

**Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group
Meeting Summary – April 7, 2008**

The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group convened their meeting on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 6:40 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,
Richard Bogy, Susan Swan and Valerie Vanaman

Council District 4: Rory Fitzpatrick and Jullian Harris-Calvin

Recreation and Parks: Marilyn J. White, Tom McCall, Peggy Nguyen and
Christina Iwata

Absent: Jose Sigala

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 Council District 4 (CD 4) and Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff. This was followed by introducing Mr. Daniel Cooper, a consultant hired by Recreation and Parks (RAP) to study wildlife in the burned areas in Griffith Park. Mr. Cooper's presentation can be found on www.griffithparkwildlife.org.

Money allocated for the wildlife study will run out in August 2008. Mr. Grace asked if ongoing studies are needed in order to implement the best management practices. Having Mr. Cooper help with the wildlife management plan puts the park on the map. RAP is hoping that scientists and professionals from universities and around the area will show their own interests in running studies of Griffith Park. Mr. Cooper emphasized the wildlife management plan is just a draft and is not final. The plan discusses restoration priorities and best management practices. Mr. Cooper is relying on the Working Group members, RAP, and the community to review the document and provide input and feedback. All suggestions and comments may be e-mailed to Mr. Cooper at dan@cooperecological.com.

Mr. Hans informed Mr. Cooper that the Management Chapter of the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group draft document discusses the sonic and light disturbances impact on wildlife at night. He also informed him that there are light and sound issues from filming and events that occur at Griffith Park. Mr. Cooper did not want to give misinformation and did not comment on the question regarding sound and light impact to wildlife. However, he suggested that a directed survey on light and sound may be conducted and several surveys pertaining to these issues may be looked up on the web. Ms. Soter wanted to know since it was stated that animals do not observe human boundaries, would it be safe to say that for this study to be effective it must be curb to curb with Griffith Park, as well as the wildlife corridors leading to and from it. Mr. Cooper agreed with her statement and has informed her that on the website, an analysis of the wildlife corridor is included.

RAP will take into consideration Ms. Soter's suggestion of dispensing these types of information to the press as materials in writing their articles regarding the Griffith Park fire. There will be several articles will be written in commemoration of the one year anniversary of the Griffith Park fire. Mr. Cooper volunteered to prepare a one-page monitoring update.

Ms. Brown complimented Mr. Cooper in the phenomenal job he has done. The only thing that caught her eyes was the reference to "not spraying in the park". Spraying is the only way to get rid of castor beans and is one of the things necessary to maintain the park. Mr. Cooper admitted that it was an oversight and it has been brought to his attention. He will be correcting this on the website right away.

Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group Meeting Summary – April 7, 2008

According to Mr. Hans, some of the plans can be implemented with minimal cost such as pulling the wrong plants and planting the right ones.

A question was raised if it is possible to consider the different areas such as Echo Park, Elysian Park, McArthur Park where birds migrate, and to discover not just one area but the unified link of the whole movement. It is a possibility according to Mr. Cooper and he recommended the website for the San Francisco Natural Areas Program. Mr. Cooper is still in the middle of bio-monitoring and did not want to discuss the hydromulch's impact on wildlife. Hydromulch was sprayed over certain burned areas, where mud and debris were predicted to flow into the neighborhood during the heavy rains. On behalf of RAP, Ms. Israel confirmed that the hydromulching was successful. There were no injuries and damages to the residential properties below the burned areas due to the application of hydromulch and placement of K-rails. There was one non-residential area where hydromulch was not applied and mud flowed during the heavy rains. The hydromulch process, K-rails and sandbagging cost almost three million dollars. Some of the funds came from the City's General Fund. Councilmember LaBonge put a motion through the City Council to assist in fire recovery and debris flow prevention. A question was raised regarding the 50 million dollars the City was supposed to receive from the Governor for the fire recovery. A representative from Assemblymember Paul Krekorian's office was present at the meeting. His office will be monitoring the status of the funds and will report back to the Working Group members and RAP. According to Ms. Nguyen, the initial recovery cost was estimated to be 50 million dollars however it will not cost that much.

