

CITY OF OAKLAND
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2005 MAR 31 PM 1:24

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Community and Economic Development Agency and Public Works Agency
DATE: March 22, 2005

RE: SUPPLEMENT TO MEASURE DD STATUS REPORT #1 – REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION FOR ALLOCATING \$765,000 FROM THE LAKE MERRITT SYSTEM-
WIDE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CATEGORY TO FUND A DEDICATED FIRE SUPPRESSION
LINE IN LAKESIDE PARK

SUMMARY

On March 1, 2005, the City Council directed that further discussion take place at Committee regarding staff's recommendation to fund construction of a dedicated fire suppression line within Lakeside Park. The Council approved Lakeside Park projects funded by Measure DD (Children's Fairyland Pavilion, Garden Center restrooms and Sailboat House Renovation) that cannot obtain construction permits and move forward without meeting building and fire codes. This report provides supplemental information on the need for the project and the community process results supporting staff's recommendation.

Staff recommends that the City Council accept this supplement to the February 8, 2005, Measure DD Status Report and approve a project and funding in the amount of \$765,000 specific to implementing a dedicated fire suppression system as a part of the Lake Merritt Systemwide project category funding allocations for Series A and B.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund associated with the requested action.

Funds are available in the Measure DD Capital Improvement – Clean Water, Safe Parks Fund (Fund 5320), Lake Merritt System-wide Improvements (Project C242110) for this project recommended to be funded as a part of the Lake Merritt Systemwide Improvement Project.

BACKGROUND

At the March 1, 2005 City Council meeting, a memo with several attachments from two community constituents and members of the Measure DD Community Coalition was circulated to the City Council disputing the need for a dedicated fire suppression system to serve the public facilities within Lakeside Park given their proximity to existing fire hydrants in the area. Council directed staff to provide documentation of the public process and concurrence in support of funding a dedicated fire suppression line as a part of the Lake Merritt Systemwide Improvement project.

Item No _____
Life Enrichment Committee
March 22, 2005

In addition, staff was asked to hold a special meeting with the Measure DD Community Coalition featuring a presentation by the City's Fire Marshal on this issue.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

When design work on Measure DD projects at Children's Fairyland began last year, staff was informed by the Building Official and Fire Marshal that improvements to the water lines in Lakeside Park would be required in order to meet current Codes. Further research by staff revealed that the existing fire hydrants in Lakeside Park were not part of the normal EBMUD system, but instead were hooked up to undersized irrigation lines. In addition to a new pavilion building at Fairyland, the proposed renovation and expansion of the Sailboat House would also need to be built to modern Codes, requiring fire sprinklers and adequate fire hydrants.

In order to meet Code-mandated flow requirements, it is expected that a new eight-inch water main will need to run the entire 3,000 foot length of Bellevue Avenue. In addition to serving Fairyland and the Sailboat House, this line would pass the Garden Center, Junior Center for Art and Science, and the Rotary Nature Center. Fire protection would be improved at all of these locations. With budgets at Fairyland and the Sailboat House projects already experiencing shortfalls, staff proposed that \$765,000 in funds be allocated from the Lake Merritt Systemwide project.

The Measure DD Community Coalition has held monthly meetings since the issuance of Measure DD Series A Bond funds to cover a variety of Measure DD topics. At the October 2004, November 2004, and January 2005 meetings, staff distributed to members of the Measure DD Community Coalition a matrix identifying possible projects that could be funded as a part of the Lake Merritt Systemwide category. Information distributed in meetings is also posted on the Measure DD web page located at www.oaklandparks.org/measure_dd.htm. Additionally, two Measure DD Coalition representatives (Ron Bishop and Ken Benson) participated in Measure DD Executive Team deliberations on January 13, 2005, when recommendations were discussed and modifications made to the matrix. Community representatives reported back to the Coalition at its next scheduled meeting which occurred on January 24, 2005. Meeting minutes from each of the Measure DD Community Coalition meetings listed are included as Attachment A.

A special meeting of the Measure DD Community Coalition was held on Monday, March 7, 2005 featuring a presentation by Chief James Williams, the City of Oakland's Fire Marshal.

