



## Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group Meeting Summary – October 1, 2007

A discussion was raised regarding the common courtesy Mr. Kessler is extending to the governmental agency and the LA Times article before the language of the draft was discussed. One of the issues the working group members have regarding category one is that there will be a large number of representatives to be nominated. It becomes too unwieldy. The working group members are not agreeing with having representatives appointed by the Mayor or the Councilmember. Most of them agree with the second category in which the representatives would be appointed by neighborhood councils abutting the park, LFIA, The Oaks Homeowners Association, and the Griffith Park Trust.

The Board of Franklin Hills Association conducted a meeting. They agreed to support having the three neighborhood councils do all the appointments taking into consideration the user groups. They did not want Mr. Grace to support having LFIA or The Oaks Homeowners be included in the group that does the choosing. Mr. Grace cannot vote on this matter would have to abstain.

It has been decided on the past that affinity groups are not to be listed. The fundamental difference is whether or not the park be entirely a creature of those who live in the surrounding neighborhood. The neighborhood council is focused on the neighborhood, not the city-at-large nor the park. There is nothing wrong with having the largest advisory body to advise the Department and the City Council on the largest urban park in the city.

One big thing that's being overlooked, aside from having three neighborhood councils, there are over 3,000 written responses from over 300 zip codes. This proves diversity and that it is not just the little groups that live around the park that should be part of this. Another point that was brought up was that Griffith Park cannot be all things to all people. It is inherently limited by capacity, by the urban wilderness, by what it is. Ms. Brown added that she was appointed by her constituents from the Equestrian Center and RAP. She is part of the working group because of recognition from several different areas. She feels that the working group is accurately and carefully represented the will of the public as represented by those 3,000 comments that have been received.

According to Mr. Alvarado, all the members have the same goals in mind that is to preserve and conserve the beautiful natural resources that exist in Griffith Park. They are going towards the right direction and he feels that expanding the 16 members for the advisory committee will result to more problems and issues. He suggested keeping it to a minimum of 10 or 12. He reiterated that the working group members are doing a great job and will continue to do so. One concern he has is the next step, how does the master plan be implemented and once implemented, what will happen to it? Would it just be shelved?

RAP has done an excellent job in making itself open to the public even without being required by the Brown Act. The working group is a diverse and very good group and has been handled very well by RAP.

A comment was made regarding the San Fernando Valley not being represented when voting for motions regarding the master plan. A neighborhood council in the San Fernando Valley area should be added since parts of the Valley abuts the park via the LA River.

Neighborhood councils can divide and aren't static. They can rearrange their borders and boundaries. If the language can be shifted to take into account the Valley Council to participate. As stated earlier in the meeting by Ms. Soter, there are a lot of people from the Valley who participate. The PROS Committee members come from different parts of Los Angeles, including Lake View Terrace, Glendale, Burbank and others from the Valley. The language can be changed for it to be an open-ended statement to accommodate the neighborhood councils that are within the boundaries of Griffith Park. This may possibly be an improvement to the group.

Concerns were brought up regarding terms used on the draft and was further discussed by the working group members. One point was made that there should be an odd number of members for voting purposes. This should be considered when revising the draft.

Residential groups are welcome to participate in neighborhood councils. The Oaks Homeowners Association and the LFIA have been the most supportive of the park for a very long time. A single park does not make up the park system. Griffith Park is clearly a unique resource; majority of acreage has been kept in natural state and has been supported by the public. The working group has been conscious in every step of the way with wide variety of interests that exist and the fundamental nature they support in the park.

## Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group Meeting Summary – October 1, 2007

The Oaks and the LFIA are the most affected by the May 2007 fire and should be listed on the document. However, Mr. Grace is afraid that listing specific groups might weaken the document down the road. According to Mr. Grace, Mr. Kessler's choice of words on his proposed draft is superior.

The working group's goal is to have an independent committee to be the voice of the community. Ms. Israel reminded the working group that any type of policy must be presented to the Board of Commissioners. They were also reminded not to expect funding from RAP if they are not going through the Commissioners. Ms Soter would like to further research the matter further before adding to the master plan.

The motion to approve that portion of the August 5, 2007 draft of Chapter VII, Section C, that deals with the composition and selection of members of the citizen advisory committee, with the yes vote indicating the approval of the language that at least 20 members for two years without compensation and no more than two consecutive terms. The citizen advisory board will be selected by the neighborhood council abutting or in boundaries of Griffith Park. The LFIA and the Oaks Homeowners Association or the succeeding organizations has the ability to select four members to ensure among the individuals selected, there is, with all other members of the Los Angeles community, dedicated to the preservation of the park as urban wilderness. Eight members were in favor, one opposed and one abstained. Mr. Kessler clarified that the motion stated that all members are restricted to the urban wilderness identity, meaning anyone who does not share to that idea cannot serve.

It was agreed upon that the revisions need to be made to the draft be discussed at a later sub-committee meeting.

Ms. Soter withdrew from the meeting. The goal is to finish the Park Management Chapter by the next meeting. RAP's Planning and Development Section will be handling the EIR Checklist. The staff has been fully dedicated to the fire recovery efforts. Council District 4 staff has been reminded of the funding the working group requested from Councilmember Tom LaBonge. The October 1, 2007 Working Group meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

Public Comments include the following:

- Agreed with Mr. Kessler's valid point that there's a perception by outside of the people who are familiar to the fine and dedicated work by the working group, that there's self-interest operating among the chosen for the advisory group.
- Neighborhood councils are main entity and are excellent in demonstrating its democratic and open process that is open to everybody across the city.
- It's a disservice to say that the neighborhood council who abut the park would not have the interest of the people. They know what's going on in the park.
- A recommendation not to let outside citizen group to put a garden in the park with non-native plants
- Congratulating the working group for the hard work they have done and hoping to see the finish product soon.
- Appreciate that one park doesn't make up a park system. It is important to recognize what makes Griffith Park unique which is the amount of undeveloped land.
- Curiosity on Mr. Kessler's and Ms. Israel's opinion on urban wilderness identity.
- Inquiry regarding trail closures
- An announcement was made regarding Symphony in the Glen's free symphony concert, Out of the Ashes, on Sunday, October 14, 2007. There will be information regarding the May 2007 fire and the recovery efforts at the event.