A suggestion was made to Mr. Cooper on visiting the Department of Water and Power's website. It has a document on 2005 wildlife study that may be helpful to his study. RAP is waiting for a final draft to review. Several people will be reviewing the draft. There's a diverse group of people on the Fire Recovery Task Force that contribute their expertise and knowledge in terms of managing the fire recovery. RAP staff needs to review the plan to verify the feasibility of work, taking into account the various park users. The plan adoption will depend on the result of the community working with RAP and local leaders.

The Fire Recovery Task Force will continue to meet and there is no timeframe as to when the meetings will end. Ms. Soter is impressed with the level of expertise and education of the Task Force members.

The equestrians' fundraiser for the fire recovery was a success. Ms. Brown acknowledged the assistance they received from CD 4, RAP staff and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council. Ms. Israel thanked Ms. Brown for the hard work she put in for this event and congratulated her for a successful event.

Discussions of the meeting summaries resulted to the following:

- August 6, 2007 : Discussion held for May 5, 2008 meeting
- February 4, 2008 : Approved
- March 3, 2008 : Changes to Ms. Vanaman's statement regarding the CEQA checklist was requested to be rewritten. The tape will be reviewed by Ms. Iwata and will verify what was said by Ms. Vanaman.
 - : Ms. Soter clarified a statement on the third paragraph that not all Working Group members represent a community group. This sentence will be rephrased by Ms. Iwata.
 - : Ms. Soter also noticed the error on the statement regarding the \$25,000 funding from CD 4. Mr. Hans clarified that the money will be shared for the environmental process to assist in the preparation of the draft. Ms. Iwata will correct this sentence.

Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group Meeting Summary – April 7, 2008

A motion will be introduced to City Council for the transfer of \$25,000 from CD 4 to RAP. The Environmental Impact Report Checklist is an official CEQA document which went out to bid to environmental consultants. No timeframe on the responses by consultants. Mr. Grace will contact Cartifact for permission to use maps for the appendices.

A suggestion was made that the Wildlife Management Plan's Executive Summary and some other portions of the plan be adopted as an appendix to the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group's document. Mr. Grace suggested that the whole study be an appendix. Ms. Israel suggested that the Wildlife Management Plan be referenced in the Working Group's document instead of including the whole study. Mr. Hans suggested that this be discussed at a sub-committee meeting.

One of the RAP staff has initially reviewed the Working Group's draft document and did not find any major changes to the document however, has found minor corrections, such as official names of some entities mentioned on the draft. RAP staff will highlight suggested changes on the document. This draft document will be going through the chain of command. While the draft document is being reviewed by RAP staff, the Working Group members should focus on the writing of the Executive Summary. Ms. Soter has taken the initiative of writing the Executive Summary.

The next Working Group meeting will be held Monday, May 5, 2008. The April 7, 2008 meeting concluded at 8:25 p.m.

Public Comments include the following:

- Angela Mooney-Darcy, Policy Director for City Project gave a recap of the City Project that was mentioned at the March 2008 Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group meeting. The City Project received a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to do a feasibility study of the Central Service Yard.
- A Glendale resident acknowledged the Working Group members efforts and hard work.
- CD 4 will introduce the motion to transfer the \$25,000 from CD 4 to RAP.
- A joint clean-up effort of the Bird Sanctuary by CD 4 and the Pacific Asian Volunteer Association will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008.
- As part of the Mayor's Big Sunday, CD 4 will be hosting an event with 200 foster children on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Griffith Park.
- A Griffith Park Fire Anniversary Press Conference will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. by the Greek Theatre. CD 4 will send out an E-mail announcement.
- An appreciation of hiring Mr. Cooper to work on the Wildlife Management Plan and recommendation of adoption of the plan.