Chief Williams outlined the key issues and potential health and life safety impacts associated with the decision by Measure DD project staff members to recommend funding and implementation of a dedicated fire suppression line in Lakeside Park as a part of the Lake Merritt Systemwide Improvements category. These included:

- Measure DD projects identified in the ballot measure within Lakeside Park including the Children's Fairyland Pavilion, the Garden Center restrooms (exterior to the building) and the Sailboat House (calls for demolition of existing out buildings and construction of a new storage and classroom facility adjacent to the existing boathouse) **would not be issued construction or occupancy permits unless California building and fire codes are met** to provide adequate fire hydrant access and flow to new facilities. An adequate fire suppression system is needed to move these projects forward based on the requirements set forth in the California Fire Code Article 9, Section 901.2.2.1 (General Provisions for Safety) and Appendices III-AA (Minimum Fire Flow and Flow Duration for buildings) and BB (Number and Distribution of Fire Hydrants).
- "Drafting" water from Lake Merritt for a fire, while possible, is considered very inefficient and has not been used as a primary source for fighting fire for nearly eighty years due to its inherent inefficiency and reliability. The only time "drafting" is still employed is when there is no positive water source available in the vicinity (rural properties) or in the event of a catastrophic event where all other means of fire fighting are already being employed. Otherwise a traditional pressurized grid system is recognized as the most efficient and effective way to supply a water source to fight a fire.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Measure DD Community Coalition members concurred that this issue had been tacitly approved as a part of previous meeting discussions and affirmed agreement with the funding recommendation to provide \$765,000 from the Lake Merritt Systemwide project category allocation for Series A and B to construct a dedicated fire suppression line in Lakeside Park. The Coalition also expressed its appreciation for the opportunity to meet with Chief Williams.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Environmental: In general, Measure DD projects will be implemented in a manner to reduce the impact of development on certain ecosystems, promote water and energy conservation, promote a reduction in air pollution and promote environmental goals with the public.

Economic: Measure DD Administrative staff, with Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Workforce Development staff, will work with the California Conservation Corps, the Youth Employment Partnership and other employment programs to incorporate a scope of work within construction contracts primarily along the waterfront which involve youth and adults in the implementation of Oakland projects.

Social Equity: Measure DD projects, when complete, will assist in bolstering the inventory of accessible open space in the flatland neighborhood districts of San Antonio and Fruitvale as a result of construction of the Oakland Waterfront Bay Trail.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

All Measure DD projects will be built in accordance with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), providing improved access to the affected parks, trails, and buildings.

RECOMMENDATION (S) AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends that the City Council accept this report and approve a project and funding in the amount of \$765,000 specific to constructing a dedicated fire suppression system as a part of the Lake Merritt Systemwide project category allocations for Series A and B. Without the dedicated fire suppression line, permits cannot be issued for the Lakeside Park projects to proceed. Without adequate fire protection in place, the life safety of the hundreds of thousand of visitors to Lakeside Park and Children's Fairyland would be in potential jeopardy.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the City Council accept this report and approve funding in the amount of \$765,000 for a dedicated fire suppression system as a part of the Lake Merritt Systemwide project category funding allocation for Series A and B.

Respectfully submitted,



CLAUDIA CAPRIO
Director,
Community and Economic Development Agency



RAUL GODINEZ
Director, Public Works Agency

Prepared by:
Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris,
Project Manager, Waterfront Open Space

Prepared by:
Joel Peter,
Project Manager, Project Delivery Division

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE


OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

MEASURE DD COMMUNITY COALITION MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2004
LAKESIDE GARDEN CENTER

Agenda Committee: Jennie Gerard, Liz Borowiec and James Vann
Minutes by Kathy Raymond, Executive Director, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation

In Attendance:

