

Final Minutes
Griffith Park Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 6:30pm
Griffith Park Visitors Center

Board Members

Karen Thornton, Chair, Alex Crow, Vice Chair, Chris Laib, Secretary, Jane Carlson, Aaron Chung, Jason Greenwald, Billy Griffin, Amy Gustincic, T. Hagans, Alex Phillips

1. Call to Order: Laib

Thornton, Crow, Laib, Carlson, Chung, Greenwald, Griffin, Gustincic, Hagans, Phillips present. Quorum.

Chair introduces two new members: T. Hagans and Amy Gustincic, each of whom gave a brief bio and stated their interest in Griffith Park issues. Hagans an equestrian, rides in the park and Gustincic a park runner, and also on the Greek Theatre Advisory Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes: Laib

No corrections. 6 approvals, 2 abstentions due to absence. Approved.

3. Special Guests

Jennifer Hull, Council District 4

-Wants input from us for appropriations.

Laib: how do we weigh in on appropriations? Hull: Email me.

-Los Feliz Plunge/Community Pool: \$3m Quimby Funds dedicated, in addition to funds from Congressman Schiff's appropriation; ready to go to contract; estimated 14 months for design work, 2 years for construction.

Phillips: Clarification on pool time frames? Hull: At least another 3 years for pool to be repaired, completed and reopened.

-Cal Trans devising solutions and plans for LA River adjacent trails.

-Introduction of Jonathan Anderson, new CD4 deputy for Hollywood Hills between Laurel Canyon and Western Ave. Goes by J, he passed out contact information.

-Dante's water source: For water to be continued/restored there, it will require a full tank replacement. The water fountain is capped and there is signage saying such: A new tank would be required for potable water.

-Pedestrian and traffic safety being studied at Hillhurst/Los Feliz intersection. There have been numerous accidents and pedestrian injuries at this intersection.

Someone has actually spray painted 'additional clarity lines' for left hand turns. Does not appear to be the city....

Board Questions

-Thornton: I reported several months ago about metal tags on trails being hazards to hikers and horses. Jennifer: They are surveying ground tags for future trail and hillside work, have to stay in ground, and have to be metal for longevity. They belong to DWP and other governmental entities. They should be at limits of trails, and any that are in trail pathways need to be reported to CD4, if they're a hazard and sticking up.

-Chung: Can we request monies for the Dante's tank? Hull: Yes, during appropriations, you can do so, but there are limited funds and it is unlikely this would make the cut.

4. General Public Comment for items not on the agenda

-Dodge for FOGP: We've been busy mulching and sponsoring biodiversity talks, and tours of Fern Dell. Stay tuned for a 9/28 FOGP event in the park. P22 day is 10/19!

-Alyce: Distributed a photo montage of broken and spray painted signs in the park. Appears mostly *No Bike* access signs have been vandalized. And the sign at the 134/Victory bridge is repeatedly vandalized. Pls close padlocked gates and replace the signs.

-Flanagan: Would like the board to agendaize the Riverside ABH at an upcoming meeting.

-Hans for FOGP: Latest news letter distributed to adjacent neighborhoods and at visitor ctr. 11k distribution. Purpose is education; FOGP is coordinating with LA Natural History museum re: rodenticide education. If you see fresh roadkill, call Hans, so that they can take to a laboratory.

-Goldknopf: Would like signage that includes notice that scooters/e-bikes are not allowed on unpaved trails in the park.

-Louise: FOGP have a weeding maintenance mtg at Anza Trail on 8/10. And a lecture about rodenticides at LF Library on 8/10 in the pm.

-Dawn: ABH concerns, particularly about permanent housing getting placed in the park. Laib: CD4 and RAP have declared permanent housing illegal in Griffith Park, on numerous occasions.

5. Information Reports

-Superintendent Smith: Haunted Hayride vendor unable to make the meeting so she will give the report:

This year's event is fundamentally the same as last year, except a bit longer; August 26 set up; Nov 1 start to take down; operating dates are 9/28-11/2. Take down completed by 11/17.

Board Comment/Questions

-Chung: I went last year. Felt it was run well. Clean up done well.

-Carlson: Went last year also and enjoyed it. What is revenue contribution to the dept? Smith: \$334k + we historically have retained most of the \$36k deposit for clean up and mitigation.

-Greenwald: Does the money stay in GP and will alcohol sales be permitted?

