 gardeners, all full time. Today there are 50 full time gardeners and 22 part-time employees. Not only has there been a reduction in staff, there has been an increase in park acreage.

The City has set up a priority list – first category will received routine maintenance, and to qualify for that category there must have been a new capital improvement within the last five years. The second category will have maintenance reduced by half. Maintenance of the medians may become an annual item. There is scheduled a median maintenance campaign in April/May of this year.

OPC has a steward program so that each of the Council districts has one volunteer steward to help coordinate clean-up efforts by volunteers. Barbara Newcombe asked if the stewards could create a team. Susan said there is some of that happening now. Susan had some handouts on the Park Stewardship program. To find out who the steward is for your district, go to www.oaklandparkscoalition.org as they are eager to enlist new volunteers!

Susan Montauk responded to a question about a Volunteer Coordinator as a paid City position – something the DD Committee had suggested 4 or 5 years ago. Susan said that YES we do need to have a Coordinator. There are a number of clean-up programs such as Clean and Beautiful but they work independently. A coordinated effort could make a huge difference especially during this time of reduced services. Susan also serves on the Park and Rec Advisory Committee (PRAC) and this issue has come up.

Naomi asked how to stop the spraying of Round-Up in those median strips where volunteers had planted ground cover. Susan directed her to Jim Ryugo at the City.

Cleveland Cascade

Barbara Newcombe reported that the City was out last week to remove 7 trees that were either leaning badly or unhealthy, and in addition, pruned other trees. Evidently Lyle Oehler was instrumental in getting the work done prior to the installation of the hand rails. The work team left the redwood logs, after planing them lengthwise, to complete a "sitting circle" at the base of the steps. All in all it was a great week!

The group paused to give a resounding cheer for the Council's approval of the 12th Street Contract!

Report on Projects from Project Manager, Joel Peter:

- 12th Street Project. The City Council approved the contract with the general contractor McGuire and Hester. It will take about 6 weeks to get through the City's Contract Administration process: insurance, bonding, legal review, etc. May 1st is the proposed start date. John Bowers (a message via Sandy) stated the importance of the heavy work being done before the winter migration. As the contract is planned for May, this will hopefully enable the heavy work be done by winter. The work will start at the Kaiser Center parking lot, with the staging plan. The bicycle route will stay up for the majority of the construction. It will be closed during the demolition of the retaining walls at the south end of the lake.
- CDS Filter. has been installed in front of the Rotary Nature Center. Thanks to the DD Design readiness the City was able to get \$300,000 from the Federal "shovel ready" stimulus package. A savings for the DD funds! Question of maintenance: the City has purchased vacuum trucks, and will clean the filters twice a year. The filter system reduces the need to clean the numerous upstream inlets.
- Plastic Fences. Many of the black plastic fences around the lake have been removed. The Grand Avenue side is still too wet to remove the fences. The benches are being installed. Sad news: PG&E's big pipe installation, which

was scheduled and happened prior to the DD landscaping, had a flawed design. PG&E will have to replace the line which involves 4 pipes to be bored under the park and then in an open trench across Lakeshore. They hope to have it completed in April and they will complete the affected Measure DD paving and median landscaping in the area.

- East Oakland Sports Center. Joel Peter provided photographs of the work status – the foundation is complete and framing is underway for the building.
- Derby/Lancaster project is behind schedule, and the contractor is being assessed over \$1,000 per day in liquidated damages. The Derby side is nearly complete and the proposed walkway is visible on the waterside of the White Elephant building.
- Cleveland Cascade. Lyle Oehler met Ray's Electric to finalize the contract for the work at the Cascade and the railing installation is scheduled to begin in April.
- Municipal Boat House: The K-Rail (orange/white) will be replaced by a metal rail to keep blind people safe from the parking area. There will be 400 feet of fence fabrication which will take time.

Coalition Web Site Discussion

Bill Threlfall highlighted the major sections of the site: a) Measure DD Community Coalition, b) Measure DD Progress (including the map), and c) Measure DD in the News. He indicated that he would be pleased to add additional content but suggested the guideline that additions be proposed by Coalition consensus to insure an orderly process.

He also highlighted the "Subscribe" and "Forward" links at the bottom of the e-mail announcements form. The "Subscribe" link calls up a form for subscribing to Coalition announcements. He mentioned that this system is used only for permission-based e-mail, and it is not appropriate to subscribe another person without their permission. Instead, he suggested forwarding the announcement to others with a note suggesting that they consider subscribing themselves.

The "Forward" link calls up a form to forward the announcement to up to six addresses, and use of this link assures that the forwarded e-mail will retain all graphics and correct links – Bill discouraged use of normal e-mail forwarding.

Naomi Schiff offered a suggestion for additional web site content: She underlined the importance of the public's understanding of matching funds that have been obtained for Measure DD projects. She suggested that we post our grant successes on the web site and the Coalition reached consensus to add this information as it became available.

John Klein suggested the use of Twitter to communicate up-to-the-minute information about the 12th street project, and no consensus was reached about this possibility.

View Corridor Issue

John Klein circulated photographs of key "view corridors" from Lake Merritt to the City Hall and the Tribune Tower. Wednesday the 17th at 4 PM the Zoning Update

Committee will be discussing the need for these corridors in terms of building height restrictions. It will then go to the Planning Commission and it is scheduled for a July Council meeting. After considerable discussion the DD Community Coalition came to consensus, directing a committee headed by James Vann to write a letter in support of view corridors. The letter can be found on the DD Coalition web site [here](#).

Outreach & Publicity for 12th Street:

The Public Affairs staff, Karen Boyd and Jim MacIlvaine, are working with Joel for a groundbreaking event on Thursday May 6th. It will take place at the bottom of the stairs near the courthouse. The date will give newspaper reporters the opportunity to hold a photo-op and run the story over the weekend.

2010 Meeting Schedule:

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

Agenda suggestions for next meeting:

- Moving fence at Lakeside Gardens out to the curb.
- Bellevue widening – Marian Beil expressed concern about the plan to widen Bellevue Ave. by 12 feet. (Joel noted that design work at Bellevue is not happening soon, and suggested that interested members review the Lake Merritt Master Plan for background prior to the next meeting).
- Discussion of Lake Merritt Master Plan and Measure DD projects.

Next DD Meeting: Monday, May 17th at the Lakeside Garden Center at **7:10 PM**. Please note the time change as there is a parking fee for the Lakeside Gardens up until 7 PM.

Submitted by S. Threlfall