Beat 15x NCPC – Jim Ratliff
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Ron Bishop
Chabot Park Highlands Homeowners Assoc. – Ken Benson
East Bay Bicycle Coalition – Rick Rickard
East Bay Regional Parks District – John Sutter, Brian Wiese
Friends of the Cleveland Cascade – Jim Ratliff
Friends of Studio One – Patrick Daughton
Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt – James Vann
Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation – Kathryn Raymond
Golden State Audobon Society – John Bowers
Greenlink Taskforce – Nancy Rieser
Jack London Aquatic Center – Robert Kidd, Keith Miller
Lake Merritt Breakfast Club – Aileen Frankel
Lake Merritt Institute – Liz Borowiec
Lakeview Branch Library – Victoria Barbero
Oak to Ninth Community Coalition – Andy Nelson, Jenny Lin
Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff
Oakland Parks Coalition – Jennie Gerard
Urban Ecology – Amy Tanner
Waterfront Action Coalition – Sandy Threlfall
Ethan Silva

Also:

From the City of Oakland:

CEDA – Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris
City Auditor – Michael Kilian
Council Member Jean Quan's Office – Richard Cowan
Council Member Reid's Office – Pat Mossburg
Public Works Agency – Joel Peter

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by chair Ken Benson. The attendees introduced themselves. The agenda was reviewed and the review of the Cathedral of Light plans was moved to the Nov. meeting. There was some discussion on if this should be discussed at a Measure DD meeting but the group felt that there would be an impact by the Cathedral on some of the DD plans and it was worth discussing.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Liz Borowiec reported on the Meeting that she attended as part of the Agenda Committee. A list of Lake Merritt System wide Improvements had been received that identified about 20 ideas along with a prioritization of what should get funded. On Dec. 14th the Life Enrichment Committee is supposed to meet and be given the Measure DD update and to vote on this list. Projects were prioritized based on how many they could make complete, those that would further expand what was already being done around the lake borders, other projects that had a lot of community momentum or that were on a maintenance list and those that would compliment other projects that were already in place, like the boat dock restorations. Projects include restrooms at 12ths St. and at Athol, some funding to aid in the fire protection around lakeside park, East Ave. Gateway at Athol Park. By the November meeting Kerry Jo feel's they will have a comfortable enough draft to present the list to the coalition before it goes to city council. The Maintenance Dept. at Public Works is very concerned that there is no maintenance component for any of these projects. The bond does not allow any of the funds to be used for maintenance. Brook Levin, the head of maintenance at Public Works, is working on developing a spreadsheet on what it takes for maintaining different areas. There is some concern among this dept. at the City about the Cleveland Cascades and who will maintain that, the group that is working on the renovations, the Friends of the Cleveland Cascade, say they expect as much City maintenance support in the future as it has been given in the past. Maintenance needs to be advocated for while establishing budget priorities, right now clean streets and parks are a priority. The group feels we all need to be advocates for maintenance.

Kerry Jo indicated that right now they are working on the expenditures but are currently building to the budget they have, though planning comprehensively. For example, as more information is coming in they are now looking into eliminating the culverts at 10th St. instead of building a dam at 7th St. The group asked for a report that would illustrate where we are now to where we thought we were a year ago, in terms of money we have raised. They asked for a staff report on this at the next meeting.

Another issue that had been raised is the land ownership of the Army Corps of engineers over some of the estuary projects in DD. For example, the Tidal Canals are owned in fee by the Corps. There is no funding for clean up from the Corps if they transfer the land. It is going to need to be a political situation at this point on how they resolve the clean up issues. The Group asked if there was any way we could aid in this process, right now the City does not believe so but if they find a need for advocacy or letters they will let the group know.

Goose management is another issue that is being looked into. The City plans to open a public dialogue and do studies on how this can best happen. The City will hire a facilitator to have the community dialogue.

