



Oakland Measure DD Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks Community Coalition

Meeting minutes – November 20, 2023, 7:10 p.m.

A [video recording of this meeting is available here](#)

Additional [meeting files are available here](#)

Welcome Agenda Committee: Adrian Cotter, Myra Redman, and John Bowers

Review of Zoom meeting protocol: recording, chat, mute, raise hand, and transcription.

Please email measuredd@oaklandparks.org if you are interested in facilitating future Measure DD Coalition meetings.

1. Introductions of Coalition meeting participants [Note: Coalition is open to the public.]

Adrian Cotter	Community for Lake Merritt, MDD Agenda Committee
Bill Threlfall	Waterfront Action
Robert Kidd	Interested citizen, previous Jack London Aquatic Center Chair
Naomi Schiff	Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt, Oakland Heritage Alliance
Rick Rickard	Bike East Bay
Hazel Tesoro	Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation
John Bowers	MDD Agenda Committee, Lake Merritt Institute
Myra Redman	MDD Agenda Committee, Lake Merritt Institute, & Weed Warriors
Bob Redman	Essex Community Action Committee, Lake Merritt Conservancy Coalition
Jennie Gerard	Lake Merritt Weed Warriors, Lake Merritt Advocates, & Lake Merritt Conservancy Coalition
Dee Rosario	East Bay Regional Park District
James Vann	Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt, Homeless Advocacy Working Group
Jorgen Blomberg	Principal, ESA (Estuary Park Project)
Can Liu	Project Manager & Landscape Architect, WRT (Estuary Park Project)
Louis White	Coastal Engineer, ESA (Estuary Park Project)
Vince Geronimo	Oakland Resident
Petra Marar	Landscape Architect, PGAdesign (Estuary Park Project)
Dru Collin	Henry J. Kaiser Center, Interested in Peralta Park Update
David Wofford	Rotary Nature Center Friends
Yue Hu	No introduction
Katie Noonan	Rotary Nature Center Friends, Lake Merritt Institute

City of Oakland Attendees

Terri Fashing	Acting Division Manager for Watershed & Stormwater Management Division & Acting DD Bond Manager
Rebecca Darr	Public Works, Projects & Grants Management Division, Project Manager for Peralta Parks Replanting and 7th to 23rd Waterfront Trail
Christine Reed	Public Works, Projects & Grants Management Division, Project Manager for Estuary Parks Project

G. Harold Duffey Public Works Director

Calvin Hao Public Works, Acting Division Manager for Projects & Grants
Management Division

2. Changes to meeting agenda

Addition of updates for 3 active projects:

- Estuary Park
- Lake Merritt Channel (10th Street bridge) (wetlands/remaining mitigation)
- Union Point Park (7th Street to 23rd Avenue Bay Trail segment)

Lake Merritt Water Quality is not a MDD project and can be brief to include time for these 3 projects.

3. Approval of September 2023 meeting minutes [\[link to minutes and materials\]](#)

Agenda item was not covered. Include on January meeting agenda (**Note: The next meeting will be on the 4th Monday of January, so January 22nd, 2024, because the 3rd Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**)

4. Discussion regarding in-person/hybrid meetings.....MDD Agenda Committee

Garden Center not suitable for hybrid meetings due to slow internet connection

Uptown Station (Square) on Broadway event space is set up for hybrid, but space may be too large, cannot be booked for ongoing meetings, reservations must be made every quarter, space is free to use if no food or drinks, hybrid is set up but uses Google Meet not Zoom, requires minimum of 15 people in person

No location yet for January. Terri will look to see if the City has any meeting rooms available downtown or at Sailboat House.

5. DD Program Manager's Report.....Terri Fashing

[Links to [MDD Project Update Slides](#) and [\(Project Update Table\)](#)]

- Administration: OPRF and Adrian Cotter continue to support. Mike Perlmutter to catch up on mapping this winter.
- Lake Merritt (LM) Water Quality/Restoration & Channel
 - Snow Park/Lakeside Green Street Project: Completed, remaining funds for post-construction irrigation work and close-out items
 - Decomposed Granite Path around LM: Project team working on extending contract to perform work, quote received is for over \$600k, but only \$300k budget which can address worst sections of path, redoing whole pathway would require design plans, permitting, and ADA which may exceed \$1 million. Now assigned to a CIP coordinator, so should move more quickly once contract is in place. Comment from MDD Coalition participant to lay down lightweight concrete which Terri will share with her team.
 - Project # 1000693, 10th St. Channel Improvements - LM Channel.....Rebecca Dar
 - Homeless encampments severely impacting project area. Site is not entirely secured, so encampments return despite City's efforts to clear them. Final replanting needed to close out environmental permits cannot move ahead until the City resolves public safety issues with encampments.
 - Stakeholders' meetings happening since September to discuss issues. Next meeting in early December to look at how public safety can be addressed and funding.
 - City discussing possibility of night closure, lighting, night shut down security services, and surveillance.
 - Public Works to look into how MDD resources can help address issues. The City's

Director of Public Works, Harold Duffey, asked for the MDD Coalition's support to use Measure DD funds to implement the replanting, fencing, and other measures needed to achieve permit compliance and allow the planted mitigation areas to thrive. The DD Coalition participants present had no objections to using DD funds for this purpose.

