

**Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group  
Meeting Summary – February 4, 2008**

The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group convened their meeting on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 6:37 p.m. at the Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium.

Present:        Working Group:        Bernadette Soter, Clare Darden, Craig Kessler, George Grace,  
Gerry Hans, Jeff Gardner, Louis Alvarado, Lynn Brown, Susan  
Swan and Valerie Vanaman

Council District 4:        Rory Fitzpatrick, Jullian Calvin-Harris and

Recreation and Parks: Marilyn J. White, Russell Ewald and Christina Iwata

Absent:         Jose Sigala and Richard Bogy

Facilitator:    Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks

Ms. Israel opened the meeting by calling the roll of the working group members and introducing Recreation and Parks (RAP) and Council District 4 (CD 4) staff. Ms. Krishon Farley, Special Assistant to Councilmember LaBonge was introduced. This was followed by the discussion of the meeting summaries for the months of July, August, October and November 2007. Changes were requested on the July 2007 and the October 2007 meeting summaries. These changes will be made by Ms. Iwata and will be posted on the website by the end of the week. The August 2007 meeting summary approval was put on hold pending the two copies of the audio tapes that were requested by Ms. Vanaman and Mr. Gardner. Any changes or comments on the November 2007 meeting summary must be submitted to Ms. Iwata by Friday, February 15, 2008. Any changes and comments received will be revised on the document.

Ms. Vanaman distributed the document “A Vision for Griffith Park An Urban Wilderness Identity”, the consolidated chapters of the work product of the Working Group. The table of contents does not include the Executive Summary which has not been written, the EIR and the appendices. Time has gone by since the Working Group started this document and changes have been made on certain facts to reflect current status. Most changes made to the document are grammatical and sentence structures. The goals and objectives are the same other than some language clean-up. Footnotes are not complete due to more research needed to gather appendices. Appendices are to be identified with the document. Ms. Vanaman takes full responsibility of changing the order of the chapters. Ms. Bernadette Soter distributed the appendices which include different types of documents such as maps, list, multi-page charts, illustrated documents, etc. A publishing expert is needed to standardize the format of these appendices.

In behalf of RAP, Working Group, and the public members, Ms. Israel thanked Ms. Vanaman and the people who have helped her in putting together the entire document. Unfortunately, Ms. Vanaman has no way of red-lining the document to show the changes since she lost the electronic version of the original document. The electronic version of the new document will be sent to RAP by Ms. Vanaman. She pointed out that the Vision Chapter has been revised. All the words are still there but have been rearranged. The Working Group members should review the new document and compare to the old version. The old versions of the chapters are on the website. A complete copy of the appendices was requested by Ms. Israel from Ms. Soter. However, according to Ms. Soter, she would need to sit down with one of the RAP staff to assist her. The appendices need to look like the rest of the document, which RAP staff would have to figure out what they could to help in piecing the document together. This was the first time the Working Group has seen all the appendices and has not agreed on any of them. It was suggested that the Working Group members review the documents and come back the

## **Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group Meeting Summary – February 4, 2008**

following month to discuss the changes made and the appendices. The goal is to have a user friendly book. The following are the proposed appendices to the document:

- Griffith Park Natural History Survey
- Los Angeles Parking Lot – Prop O
- North Atwater Creek Stream, Bureau of Sanitation Approved Design
- Regional Parks Features and Facilities Comparison Chart
- Park Advisory Comparison Chart
- Rim of the Valley Trail Map
- Cartifact Maps
- Proposed New Buildings in The Melendrez Draft
- Proposed Buildings To Be Demolished in The Melendrez Draft
- Entry Way Structures Proposed in The Melendrez Draft
- List of Built Features in Griffith Park
- Parking Structures Recommended in the Melendrez Draft
- Northridge Recreation Study Executive Summary

Many of these appendices were mentioned on the document distributed by Ms. Vanaman. The surveys have been validated by Dan Cooper of the Natural History Survey. RAP took a survey of parking spaces within Griffith Park. The count of parking space is still unclear since certain areas have been re-stripped. When asked how the appendices could be included on the document, Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested waiting for the next meeting. He also suggested that the document provided by Ms. Vanaman be reviewed first and then the review of the appendices should follow. Ms. Vanaman clarified that the meaning of the document has not been changed. Ms. Soter will e-mail the Working Group members the recommended list of appendices by chapter. Mr. Gardner requested submission of maps from RAP that may be helpful. Mr. Grace informed the Working Group members that the electronic version of the Melendrez draft is on the website. As courtesy, RAP would have to ask permission from Cartifact to use the maps.