PROJECT STATUS:

There will be a 12th St. public meeting on Wed. Oct. 27th and Studio One has another public meeting set for Oct. 25th at 7 p.m. at Studio One. Flyers were handed out on both meetings and are posted on the Friends web site at www.oaklandparks.org/measure_dd.htm. and on there calendar of events page

OAK to 9th STREET

Harbor Partners came to present there vision for the Oak to 9th St. Project. It is 62 acres that will be primarily residential that they hope will revitalize the waterfront area. They are in the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) process. The site is currently contaminated. The Site is also under a variety of jurisdictions. They think they can do this plan without any public subsidy. They buildings they are looking at implementing are predominately 6 to 8 story properties, with some elements that will have more height. They say they plan large areas for open space, mostly by 5th St. as they are fairly constrained by the railyard. They plan 27 acres of open space which some of will be built partially on a pile supported structure. The wetland enhanced area that the Port of Oakland needed to create after a settlement will remain. They say 45% will be open space and the rest neighborhoods and businesses. The City is creating an RFP to do a charette process. Whoever gets the contract will meet with stakeholder groups individually and talk in small groups and then have an all day Charette towards the end of the process to bring everyone together. The result could be an alternative study, the results right now are open. A question was asked about the Bay Trail continuation along this area, they said there would be continual access on all points that they own. There is one section that they do not have control of, the 5th St. Artists Colony. The narrowest part of their section of the trail would be Clinton Basin, as this area would be more urbanized. They are working with AC transit on bus routes and shuttles, etc. It was asked if they would enhance the wetlands area of the project that the Port created, as it is not yet what was envisioned. They said that they do have a vested interest in this area and so it could be looked into. It was brought up that the road design might not be the best for bicycle traffic, as medians tend to make traffic go faster. They did say there will be bike lanes and that the speed would be controlled by stop signs and traffic lights.

Another presentation was given by concerned community members about their interpretations of what is happening at Oak to 9th and what should be given further thought. Sandy Threlfall, John Sutter and members of the Oakland Heritage Alliance, Oak to 9th Community Coalition and Urban Ecology presented their views. A portion of the original Estuary Policy Plan was handed out and it was shown that a lot of areas that had been set aside for parkland were now shown as places for condos and housing. A big concern was to show where are the public benefits as this is public land. Economic, historical, open space and other benefits are a concern as they feel there has been little public process in developing this plan. In the current plan the 9th Ave. Terminal would be demolished, this is the last such terminal on the West Coast and the Heritage Alliance has applied for landmark status on this building. They would like to see this building reused and not torn down. The Oak to 9th Coalition pointed out that they are concerned with affordable housing and would like solid commitments that there would be local hire for construction. Also that what happens here will create opportunities that will be

welcoming for everyone that lives in Oakland. Urban Ecology is working with the San Antonio Neighborhood that is right across the railyard from this project. They are looking for connections that could help tie the communities together and offer mutual benefits. They are looking at 5th Ave. as an area that may help connect the adjacent community. They would like to know what the character of the project will be and how to funnel people to this area and not to create a divide. Sandy Threlfall mentioned that she had just gotten back from a conference where they stated the main elements of any process is the three C's – Conflict, Contract and Community, and Community is thought of as a verb.

The developers expect the EIR process to have a draft by 2005 and the Charette process would begin this winter. The City Planning Dept. is now the ones in charge of the planning process. It was brought up that to do this project they would need to amend or change the Estuary Policy Plan that had been adopted. Again this plan didn't contemplate residential properties at the time, just commercial and open space. Economic turns now may show that there is more of a need for residential than large commercial properties. It was also asked if elements like green housing and the façade types have been looked into. That has not been outlined as of yet. The presenters mentioned that if you are concerned about this project to talk to John Sutter or the others. Also, the group encouraged Naomi Schiff, of the Oakland Heritage Alliance to put together a walking tour of this area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sandy Threlfall mentioned that the Waterfront Center awards program just gave top honors to the East Shore State Park and Trail Plan.

Jim Ratliff mentioned that the Friends of the Cleveland Cascade had received a \$32,500 grant from the De Long-Sweet Foundation and another \$11,000 grant from the same foundation as well. They also are eligible for another \$32,500 challenge grant if they can match these funds and the other \$11,000 is match eligible so they need to raise another \$21,500 to qualify.

