

**Final Minutes  
Griffith Park Advisory Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 25, 2024  
Friendship Hall

**1. Call to Order** Chair Thornton

at 6:34 pm

-Chair remarks: We have been advised that the golf reservation system and golf issues are not in our purview, and therefore, although golf is on the agenda and we will give the report, we will not be making any motions, nor writing a letter. As a point of information: While the executive team creates the agenda, its final version is subject to editing and revision by the department.

-Roll Call

Present: Carlson, Crow, Greenwald, Griffin, Laib, Phillips, Thornton

Excused: Chung

**2. Approval of Minutes** Secretary Laib

Unanimously approved, with two minor corrections.

**3. Special Guests**

Transportation Deputy Mehmet Berker, Council Office 4

-The South Griffith Park planning process is underway, funding is secured and is in RAP Planning currently.

-City budget hearings resulting in a \$5.3m allocation for the Griffith Park pool/plunge restoration. \$500k has been allocated for the Sunnynook Bridge repairs. 4.5k for Wonderview Trail repairs and 150k for Fish Bridge.

-Drawings are being produced for the River Phase 4 project. The 101 offramp issues are stuck at CalTrans

Board Questions/Comments

Phillips: What about the Lake Hollywood trailhead Berker: Working on it. Involves DWP

Thornton: In an email from the council office regarding the recent Roger Young Village commemorative plaque, there appeared to be intent to add housing for the homeless emergency. Berker: No, not allowed.

Public Questions/Comments

Sarajane, HHH: The western side of the park is designated for 'passive recreational activities, not tourism'.

Cameron: What is South GP timeline? Berker: We will publish that as soon as it is out of RAP planning. And, post on our website.

**4. General Public Comment**

Marian Dodge, FOGP: We had a wonderful Earth Day celebration at the Bird Sanctuary, planted trees and the Mayor joined us. Also, the FOGP funded P-22 mural is being installed at the Park Central auditorium.

-Stephanie Vendig, Griffith Park Adult Activity Center: GPAAC wants to thank CD4 and GPAB for its work on So. GP and advocacy for a new GPAAC community center.

-Cameron: There is a 4 year significant spike in serious crimes in So GP since the ABH has been there.

## 5. Information Reports and Presentations

-Hollywood Sign Discussion: Board

Thornton: The Sign Trust announced at our last meeting that they 'own' the Hollywood Sign, so we would like to discuss and clarify that; and who possesses authority for monetization, stewardship and access permission.

Laib: I think most of us involved in GP for many years have assumed/do assume that the sign, being it resides on park land, inside of Griffith Park, is owned by the city and managed by RAP.

Greenwald: GPAB supported several recommendations in the prior Dixon Report, particularly that any sign transit gathering points and/or Sign visitor center be outside the park. Being the city council accepted the Dixon Report findings, perhaps we need clarification from the City Attorney's office regarding these issues?

**Motion:** That GPAB send a letter to various city entities, including the City Attorney, clarifying ownership, access control, lighting and rights to monetization of the Hollywood Sign. Laib, Second, Phillips. Unanimous approval.

Stefanie Smith: No clarification necessary: The City owns the sign and the department manages it.

Thornton: We shall write a letter. Greenwald agrees to draft for board approval.

### Public Comment

Sheila Irani, Lake Hollywood HOA and HUNC: The tourism resulting from the Chamber and Trusts' promotion of the sign impacts the adjacent neighborhoods tremendously.

Sarajane, HHH: Read a statement about the history of the sign and that the HHH has some jurisdiction also, including thwarting tourism impact on their neighborhoods.

Christine O'Brien, HHH: She has documentation that clarifies all of this, including data about the Hollywood Sign Trust, and that they have no jurisdiction.

Unidentified man: The tourism in our canyons and park is unsustainable and inflicts an untenable safety hazard on our neighborhoods, both for fire and if there is an emergency requiring evacuation.

Greenwald: Clarity very important, particularly with the upcoming World Cup and Olympics bringing large volumes of tourists.

-Golf Reservation System Update: Laib

The Golf Division has implemented several changes to its reservation system, including a warning that it is illegal and prosecutable to resell tee times, an 'I am not a robot' screening, and a \$10. non refundable deposit/golfer. I have had the pleasure recently of golfing on a city course for the first time in 4 years, and having regularly gone on

reservation system site, found tee times much more readily available, although still competitive.

