

Griffith Park Advisory Board Final Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 28, 2024
Griffith Park Visitor Center Auditorium

Call to Order Chair Thornton

-Roll Call Secretary Laib
Present: Chung, Crow, Greenwald, Griffin, Phillips, Laib, Thornton
Excused: Carlson

Approval of Minutes
Unanimous approval with one grammar correction

Special Guests
Field Deputy Jennifer Hull, CD4
-The motion to embark on a South Griffith Park master planning process has been approved by City Council
-All around dedicated left hand turn signals at Los Feliz Bl and Vermont Ave have been installed and are operating, just in time for the 2024 Greek concert season
-Four million dollars for funding GP phase 2 traffic plan has now been secured
-The Los Feliz municipal pool restoration contract will be awarded soon

Board Questions/Comments
Thornton: Thank you CD4 and Hull for staying on the left had turn signals at Vermont/ LF Bl. You have been tenacious. Applause.

Public Questions/Comments
None

General Public Comment
-Marian Dodge, FOGP: Thank you to the board for the letter of support for the Fern Dell water restoration project. There are a series of fun Los Feliz Library supported children oriented walk arounds in GP with informational stations, now through April 29.
-T Haggins: (Karen, correct?) Horseback rental rides would be a revenue idea for the park
-Steve Alper: The Hollywood Sign fence to Mt Lee is in bad shape.

Informational Reports and Presentations
-Hollywood Sign Time Capsule Proposal: Brian Lane from the Hollywood Sign Trust presented re: A time capsule for the Hollywood Sign, honoring its 100th anniversary. It might include clips from films, old photos, light bulbs, maps. It is “an engagement concept”

Board Questions

Thornton: What is the Hollywood Sign Trust: Lane: An appointed board with private and public sector members, including CD4 and GP Superintendent. Mission is advocacy, maintenance, insurance.

Thornton: Who owns the sign? Lane: The Trust does.

Laib: Is the sign part of the historic cultural designation? Lane: Yes

Greenwald: The capsule should be placed outside of the park, perhaps at the visitor center in Hollywood.

Laib: Has our parks biologist/environmentalist been consulted? Lane: No not yet.

Crow: Is there a target date for the capsule installation? Lane: Within this year.

Griffin: Put a film in the capsule.

Griffith Park Transportation Plan Phase 3: Smith Superintendent Smith

-Phase 3 Griffith Park Traffic Mitigation Efforts: Smith reviewed phase 1 and 2, already implemented. Phase 3 is Crystal Springs Dr specific, and includes addition of bike lanes, speed mitigation measures, striping improvements, Jersey delineators (k-rail) separating bikers and pedestrians from vehicles. The process is to 1) Seek RAP Commission approval in April, 2) go to bid, 3) commence improvements in early summer, 4) finish in late fall.

Board Questions/Comments

Phillips: Clarification that Jersey barriers are k-rail

Motion

GPAB supports the implementation of the phase 3 traffic safety mitigation efforts

First: Phillips, second: Crow

Unanimous support

Phillips and Greenwald agree to draft the letter of support.

-Griffith Observatory Parking Meters update: Smith and Anthony Gallo, Park Services Smith's presentation attached here

Estimated Revenue and Expenditures	
Actual	
Parking Fee Collectors (July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)	\$ 1,760,760.00
Estimated Expenditures	
Park Access/Transportation	\$ 241,079.92
Parkline Shuttle	\$0
DOT Sign Postings	\$956.48
DASH Bus Program	\$240,123.44
Capital Improvements	\$ 32,723.00
Park Road Infrastructure	
Signage	
Fencing	
General Park Improvements	
Griffith Park Supplemental Staff Support	\$ 170,726.95
Park Maintenance - Griffith Crew	
Park Services Traffic Control	
Security Officers and Park Rangers	\$69,819
VET	
Urban Ecologist	\$100,887.04
Deferred Maintenance/ Equipment	\$ 69,524.00
Equipment light towers/CMS Boards	\$20,774
Traffic Office (Seawall Mobile Storage)	\$4,614
Portable Restrooms (United Site Services)	\$2,136.00
Play Machines (C&H)	\$10,000.00
Eye Counter	\$13,000
Credit Card Reimbursements	589,420
Sub-Total Estimated Expenditures	\$ 603,473.27
RAP General Fund Commitments	\$1,100,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,703,473.20
Estimated Balance After Expenses	\$57,287