It was mentioned that Phase 1 was completed at the Dock at 17th and Madison, it was noted that there should be a dedication party

Next Agenda Items that were suggested:

1. Financial Report – expenditure review
2. Lake Merritt System wide improvements list.
3. Staff Report
4. Annual Meeting and 2005 Calendar Discussion
5. Cathedral of Lights Plan
6. Estuary Park

The next meeting dates were set, they will continue to be on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting date is November 15th at the Garden Center in the Ebell Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MEASURE DD COMMUNITY COALITION MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2004
LAKESIDE GARDEN CENTER

Agenda Committee: Jennie Gerard, Liz Borowiec and James Vann
Minutes by Kathy Raymond, Executive Director, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation

In Attendance:

Beat 15x NCPC – Jim Ratliff
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Ron Bishop
Butters Land Trust – Jesse Roseman
East Bay Bicycle Coalition – Rick Rickard
East Bay Regional Parks District – John Sutter
Friends of the Cleveland Cascade – Jim Ratliff, Barbara Newcombe
Friends of Studio One – Patrick Daughton
Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt – James Vann
Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation – Kathryn Raymond, Judy Johnson
Greenlink Taskforce – Nancy Rieser
Lake Merritt Institute – Liz Borowiec, Stana Hearne
Waterfront Action Coalition – Sandy Threlfall

Also:

From the City of Oakland:

CEDA – Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris
City Auditor – Michael Kilian
Council Member Reid's Office – Pat Mossburg
Public Works Agency – Joel Peter
Public Works Agency – Brooke Levin

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by chair Ron Bishop. The attendees introduced themselves. It was mentioned that the minutes of October should reflect that \$900,000 is needed to install fireplugs around Lake Merritt to help protect the facilities in Lakeside Park.

MAINTENANCE ISSUES:

Brooke Levin, an Asst. Director with the Public Works Agency overseeing the Facilities & Environment Department came to the meeting to discuss the maintenance issues that the City of Oakland is facing. Brooke manages 390 people in her Department. Brooke mentioned that there has been limited coordination between the Capital Group of PWA and the Maintenance Groups (PWA and Parks) within the City. One example she gave is the Eastmont Police Station, a brand new building was built but no operation and maintenance budget was allocated. Public Works managed to negotiate with the Police Services Agency to provide \$500,000 for basic maintenance but this is only enough for partial services for a building that is open 24/7. The actual cost to maintain the facility is? The issues of Parks and Medians are more illusive but face the same problems. In

the future volunteers projects will enter into an “adopt a spot” agreement that will clearly outline everyone’s support and commitment to the project beyond just the capital piece. The City is working with a bare bones staff of gardeners and there is \$1,500,000 LLAD (Landscape and Lighting Assessment District) deficit. The City also has frozen the hiring of new positions in an effort to manage it’s current deficit situation. Currently only 5 facilities have full time gardeners, including 2 at Lakeside Park, 1 at the Rose Garden, 1 at Dunsmuir and 1 at DeFremery, all the other parks receive a few hours here and there of maintenance by several roving gardening crews consisting of a total of (number) gardeners. Public Works is trying to determine acceptable service levels. They have two more facilities coming on line within months, Mandella Parkway and Union Point Park. They hope to develop a comprehensive list of volunteer groups that work with parks, creeks, watersheds, etc. and develop a volunteer program. They want new projects to be thought out from a maintenance perspective, for example, a fountain has to be maintained at swimming pool standards; new plantings should take into consideration drought resistance, low-maintenance types of plants. It was asked if Brooke would hire a volunteer manager and she indicated there were already people in her office working with volunteers on creeks and watersheds and she wanted to implement someone for parks as well.