#### Board Questions/Comments

Thornton: The Golf Division will have to remain vigilant, as internet pirates are adept at finding work arounds.

Laib: As a golfer, I will continually be going on the site and will report to Thornton if I learn of any new tee time blockage.

#### Public Questions/Comments

None

### **Superintendents Updates: Smith**

-Pony Ride Site: A year long public surveying period is now concluded and results are with our consultants. They will advise the RAP board of their recommendations, probably in late spring or early summer.

-Educational Sign Completion: The unveiling of the latest educational sign in the park took place at Train Town last month. It commemorates the Roger Young Village in Griffith Park, where returning WWII veterans and their family were housed until they could find permanent housing. It was a wonderful event, well attended, including by several Roger Young children, who recalled their years there.

-Earth Day Event: As stated by Marian, a wonderful event, with a last minute addition of the Mayor, and the inherent scrambling that involves. A shout out to prior GPAB Vice President Laura Howe, who did a marvelous job with the tree planting and including Mayor Bass in the festivities.

-New Ranger vehicles: The rangers now have, and are using, 4 e-bikes and 2 gas powered cross vehicles for better access on the trails and fire roads.

#### Board Questions/Comments

Carlson: We need to update the trail and way-finding on the department website.

Phillips: I cannot share it yet, but an upgrade of trail mapping is about to launch.

Carlson: We need to start enforcing a crack down on illegal vending-especially at places like Shanes Inspiration. Smith: It is a ranger staffing problem, they just can't do it with current staffing.

Thornton: I would like to appoint an ad hoc committee on this, with Carlson as chair. Some discussion as to the need for one. Decided that Carlson would meet with Chief Ranger, do some investigating, and report back. Griffin volunteers to be on the ad hoc.

Laib: Please don't take away the great grilled hot dogs outside the Greek tho. Please, they are the best!

Thornton: Thanked the maintenance staff for repair work being done to the water troughs in the park.

Phillips: What is status of the meter repair at the Observatory? Smith: Parts are ordered and should arrive within 2 weeks. The repairs will be made immediately upon delivery.

#### Public Questions/Comments

Sarajane: The Hollywood Sign tourism is unsustainable.

Sheila Irani: We need enforcement of the no smoking and parking regulations at Lake Hollywood. We haven't seen rangers there for years. Smith: The board should invite the Ranger Chief to a meeting to share these concerns.

Unidentified woman: I live in Lake Hollywood area and there are actually illegal hiking tours taking place at very sensitive trailheads in the area, that cannot handle the volume. And, not unlike the monetization of the sign by others, they are charging and profiting and congesting our neighborhood with vans and busses.

-Steve Alper: I sent a Hollywood Sign document I created to you via the department (note: We all received it)

## **7. Committee and Ad Hoc Reports**

-Executive: Thornton

We met via phone and discussed the April agenda and the dust up about golf. Our executive committee did feel that golf is in our purview, being that 3 of the system's courses and its largest course is here in Griffith Park.

-Hollywood Sign working group: Greenwald

(note: This working group is neither a committee nor an ad hoc of this board, which is seated and presided over by CD4. However, Greenwald and Laib are members of the group, and the board requested regular updates).

We had a good meeting and are now several months into the process of identifying solutions for the impact that Hollywood Sign sightseeing has on our neighborhoods. Last meeting had good discussions, including traffic statistics being collected at various areas, and sign lighting protocols.

-Laura Friedman letter: Greenwald

The board was distributed a letter from Assemblyperson Friedman, who has asked that recently clawed back budget funding for studying north and east park shuttling be restored. The letter that she wrote to Assembly leadership was signed by 17 Assemblypeople.

## **8. Board Business: Thornton**

-New ad hoc to report on ranger enforcement, including possible visit by Chief Loserelli.

## **9. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Greenwald, second Phillips

Adjourned at 8:26pm

Next meeting is on Thursday, May 23rd, 6:30pm, likely at our regular location at Park Central Auditorium. Confirmation will be posted on the RAP website prior to the meeting, in compliance with the Brown Act.