- Rotary Nature Center previously organized educational programs in this area and would like to emphasize more programming opportunities.

- Waterfront Access, Parks & Cleanup

- Park Street bridge connection on hold until easement acquisitions re: land on North side of bridge are worked out.
- Fruitvale Bay trail segment continues through this month. Paving work completed. Guardrail install and planting remain.
- Estuary Park.....Christine Reed, Can Liu, WRT, & Louis White, ESA
 - Project team is currently working on technical studies, feedback and schematic design, and CEQA compliance. Schematic design will incorporate all feedback and be concluded by the end of November. Then move into the 65% construction documentation stage
 - 65% design now includes a preliminary design for shoreline enhancement on the southern end of the park. The design features zones from sub-tidal to upland park that allow for habitat enhancements to increase biodiversity, mitigation of waves/tides during storms, and public park access for recreational and educational activities
 - Planting strategy for the park is based on 3 major planting zones identified: terrestrial mounds (nearest heavy public access areas), low grass/swale/flats (less public access areas), and vegetated beach ridge (areas considered for higher ecological value over recreational use).
 - Project team also working on long-term sea-level rise planning around the Jack London Aquatic Center (JLAC) area to identify challenges and lay groundwork for future design/planning work.
- Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue Trail.....Rebecca Dar
 - Project site has to go through 3 private industrial properties, costs to acquire easements much higher now than the estimate obtained years ago. One of the owners does not want a public trail.
 - Environmental testing completed, and many pollutants found
 - Project estimated to cost at least \$50 million and take 9 years between permitting and real estate negotiations
 - Consider shifting project site to go around properties or putting project on hold for now and monitoring for the long haul. Terri and Rebecca to check in with City to inform them of meeting conversation.

- East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Waterfront Trail Sites

- Crowley Site: In preliminary design phase and gathering site information; will be applying for U.S. Dept. of Transportation and RAISE funds
- Gallagher & Burk: No discussions to move forward
- Hanson Aggregates: Negotiations in progress for easement
- Waterfront connection at High Street Bridge: City has signed off to EBRPD which will look into other trail connection options at High Street.

- Creek & Waterway Restoration

- Courtland Creek channel work completed on 10/31/23; revegetation to be completed Jan 2024; trails, benches, fences to be installed early 2024, construction to be completed in spring 2024

- Glen Echo Creek: On hold due to staffing shortages, will try to resume in fall of 2024
- Acquisitions: Consultant to provide a model of prioritized parcels, then staff will pursue acquisitions opportunities. Mike can give presentation in January if Coalition is interested.
- Beaconsfield Branch of Sausal Creek: No progress without progress on Glen Echo
- MDD fiscal report
 - Not ready at this time. Terri will continue to work with new bonds manager Stephen Acker and will invite Stephen to the January meeting

6. Discussion on 7th Street Station [Questions & Responses from Flood Control District](#)

Not discussed. Keep on agenda for January meeting. Terri and Mike Perlmutter will continue to communicate with Flood Control District on behalf of the MDD Coalition. Put questions in writing and send to Terri.

7. Announcements

[Rotary Nature Center Friends](#).....Katie Noonan

- Link to [recording](#) of Lakeside Chat #36 Andrew Cohen investigates the Mystery Oyster of San Francisco Bay
- Next talk on Friday, 12/1/23, “Birding Our Nation’s First Wildlife Refuge”
- In-person event at main branch of Oakland Public Library on Tuesday, 11/28/23, 6-7:30pm

Article on Empty Cement Duck Pond [Update](#)

[Lake Merritt Weed Warriors](#)Jennie Gerard

Work on west side of LM continuing on Saturday, 12/2/23, 9:00am-12pm, Start at Lakeside Drive across from the entrance to Snow Park.

Lake Merritt ConservancyBob Redman

Meeting on Wednesday, 12/6/23, 5:30-7:30pm, at 1200 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, 94606 ([RSVP link](#))

8. Action Items

Terri Fashing:

- Fix Project Update Table and upload new version to website.
- Rework, check with the finance department, and present Financial Report of all project updates, including subcategories in simplified spreadsheet.
- Invite new Bond Manager Steven Acker to January meeting.
- Check with the project manager (PM) on updates for the decomposed granite path project at Lake Merritt. Share comment from MDD Coalition with the project team regarding using lightweight concrete and report back in January.
- Ask Acquisitions PM to give an update on modeling and progress at the January meeting.
- Get update from Glen Echo consultant.
- Meet with EBRPD staff to get updates on projects transferred to EBRPD.
- Present remaining funds with vision/strategy and recommendation with time for Coalition to provide feedback for future allocations.
- Find city location for hybrid meeting for January 2024 meeting (Downtown or Sailboat house?)
- Ask the PM to give an update on Lake Merritt Water Quality in January.

OPRF:

- Distribute November Meeting Minutes including action items by November 27th.

Agenda Committee:

- Get proposed agenda to Terri at least two weeks before January meeting.