CATEDRAL OF LIGHT

A presentation was given on the proposed Cathedral going up at Grand and Harrison. The Catholic Diocese of Oakland has no cathedral in Contra Costa or Alameda County after the last one had to be demolished. It was the priests that voted to have the cathedral here in Oakland. They currently project \$131 million building project that would have an open plaza and other amenities. The building would be 130 ft. tall from sidewalk level. To date they have \$83 million raised and they need about another \$12 million by May to break ground in May. They hope to have the dedication in January 2008, they anticipate 2000 person years to build this cathedral. The architect was selected after a very laborious process and in the end Craig Hartman, a local architect, was selected. The design is inspired by the Catholic tradition of two circles and a fish, which is a Christian symbol of a gathering place, though the design is really two spheres. There will be a parking lot 2 levels deep that will hold 200 spaces and the Cathedral will hold 1,500 people, it will be the biggest Catholic Church in the Diocese. There was some concern about the wall along Harrison St., they said it would have a 12 ft. high elevation and would have planters and hanging plants, would try to make it look nice aesthetically. There will be a conference center that they will rent out, just below the plaza and a coffee shop and bookstore. These will all earn money for the Cathedral, in addition the parking garage will also bring in some fees, though there will be allocation for cathedral visitors and about 50 to 80 ongoing reserved spots. There was some mention of concern over the possibility of sediment in the lake and that a storm water plan was needed to protect the lake during construction. The cathedral will be made of a solid concrete base with wooden vaults and light from the top, the outside will be glass. It was also mentioned that there should be accommodations for adequate bicycle parking.

PROJECT UPDATES:

There was a question about the idea of installing wetlands by the 12th St. Dam. Jorgan, a biologist from Phil Williams & Associate and subconsultant to Rajappon/Meyer, the City's consultant for 12th Street has brought up the possibility within the context of the 12th Street project. Today it exists as a natural beach that is mostly mud. There was one possibility of installing a beach but there is worry that it could easily erode due to wave action. A wetland concept is also being looked at; the idea is to try to get people connected to the water. The overall thought of the group was that wetlands may be better because a concern about safety and maintenance if a beach were installed. It was mentioned that the channel on the other side of 12th St. would be a new wetland of about an acre. It was suggested that we should invite Jorgan to the next DD meeting to hear more about wetlands at Lake Merritt. Joel stated he would have to check on this, as the City would have to paid for his time.

Joel Peter, Public Works Agency, said the 12th St. public meeting had about 150 people in attendance and the consultant is compiling the comment cards. Overall the meeting was very positive. It was asked when the interim solution for the 12th St. project would be implemented. Joel said the design was done and the funding was from a transportation grant and had been given to the another division within Public Works, the transportation Department for bidding. However, this has not been done yet. It was stated that Vladimir from the Transportation Dept. would be the one to speak with and it was suggested we invite him to a future meeting.

Studio One design is continuing and they are still looking into energy efficiency ideas for incorporation into the project. The Office of Parks and Recreation is looking to find alternate venues for the art classes. The architectural features are pretty much set. There will be a deck over the front entrance with a portico. The process overall is moving along well.

A question was asked about access around the Pier 29 restaurant. Access scenarios include acquisition and relocation of the business or working around the structure. Currently 2/3 of the physical site improvements sits on Army Corps property. The City needs the Army Corps to work with the current landowner to resolve encroachments issues in order for the project .

The 1st progress report to the Life Enrichment Committee was rescheduled to the 11th of January at 6 p.m. They plan to present specific projects and funding recommendations for the Lake Merritt System wide Improvements budget allocation. The committee could accept staff recommendations or ask to make changes. The first series of bonds was sold July of last year and the next series will be sold in July of 06. So far only a limited amount of money (about \$3 million) has been spent from the first series(\$70,050) million for staffing, design, consultants, administration, etc.

It was asked if there are fire trucks that carry sump pumps and if that could be a way to protect the Lakeside Park Area from Fire. Kerry Jo said she didn't know but would look into this.

ANNUAL MEETING:

It was decided the annual meeting should be held on a Saturday in some kind of public location. March 12th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. was the date and time selected.

Next Agenda Items that were suggested:

1. Financial Report – expenditure review
2. Annual Meeting and 2005 Schedule (no meetings in Aug. March and Dec.?)
3. Invite Vladimir from PWA Traffic Division
4. Estuary Park – set a group policy.