Ms. Vanaman stated a few changes made to the document:

- Page 22, Park Vegetation C – It used to state nine different types of plant communities. This has been changed to eight.
- Page 21, Park Setting – The language regarding 20 smaller water sheds has been revised.
- Page 34, Paragraph 2 – It used to state that “The Los Feliz Adobe is the jewel of the park that should be preserved and utilized.” The word “jewel” has been omitted. Griffith Park has a lot of jewels within the park.
- The confusion regarding the two types of soil, the Tujunga Soil and the San Andres/San Benitez Soil has been clarified by separating the descriptions into two paragraphs.

Ms. Israel suggested that everyone review the documents and come back to the next meeting with additions, revisions and comments. Mr. Kessler will be submitting his comments in writing since he will not be available to attend the next meeting. Mr. Grace highly recommends the newsletter of Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council called the WatershedWise. This newsletter has a great story of the Griffith Park fire. There are articles on the fire recovery and why decisions have been made to apply hydromulch. Ms. Soter distributed some copies to the Working Group members, RAP staff, CD 4 staff and the audience.

Ms. Vanaman asked how the hydromulch withstood the last rainstorm. It provided a great deal of help in surviving the rainstorm. Everyone should be thankful that RAP hydromulched at the right time. RAP staff has done a great job in preparing for the rainstorm and preventing property damage. K-rails have been placed in certain areas to help divert the water. Ms. White shared some photos of the Vista Del Valle damages. Vista Del Valle has been closed and will remain closed due to the undermined road

## **Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group Meeting Summary – February 4, 2008**

caused by the amount of water it sustained. No one is allowed in the area since it is still unsafe and unstable. K-rails were placed in this area because RAP staff knew that this area would get some mud however, three K-rails went down the hill due to the force of water and mud. The K-rails at Vermont and Commonwealth have helped a great deal in diverting water. Old Zoo suffered some damages as seen on the photos. No water is running through the Old Zoo anymore. Overall, the park has held up through the fire and rains. A lot of green are coming through. Burned areas are still burned and some areas are still off-limits. Mr. Alvarado added that RAP has kept the hikers in line with the guidelines they have to follow. He also thanked RAP for the job well done in preparing for the storm. The only thing that bothers him is the natural habits that are destroyed due to erosion repair. Ms. White added that RAP crews have been at the park daily and grading the trails and that they have completed the assessment. In the past month, RAP staff has been maintaining the open trails and roads. All catch basins have been cleaned and are clear of debris.

Ms. Soter inquired about the Environmental Checklist and when they could work with Mr. Mike Shull, Superintendent of RAP's Planning and Development. Ms. Israel has spoken to Mr. Shull and he shared with her an example of an Environmental Checklist which is a 15-page long document. According to Mr. Shull, RAP has environmental consultants whom could be hired on as needed basis. He recommended that when the time comes, RAP submit a scope of work and see if any of them would be interested in doing the Environmental Checklist. Mr. Hans asked if this checklist is different than what Melendrez has done because theirs is very brief. According to Ms. Vanaman, Melendrez should have done a checklist but did not. A question was raised on the status of the funding source that was on the Arts, Parks, Health, and Aging agenda. There was a planned discussion on funding that was requested specifically pertaining to the Working Group. Per Mr. Fitzpatrick, CD 4 has identified \$25,000 to be transferred to RAP account. It is unknown if this will cover all the costs to finalize the document. If it is used for the environmental checklist then there would not be funding to finalize the document. The Working Group members assumed that the Environmental Checklist would be done by Mr. Shull and the \$25,000 funding would be for the editing, finalizing, binding and printing of the document. Mr. Shull does not have the staff to do the Environmental Checklist. He has lost two environmental staff members and cannot hire new employees due to the hiring freeze.

The next Working Group meeting will be held Monday, March 3, 2008. This concluded the February 4, 2008 meeting.

Public Comments include the following:

- The Autry National Center's Open House is on Sunday, February 10, 2008, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., admission is free. There will be a presentation at 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. A model of the proposed renovation will be available. Flyers were distributed at the meeting.
- The Griffith Park clean-up and tree planting of California native oaks are on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.
- An appreciation for the hard work of employees working on the fire recovery. A phone number was given to the residence of the area to help the neighbors with storm damage. The staff has been very responsive.
- The Griffith Park Adult Community Center's dedication was excellent and was given a gold star.