

MINUTES

GRIFFITH PARK ADVISORY BOARD DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS CITY OF LOS ANGELES Special Meeting December 18, 2014

The Griffith Park Advisory Committee of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at the Wilson Harding Golf Course / Club House Banquet Room, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027. **Committee Members Present:** Lynn Brown, Alex Chavez, Chip Clements, Laura Howe, Ann Marie Johnson, Jerry Petryha, Don Seligman, Kris Sullivan and Susan Swan; **Absent:** Barbara Ferris, Chris Laib, Janell Mullen and Lucinda Phillips; **Department of Recreation and Parks:** Mike Shull, Kevin W. Regan, Joe Salaices, and Deirdre Symons; **Council District Four (4):** Tom LaBonge; **Members of the Public:** Eight

ITEM 1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Joe Salaices, Superintendent of the Griffith Region, welcomed the Griffith Park Activity Board (GPAB) members and the public. Afterward, Joe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2 ADVISORY BOARD ROLL CALL

Joe requested that Deirdre Symons take roll call. Four members were absent.

ITEM 3 INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL MANAGER, MIKE SHULL AND DISCUSSION OF VEHICLE MITIGATION IN GRIFFITH PARK.

Kevin W. Regan, Assistant General Manager of Recreation and Parks introduced Mike Shull, the General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Mike Shull thanked the new members of the GPAB for volunteering their time, for being of service to Griffith Park and for attending the Special Meeting.

Mr. Shull explained that the recent fire near Recreation and Parks' downtown offices had shut the Department down through the first of the year. He spoke of water damaged equipment, and the relocation of one hundred and fifty employees into temporary locations throughout the City.

Mr. Shull advised that Griffith Park is one of the most complex parks in the nation, having 4,310 acres situated in the heart of urban Los Angeles.

Mr. Shull stated that there was much occurring in Griffith Park, with the continuation of the DWP water line project, the new sewer line implementation which is expected to last from four to six months, the proposed change of Greek Theatre management and the ever increasing Park traffic.

Mr. Shull said that the growing traffic congestion was a distinct topic of contention. He referenced last Labor Day, when 30,000 people were counted in the WiFi zone by the Observatory. A huge influx of tourists and Angelenos traveled into the Beachwood Drive area seeking access to the Hollywood sign.

The parks roads and trails are being overrun with trash, graffiti artist intrusion, people smoking where they should not be smoking, hiking where they should not be hiking, and parking where there is no legal parking. Recreation and Parks, addressing these concerns, will require funding for signs, additional Rangers, and staff, road repair and further maintenance.

Mr. Shull stated that people will continue to come to view the sign, therefore we must find a way to manage the crowds. Recreation and Parks opened a dialogue, seeking solutions by vetting the community.

Mr. Shull introduced the possibility of allowing a mile and a quarter of parking on Mt. Hollywood Drive. This would involve erecting a hard closure gate at the intersection of Mt. Hollywood Drive and West Observatory Road installing a booth and attendant who would collect a parking fee. Hollywood sign visitors would be able to hike to the Deronda viewing platform. Mr. Shull advised that the plan would include a Ranger presence, continuously patrolling the area to keep maintenance concerns in check.

There were suggestions from Advisory Board members to increase signage, another to offer frequent controlled shuttles circling the Park, stopping at points of interest and natural attractions. An alternative suggestion was to open up Mt. Hollywood from the north instead of the south. An additional suggestion was to use the Greek Theatre parking instead of Mt. Hollywood Drive.

Kevin Regan advised that he has taken his own informal polls during heavy traffic times and drivers really don't know where they are going. There is a need for shuttles, signage, ambassadors and proactive parking plans. Kevin said the beauty of using Mt. Hollywood for parking was that the road already exists.

Mike Shull advised all that this was the first discussion and that much work has yet to be done, including CEQA studies. Mr. Shull said that doing nothing was not an option.

ITEM 4 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Councilman Tom LaBonge, Council District Four (4) supported Preferential Parking on Beachwood Drive but wants the pedestrian gates to be open. He suggests offering vans to the trails and to the Sunset Stable as well as a loop van around the Park.

ITEM 5 THE NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2015 at the Griffith Park Visitor's Center Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027 at 6:00 p.m.

ITEM 8 MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.