The next meeting dates were set, they will continue to be on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting date is January 17th at the Garden Center in the Ebell Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MEASURE DD COMMUNITY COALITION MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2005
LAKESIDE GARDEN CENTER

Agenda Committee: Ron Bishop, Ken Benson and Sandy Threlfall
Minutes by Kathy Raymond, Executive Director, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation

In Attendance:

Beat 15x NCPC – Jim Ratliff
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Ron Bishop
Budget Advisory Commission – Dinah Benson
Chabot Park Highlands Homeowner's Assoc. – Ken Benson
East Bay Bicycle Coalition – Rick Rickard
East Bay Regional Parks District – John Sutter
Friends of the Cleveland Cascade – Jim Ratliff
Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt – James Vann
Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation – Kathryn Raymond, Judy Johnson
Golden Gate Audobon Society – John Bowers
Greenlink Taskforce – Nancy Rieser
Lake Merritt Institute – Liz Borowiec
Lake Merritt Rowing Club – Jerry Denham
Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff
Oakland Parks Coalition – Jennie Gerard
Philip Williams & Assoc. – Jorgen Blomberg
Shepherd Canyon Homeowner's Assoc. – Mike Petouhoff
Spanish Speaking Unity Council – Rita Torres
Waterfront Action Coalition – Sandy Threlfall

Also:

From the City of Oakland:

CEDA – Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris
Council Member Reid's Office – Pat Mossburg
City of Oakland Cultural Arts Division – Christin Hablewitz
Public Works Agency – Joel Peter
PWA – Environmental Services Division – Markley Bavinger

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by chair Sandy Threlfall. The attendees introduced themselves. A new agenda committee was selected for the next cycle; Judy Johnson, Jim Ratliff and John Bowers are on the committee. It was also mentioned that there will be a Groundhog Day event in Oakland to kick off the year of the Estuary. It will be at the Jack London Aquatic Center on Feb. 2nd. It was also mentioned that the play Casino is coming back to the newly renovated YWCA stage and that information will be emailed out to the group.

Agenda Changes: There were a couple deferred items to the February meeting, the interim solution for the 12th St. project and Oak to 9th Street. It was decided that the next meeting should be held on Feb. 28th as the 21st is President's Day.

12th STREET PROJECT AND SHORELINE IMPROVEMENTS:

Jorgen Blomberg from Philip Williams and Associates, one of the subconsultants working on the 12th St. project came to talk about the current condition of the lake and shoreline at Lake Merritt. The team is currently working on 35% design drawings. In the 1st phase there will be removal of the culverts and roadway and construction of a bridge. The long-term effort is to restore Lake Merritt to a more natural tidal condition. Key parts of this project include a new vehicular bridge and circulation system for pedestrian and bicycle use, which will include an isolated bridge for this purpose. There will be tidal marsh restoration, about .8 of an acre between 10th and 12th Streets. The channel will now be a minimum of about 100 ft. wide (now about 40 ft. wide). The vehicular bridge will be at least 10 to 12 ft. wide so it will feel very open to pedestrians going underneath, it will also include a gap in between the bridge lanes to bring in light underneath (about a 10 ft. daylighting section). The path materials haven't been officially decided yet, they are looking at a number of options. The path should be about 15 ft. wide and will be separated, somehow, between pedestrians and bicycle use. There will be a plaza area, over the water, and a bowl shaped amphitheater that can be used as a civic space. By the boathouse, there are a number of possible shoreline solutions which maximize the opportunity for native plantings. A storm water retention and run off program will also be integrated into the project. They are looking at creating a possible pier or dock that will allow people to walk onto the water. It was asked if a drain was being considered in the lake. Jorgen stated that there was no elevation for this drain to work on it's own and would need a mechanical element, are not looking at this as a solution. They are predicting about a 3 ft. change in the tides.

