



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Measure DD Community Coalition Meeting Notes for May 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the Ebell Room at Lakeside Garden Center at 7:10 p.m.

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

1. Measure DD Coalition attendance list:

BayTrail Project/ABAG/MTC - Lee Huo

Bike East Bay - Dave Campbell, Robert Prinz

CALM - Kathryn Kasch, James Vann

Community for Lake Merritt - Adrian Cotter

East Bay Rowing Club - Virginia Roe

Lake Merritt Institute - Katie Noonan

Lake Merritt Weed Warriors - Jennie Gerard

Oakland Heritage Alliance - Naomi Schiff

Oakland Museum of California - Ryan Jones

Urban Permaculture Institute - Nancy Sherman

Volunteering for Oakland - Sam Burd

Waterfront Action - Bill Threlfall

Interested Citizens - John Bliss, Brooke Levin, Linda Morton, Joel Peter, Bob Redman,
Myra Redman

City of Oakland:

Measure DD Program Acting Manager - Kristin Hathaway

2. The agenda was adopted without revision.

3. Minutes of 3/18/2019 were approved.

4. Measure DD Project Updates - Kristin Hathaway

Kristin distributed copies of the May 20, 2019 [Project Status Summary](#), which is also posted on the Coalition web page in the [City of Oakland Resources section](#).

Drawing on the document's detail, she briefly discussed the status of the following projects. Her remarks closely followed the spreadsheet's "Project Status" column:

- Lake Merritt Water Quality
- Lake Merritt Improvement Project/Garden Center & Grand Ave. entrance
- Snow Park/Lakeside Green Street Project
- Union Point Park to 23rd Ave Trail (aka E. 7th St to 23rd Ave, Miller Milling to Cemex)
- Harbor Master Trail Connection
- Waterfront Trail at High St. Bridge
- Waterfront Trail at Park St. Bridge
- Waterfront Trail at Fruitvale
- Estuary Park
- Lake Merritt Channel at 10th Street
- Lake Merritt Channel at 7th Street
- Lake Merritt Channel at 7th Street Pedestrian crosswalk
- Creek Restoration at Courtland Creek

- Oak Hill Conservation Easement

Kristin responded to several questions about the status of the Estuary Park design.

She also announced the [completion ceremony for the Lakeside Green Street Project](#), scheduled for June 10, 10:30 A.M. at the new Snow Park Promenade. As the event has been scheduled when Kristin will be out of town, she expressed hope that someone from the Coalition will be willing to speak on behalf of Measure DD. James Vann suggested that responsibility be assigned to the Agenda Committee, consistent with the adopted [guidelines for the Agenda Committee](#).

5. Parks maintenance ballot measure presentation – John Bliss, Brooke Levin

John introduced the problems associated with underfunding of parks maintenance, noting that beyond the impacts on facilities, Oakland's poor maintenance record has been a deterrent to funding from sources external to the city. He indicated that he and Brooke were working with the City on this problem and went on to describe the planned approach: a perpetual parcel tax intended for the 2020 ballot, ideally indexed to the CPI. The process will include community input and tailoring the measure to fit citizen preferences. John then introduced Brooke, who explained that parks maintenance is not merely mowing and weeding, but entails a broad range of services, some of which are not obvious. Brooke and John then responded to questions and concluded by soliciting volunteers to work with them on the ballot measure.

6. Position statement on funding of parks maintenance – Jennie Gerard

Jennie presented a letter drafted by Naomi Schiff. Editing suggestions were offered, and the draft was revised accordingly. It was adopted by consensus with the request that Bill Threlfall transmit it to the Mayor and Council.

The [adopted position statement](#) is posted in the **Coalition Position Statements & Advocacy Letters** section of the [Coalition's Archive page](#).

Jennie also encouraged everyone to contact their councilmember to express views consistent with the adopted position statement. She offered to prepare a paragraph with model language for distribution to the Measure DD email list.

James Vann emphasized the critical importance of Coalition participants speaking persuasively in support of parks maintenance funding at upcoming budget meetings.

7. Lake Merritt Channel ad-hoc committee report – Adrian Cotter, Sam Burd

Sam stated that Naomi Schiff, Sam Burd, Adrian Cotter, and David Wofford walked the Channel shoreline and prepared a concise [summary report](#) and a detailed [background document](#). Sam focused Coalition attention on the summary section titled "What DD Could Help Fund", reviewing its bullet points. Considerable discussion ensued, including questions about available funding and the history of past expenditures. The Coalition made two requests of Kristin:

1. In the LAKE MERRITT CHANNEL CATEGORY of the Project Status Summary document, add a row to address Channel paths and shoreline Improvements.
2. Review the expenditure history of [Measure DD Section III A and III B](#) and determine the remaining available capacity in each.

8. Comments from the BCDC Design Review Board re: Channel shoreline and the LM2BT bridge project – Bill Threlfall

Bill also noted that the January 2019 Draft Downtown Specific Plan makes frequent mention of the Channel and proposes intensive development in an “opportunity zone” located at Victory Court, adjacent to the Channel. The revised LM2BT bridge design calls for an additional “touch-down” at the Victory Court shoreline.

He reported that the Bay Conservation and Development Commission Design Review Board on considered the LM2BT bridge design on April 8, 2019. One DRB member said that if the City intends to spend so much on this bridge, it should really improve the connecting paths along the channel to reduce flooding and improve surfaces. This comment may inform Measure DD planning for work along the channel as called out in Bond Section III B.

Lee Huo noted that the City’s LM2BT project is critical to the Bay Trail Project, and he expressed concern that it seems stalled and is without a project manager. He warned of potential financial losses if certain timelines in the language of bonds granted to the City are not met. A bit of discussion followed, highlighting the fact that LM2BT project is not a Measure DD project and is outside the Coalition’s purview.

9. Homeless encampments at Lake/Channel – James Vann, Nancy Sherman

James noted the “no camping zone” status that has been declared for the Lake and briefly described two plans for periodic sweeps to clear violators.

10. Soliciting a committee to plan a DD social event – Robert Kidd

As Robert was unable to attend and as the meeting was running late, this item was put over to the July meeting.

11. Announcements and updates

- Lake Merritt Weed Warriors workday – May 25, 9 a.m.-12 noon

12. Review of work assignments to Coalition participants:

- Naomi to finalize position statement; Bill to transmit to Council & Mayor
- Kristin to determine the remaining available funding capacity in Bond sections IIIA and IIIB
- Kristin to add “Channel Paths and Shoreline Improvement” to project status list.
- Agenda Committee members to plan speaker for [June 10 Lakeside Green Street completion ceremony](#)

13. Agenda suggestions for next Meeting:

- Bond section III - Channel
- Estuary Park design status
- Homeless encampments
- Social event

The next Coalition meeting will be July 15, 2019, at 7:10 p.m. at the Garden Center Ebell Room.

Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.