

CITY/PORT LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
January 23, 2004

The first meeting of the City/ Port Liaison committee of this year was called to order at 8:09 AM on January 23, 2004 in the Port of Oakland's Board Room located at 530 Water Street in Oakland, California.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember and Co-Chair Danny Wan, Council President Ignacio De La Fuente, Councilmember Nancy Nadel

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Larry Reid

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner and Co-Chair Kenneth Katzoff, Commissioner Darlene Ayers-Johnson, Commissioner John Protopappas

STAFF PRESENT: Port Executive Director Tay Yoshitani, Port Deputy Executive Director Joe Wong, Port Attorney Vivian O'Neal, Assistant to City Manager Jayne Becker, Deputy City Attorney Curtis Kidder and serving as Secretary, Manager of Governmental Affairs Eve Grossman-Bukowski

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY AND DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS.

1-A: APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting summary from the October 17, 2003 meeting was approved with two amendments. Please see attached revised meeting summary.

Public Comment:

There was one public speaker: Gary Knecht, South of Nimitz Improvement Council (SoNIC)

Amended minutes accepted by consensus.

1-B: DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULE FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE ITEMS

The next meeting date was changed from April 16th to the following Friday, April 23rd and will cover the following items related to City/Port development:

- A Report by the Port of Oakland on specific projects at the Jack London Square, Oak-9th, and Hegenberger corridor sites
- A Report by the City of Oakland on designated "redevelopment areas"
- A Report by the City of Oakland on funding and maintenance costs for the proposed Union Point Park.

ITEM 2: A REPORT BY THE CITY OF OAKLAND ON THE WATERFRONT ACCESS PLAN

Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris, Project Manager for Waterfront Open Space, CEDA presented a report by the City of Oakland on the status of the Waterfront Pathway.

The report focused on one category identified in the Measure DD bond text: Estuary waterfront access, parks and clean up. Ms. Ricketts-Ferris identified key issues and impact areas including significant gaps in the Oakland Waterfront Trail, the Oak-to-Ninth area, and acquisition, development and permitting requirements. Along the 6.6 miles of trail, there are 10 “opportunity sites” for distinct parks with amenities that will serve the needs of the surrounding communities. The trail and its many proposed features were designed with an emphasis on environmental stewardship. The design guidelines are based on the integration of environmentally sustainable materials, grading techniques, wetland transition zones and wildlife and landscape buffer zones.

Ms. Ricketts-Ferris also discussed the capital expenditure schedule for the projects. The projects were divided into 40 discrete segments that could be accomplished independently of one another with an emphasis on prioritizing projects that allowed for a continuous trail and providing parks and amenities and secondary priorities.

The report also highlighted community participation in the process thus far and partners in the maintenance of the trail and associated projects.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember and Co-chair Danny Wan, Ms. Ricketts-Ferris stated that this plan had been presented to over 1000 individuals and over 25 constituency groups. Councilmember Wan noted later that there are basically three audiences for this plan: the regulatory audience, the business community, who may also become potential funders, and community and neighborhood associations. Councilmember Nadel suggested posting these meetings on the City website.

Councilmember Wan also stated his preference for projects that will create a continuous path to be completed first. Ms. Ricketts-Ferris assured him that her team’s approach is consistent with this suggestion.

Councilmember Nadel wanted to add a “cultural and human element” to the trail and pointed out the opportunity for economic development such as tasteful eateries along the trail. She also mentioned that many people in the Bay Area may enjoy opportunities for bird-watching. Councilmember Nadel noted that there could be opportunities with this project to partner with the Central East Redevelopment PAC.

In reply to a question posed by Commissioner Protopappas, Ms. Ricketts-Ferris informed the committee that not all private property owners had agreed to participate, but that City staff had had several meetings that were promising. She also added that their team has not yet applied for a BCDC permit, but anticipate having regulatory backing.

Commissioner Protopappas asked about the gap in funding and the plan for closing it. The City is looking to partner with corporations and non-profits locally as well as accessing some federal funds.

Public Comment:

There were three public speakers on this item:

1. Sandra Threlfall, Waterfront Action
2. Gary Knecht, South of Nimitz Improvement Council (SoNIC)
3. Sanjiv Handa, East Bay News Service

The report was accepted by consensus.

ITEM 3: An Update Report by the City of Oakland on the Jack London District Transportation Improvement Study

At its October 2003 meeting, the City/Port Liaison Committee requested that staff provide an update on the Jack London District Transportation Improvement Study as well as additional information on how the study's recommendations are being coordinated with planned changes to I-880 adjacent to the Jack London District. Senior Transportation Planner Natalie Fay presented the report.

At the request of Commissioner Protopappas, Port Commercial Real Estate Director, Omar Benjamin, answered questions regarding the potential increase in traffic as a result of development in Jack London Square. It was made clear by Mr. Benjamin to the Committee and attendees that any development in the area on Port property would include an ample number of parking spaces to accommodate any new traffic.

Councilmember Nadel expressed that there are particular aspects of her district that distinguish its transportation challenges from others including a large number of warehouses and a lack of immediate access to BART, potholes, and other obstacles. She also hoped it would have been more comprehensive.

Council President De La Fuente pointed out to City staff that the City already has a residential parking program, with some exceptions in the Rockridge area. He advised staff to be careful in studying the possibilities of mixed-use parking permits, as it would be setting a precedent and to make sure that the cost of the program is covered in a time when the City is facing such economic challenges.

Commissioner Katzoff voiced his excitement about the possibilities of connecting the Jack London Square area with downtown through various suggestions brought to the Committee by public speakers. Councilmember Wan added that any connection might also incorporate Chinatown.

Public Comment:

There were three public speakers on this item:

1. Gary Knecht, South of Nimitz Improvement Council (SoNIC)
2. Merritt Sher
3. Sanjiv Handa, East Bay News Service

After a significant amount of discussion about ideas to improve transportation in the area, it was suggested by Commissioner Katzoff and seconded by several members of the Committee that the discussion continue with the Special Projects Committee of the Planning Commission. Members of the Committee felt that the Planning Commission may be able to spur some significant action, rather than act in the advisory role that the City/Port Liaison Committee is confined to, in this case.

ITEM 4: A Report by the City of Oakland on Oakland Army Base Environmental Clean-up Efforts

Andrew Clough, Environmental Programs Supervisor, provided a summary of the proposed clean-up schedule and an overview of the clean-up efforts for the former Oakland Army Base. Work is currently on track to be completed according to the Remediation Schedule (that is within 3-5 years). The Schedule was approved by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control in November 2003.

Councilmember Nadel pointed out to the viewing public that the City and Port accepted what seemed like a poor deal from the Army because they believe that more economic gain will come from being able to develop the land sooner. Council President De La Fuente echoed Councilmember Nadel emphasizing that this deal was made in the best interest of the public.

Public Comment:

There was one public speaker: Sanjiv Handa, East Bay News Service

Report accepted by consensus.

ITEM 5: Open Forum

There was one speaker during Open Forum: Sanjiv Handa, East Bay News Service

The meeting adjourned after Open Forum at 10:10AM