There will be many regulatory agencies involved; most important will be where the Army Corps. Of Engineers jurisdiction is as they have some of the most stringent permit requirements

PROJECT UPDATES:

Studio One: The City has received the 65% design review drawings, so they will soon begin construction documents. There is still some discussion over the landscape plans for the front and side of Studio One. They are looking at putting the garden on the side of the building between the building and the pool; this would be a community and teaching garden. They are also proposing undulating grass because of maintenance reasons; however, this would prevent children from playing kickball, etc. Also, there are some concerns because there is a fire main, telephone pole and street light that all need to be considered in the landscaping plan, that have not yet been addressed. The process of moving the classes during construction is still being investigated; a plan to integrate children's classes to various recreation centers around the city is being considered. The adult classes are proposed to be located to Cascalord Center (formerly known as the Alice Arts Center). Measure DD funds could help with moving costs but cannot provide for

rent payments so Parks and Recreation staff still needs to find funds for rental costs. The total estimate cost of relocating for an estimated 20 months is around \$150,000, \$41,000 of this would be associated with moving .

The Lake Merritt Systemwide Improvements recommendation will go before the Life Enrichment Committee, with a series of other reports and resolutions, on Feb. 8th. City staff requested that members of the Coalition be in attendance to show support for the recommendations. The meeting is at 6 p.m. and looks to be the 1st item on the agenda. City staff is presenting a status report on Measure DD including 3 resolutions (1. accepting and allocating the \$10,000,000 in the California Coastal Conservancy Funding, 2. Amending the contract for the FOPR Coalition administration and 3. Amending Measure DD improvements relative to the channel projects.)

Because of a \$1 million dollar addition mistake during the master plan process and because of increased inflation costs, there is about a \$2 million shortfall in the park boarder improvement project and few areas in which to cut costs. City staff is proposing to put the sailboat house on hold and put these funds towards the municipal boathouse and park borders projects, which would be about \$1.2 million. In addition they will be asking for two action items, to accept the Lake Merritt Systemwide Improvements recommendation and an action associated with putting the Sailboat House project design process on hold. You can find more details on each of these on the web site at http://www.oaklandparks.org/measure_dd.htm. A few modifications were made from the last time the coalition reviewed the systemwide improvement recommendations. The money allocated for Athol Park is proposed to be consolidated with money associated with the East 18th gateway. It was also recommended that the fire suppression system in Lakeside Park be fully funded. Nancy Reiser mentioned a discussion with a Capt. Burke of Fire Station #????, that the current fire hydrant situation within Lakeside Park adequately protected the facilities. City staff indicated that buildings around the lake, such as the garden center and the Sailboat House do not meet fire and building code requirements for access and flow. Additionally, the new building to be funded at Fairyland would not be able to be constructed without the new fire suppression system proposed to be funded under Measure DD. Naomi Schiff suggested that the state historic building code should be looked into, as historic buildings could have different standards required. City staff acknowledged that this is true but that the improvements to be funded through Measure DD included new structures and would be subject to current building and fire code requirements.

There is also some hope that the earned interest can help backfill some of the projects that are not currently fully funded.

It was asked if there would be a listing of recommendations, like the Lake Merritt Systemwide improvements list for the Estuary projects. It was stated that the Council is not yet ready to have this discussion, and wish to see the outcome of the Oak to 9th St. charette process first. It was mentioned that the Brooklyn Basin project, is on hold while the Port negotiates with a private developer, Gray and Reynolds. Staff noted that

regardless of the proposed improvements, BCDC would require a certain amount of open space as well as trail access.,

ANNUAL MEETING:

Discussion was held around what the annual meeting should be and how it should outreach to the community. One suggestions was to have a booth around various Farmer's Markets instead of one large meeting. Many people thought this wouldn't be effective, as you couldn't have all the materials you would need spread around like this. It was deliberated on what the purpose of this meeting should be. It was decided that we would not be ready to hold this meeting in March and more discussion was needed. It will be a topic for discussion in February. It was also suggested that maybe our efforts should go into trying to get press coverage like a layout in the Tribune on many of the DD projects status.

The schedule was set for the eight 2005 yearly meetings, they will be in February, March, May, June, September, October and November.

It was stated that the Public Art Division had released an RFQ for Studio One that was due on March 15th.

Next Agenda Items that were suggested:

1. Interim Solution 12th St.
2. Annual Meeting
3. Oak to ninth- Estuary Park – set a group policy.
4. Update on Union Point Park
5. Creek Update

The next meeting dates were set, they will continue to be on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting date is February 28th at the Garden Center in the Ebell Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.