-T Mobile and Flowbird have found a solution and a PO has been placed to obtain equipment needed to fix and modify the hardware and get it back on line, including pay station upgrades and some spare parts. Aim is for late spring/early summer 100% operation. Applause.

Board Questions/Comments

Greenwald: Thank you!

Thornton: How will the public know they need to start paying again? Smith: RAP staff is very present there and will be advising, in addition to signage.

Laib: Will there be new antennae? Gallo: No

Superintendent Updates

GP Superintendent Smith

-The GP Performing Arts Center is proceeding, with ground broken by late summer/early fall

-GTAC school field trip fundraiser has been announced. A trip to the Greek Theatre by an LAUSD school to learn about the inner workings of the theatre. The funding drive is by GTAC in conjunction with the LA Parks Foundation and is an example of a great public/private collaboration.

-RAP alcohol policy has been approved by the Board of Commissioners. Any approvals of events involving alcohol are approved by the park superintendent and Smith stated that she is going to be very careful in her approvals.

-Earthday will be celebrated in the park on April 20 with a special event at the Bird Sanctuary in the park.

-A new educational sign will be revealed on April 13, commemorating the WWII Roger Young Village for returning veterans that was in the park.

-The Pony Ride replacement venue surveys, pop ups and public meetings are complete, including a recent highly attended one at Friendship Hall. On line surveying has been extended through April 14, on the RAP website.

Board Questions and Comments

-Greenwald: Re the alcohol policy, this board requested via letter to the department that the regional parks, including Griffith be given special consideration, due to fire hazards,

-Laib: Reiterated the concern of attendees of events wandering off into the adjacent brush/severe wildfire rated areas and smoking

-Laib: We need to remind all that this board has been advising the department about the obvious compromise to the golf course reservation system for over a year, that we have had the Director or the golf division to our board, and feel that the recent public expose of the public anger and inequality of this issue was/is avoidable.

Committee and Ad Hoc Reports

Chair Thornton and Ad Hoc Committee co chair Laib

-The Executive Committee met and discussed the agenda for this meeting and the golf division uproar. The GP Rancho swinging bridge is now listed on the historic registry

-South Griffith Park Ad Hoc Committee update: CD4 has successfully gained city council approval to approve conducting a master plan review for this part of the park.

This board submitted a report on So GP last year, and it is referenced in a pass around presentation by the council office as a good base line for developments there, including a combined permanent Adult Center and Community Center.

-Hollywood Sign working group update: Greenwald: DOT is analyzing several routes for shuttling from metro stations to sign viewing points, a comprehensive look at financing and feasibility. There will be a new Hollywood Visitor Center on Vine St in Hollywood. It is not a Hollywood Sign visitors center. State parkline shuttle and transportation monies have been clawed back due to budget shortfalls.

Board Comments and Questions

Phillips: Thank you ad hoc and this is a reminder that we do have an impact in weighty issues in the park.

Public Questions and Comments

-Steve Alper: The Hollywood Sign time capsule is simply a money generating effort with a \$1m naming right.

-Steve Alper: Is the Lake Hollywood route through DWP land? Greenwald: Waiting for feasibility study.

Board Business

-A request for the Golf Division to report back to us re upgrades and fixes to the reservation system

Adjournment

Motion

First Greenwald, second Phillips

Unanimous at 7:55 pm

Next GPAB meeting on April 25 at 6:30pm at Park Central Auditorium