Smith: Funds stay in Griffith Park. In past it has funded way finding signage, brushing, traffic mitigation. There will be no permitted alcohol sales. Mainly, because it is a nighttime event.

-Greenwald: This should come to the board in time for us to weigh in. Smith: It's never been a motion item.

-Phillips: The RFP should be released to other vendors. Was there a traffic issue? Smith and Thornton: Yes, there was a traffic challenge and it was resolved satisfactorily in two days.

-Crow: Why did the money go to Parks Foundation in past. Why not now?

Smith: It was considered a contribution but the City Attorney won't allow it to go thru Foundation any longer.

-Crow: It seems that the event is growing, did you approve that? Smith: The growth approval is an Ex Comm level decision.

-Laib: I have fire concerns primarily, somewhat alleviated by the new location away from the wilderness hillsides. Is there a fire dept rep on site? Smith: Yes, fire experts are on site, as are rangers.

-Griffin: The event should stay in GP.

-Gustincic: Hates Haunted Hayride. It cuts off and displaces other users-runners and picnickers.

-Laib: Correct, and traditional park user group displacement a major concern, as stated in our governing document, the Vision for GP.

Public Comment/Questions:

-Goldknopf: New HH event mng't is more responsible. Why isn't Ex Comm running this by GPAB? And transportation will be a nightmare, also displacing hikers, in this case the Sierra Club hikers.

-Button: Will there be more graffiti because of the Haunted Hayride? Can we get some security for the new P-22 mural here at Park Central?

-Hans for FOGP: This is the 14th year, for first 11 monies went to LA Parks Foundation. Now directly to RAP. This year adds 6 days. There needs to be better public accounting of the monies. FOGP wants a written accounting. And, fair business practice requires an RFP, like other vendors; HH has not had an RFP in recent years. Just renewals.

-Dawn: I like the Hayride!

-Louise: The length of time for this is longer. Restoration of habitat, etc, should be part of the mitigation.

-Board Comments and Questions

A general discussion re: future goals: Smaller calendar, off site parking and transport, continuation of no alcohol. Minimize displacement. Better accountability of funds.

6. Superintendents Report

Smith

-Phase 3 Griffith Park Active Transportation Improvement Project: Is stalled due to an unexpected intervention by LADOT, which has made some recommendations, now at RAP executive offices for integration. A late August start date is now expected.

-Observatory Parking Meter repairs: 20 of 22 meters now operational, which is more than ever. (Board applause)

-Fern Dell ADA restrooms: Are now completed and reopened, including gender neutral accommodations, as required by state law.

-Pony Ride replacement: All outreach complete. The consultant recommendations are now expected to go the the Parks Commission sometime in August.

-Recent Fires/Brush Clearance: There were two recent park fires, both suspected to be arson. One near/at Travel Town and another in Oak Canyon. Both extinguished quickly. Arsonist not caught. The brushing in public property adjacent park land is completed. Other park brushing continuing.

-Mt. Hollywood Drive Potholes: Have been patched. It was quite a large project and bicyclists and other park users seem happy.

-Independent Shakespeare in the Park: Is beginning on the lawn, at usual location near the Old Zoo.

-Lake Hollywood Film Monitors: Film LA is increasing monitoring in the Lake Hollywood Park area particular. And, vendors there are getting "out of hand".

7. Committee Reports

Hollywood Sign Working Group Update

Greenwald and Laib

-Convened by Council District Four last fall, with representatives from NC's, neighborhood associations and other constituent groups. The primary focus has been two-fold: mitigation of tourist impact in neighborhoods adjacent to the Hollywood Sign, particularly traffic and

safety impacts, as well as long-term planning for transit solutions to take pressure off the entire area. Lake Hollywood area has been the dominant focus, among other impacted neighborhoods such as Beachwood Canyon and the Oaks. One major solution being studied is a free shuttle from Hollywood Metro to Lake Hollywood, with related traffic improvements.

Beachwood Canyon Dr shuttling and pedestrian access also under discussion. Transit funding sources are being explored.

Executive Committee

Thornton: The agenda for this meeting and officer succession planning discussed.

8. Board Business

-It appears several board members, including officers are not available for August meeting.

-Motion to skip August meeting approved unanimously.

-Suggested topics for September meeting include a refresh discussion about status of Riverside ABH and a financial report regarding the Observatory meters.

9. Adjournment

First: Greenwald Second: Phillips

Unanimous adjournment at 8:56pm.

Next Meeting on September 26, 2024 at Park Central Auditorium