

## Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group Meeting Summary – July 9, 2007

The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group convened their meeting on Monday, July 9, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium.

Present: Working Group – Bernadette Soter, Clare Darden, Craig Kessler, George Grace, Gerry Hans, Jeff Gardner, Jose Sigala, Susan Swan, and Valerie Vanaman

Council District 4 – Jeanne Chang, Jullian Harris-Calvin  
Recreation and Parks – Vicki Israel, Marilyn J. White, Mike Shull

Absent: Louis Alvarado, Lynn Brown, Richard Bogy

Facilitator: Kevin Regan, Assistant General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks

Mr. Regan opened the meeting by informing the members that this would be his last meeting as facilitator and that Vicki Israel would be taking over as she is the new Assistant General Manager for Operations East, of which Griffith Park is a part of. His new job duties would be the Assistant General Manager of the Department's Operations West. Mr. Regan thanked everyone for their hard work.

Meeting summaries for May and June were not available.

John Hisarich from Assemblymember Krekorian's Office shared that the Assemblymember has met with State Housespeaker Nunez, re: the Griffith Park Fire and any available state funding to assist with the recovery efforts.

Mike Shull, the Department's Planning and Construction Superintendent, displayed some visual aides that depicted plant life and re-growth already taking place in Griffith Park. The display visual aides would be on display at the Visitor Center.

Ms. Vanaman then shared with the Working Group the sub-committee's report on the Park Management Chapter. She provided general descriptions of each major point in the chapter.

A short discussion was held regarding a land exchange with the City of Glendale. Mr. Regan stated that a land swap occurred and Capital Improvements for a Senior Center were completed. The City Attorney concurred that the use of funds for this purpose were appropriate. Ms. Soter voiced concerns regarding the way this matter was handled, i.e. no public hearings were held. Mr. Regan explained that this was not a sale of property, but an agreement over eminent domain in which a legal settlement was reached and that the court system is a public venue. Ms. Vanaman shared that the real issue was the transparency of the process.

A discussion regarding the establishment of a fund to assist in the fire recovery of Griffith Park immediately followed. Ms. Israel stated that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commission approved a report to open an interest bearing account to received donations for the restoration of Griffith Park.

Ms. Israel also shared that the Department is in the process of establishing a "501-c-3" account and that Jane Kolb was leading this effort. She stated that the 501-c-3 account would not be

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known as the Griffith Park Trust Fund and that it would benefit the entire Department, not just Griffith Park. She also stated that funds could be earmarked for a specific park or project.

Ms. Vanaman continued with her report of the Management Chapter and a short discussion about Park Advisory Boards ensued. Mr. Regan explained that the PABs (Park Advisory Boards) were initially established at facilities with recreation centers and that some regional parks also have them. Currently, there are approximately 150+ PABs. The PABs are official bodies subject to the Brown Act and following parliamentary procedures. Ms. Vanaman suggested that more thought be given to this topic and that the matter of establishing a PAB for Griffith Park needed additional discussion. Mr. Sigala asked Mr. Regan if the PROS committee is an advisory board to the park. Mr. Regan replied, “No, it is not.”

Mr. Shull explained that project fragmentation and inconsistencies in Griffith Park occurred prior to the Bureau of Engineering taking over many of the Department’s planning responsibilities. Since then, the planning staff has increased and with additional staffing, consistency can be maintained.

Working Group members agreed that discussions regarding this chapter would not be completed and have to be continued. Future work to be done included an environmental review and assistance from Mr. Shull to complete an environmental checklist. Ms. Vanaman shared that a community member has volunteered to assist with editing all of the chapter work and that some type of executive summary would need to be completed. Mr. Shull agreed to handle the EIR checklist. He also explained it is not an environmental review but merely a checklist which will dictate what kind of process will be needed to undertake when master plan finalizes.

Mr. Regan reminded the Working Group that once all of the chapter work was completed, the finished product was not considered a Master Plan and that all of the documentation involved would still have to be reviewed by various City entities.

Ms. Soter reminded Mr. Regan that not all of the Working Group’s chapters were posted on the Department’s website. Mr. Regan stated he would make another request for it to be posted.

The next Working Group meeting will be held in August. This concluded the Working Group meeting for July 9, 2007.

### Public Comments:

- The establishment of a 501c3 required a board of governors/trustees whose duties include fundraising.
- An executive summary should be released for public comment and this chapter should also contain a vision of what could happen to the park if it is not properly cared for.
- A water basin development proposed by DWP would contribute to the existing West Nile virus problem.
- It is important to know how a 501c3 would be administered.
- When will the park be open for hiking?
- A request was made to plant a miniature North Korean eco-system.