

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chair: Susan Swan
Vice Chair: Don Seligman
Secretary: Kris Sullivan



BOARD MEMBERS:

Lynn Brown
Chip Clements
Barbara Ferris
Laura Howe
Ted Johnson
Chris Laib
Susan Lee
Janell Mullen
Lucinda Phillips

Griffith Park Advisory Board
Thursday, August 27th, 2015, 6:30pm
Griffith Park Visitor's Center Auditorium
4730 Crystal Springs Drive, L.A., CA, 90027

Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. All Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, for a maximum of 20 minutes total, unless waived by the presiding Officer of the Board.

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of order or merged as deemed appropriate by Board. All items for discussion and action unless otherwise noted.
Welcome and Introductions

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were amended to state that Tracy James is the Rec and Parks representative to the GPAB, not the Griffith Park representative. In addition, there was a discussion of change of time of our meetings to 7 PM. An informal vote was in favor of the change, but due to several people being absent, a decision to change the time was postponed. Don moved to approve the Minutes, Chris seconded. Chip abstained due to his absence. The Minutes were approved.

2. Roll Call

Committee members present: Susan Swan, Don Seligman, Kris Sullivan, Lynn Brown, Barbara Ferris, Ted Johnson, Chris Laib, Chip Clements, Lucinda Phillips. Absent: Laura Howe, Janell Mullen, Susan Lee.

3. Revision to GPAB Bylaws:

Replace the current language:

Article III.

Park Advisory Board Membership

Voting membership of the PAB must be no less than thirteen (13) members and no more than fifteen (15). All PAB members are selected by RAP staff.

Replace with this language:

Article III.

Park Advisory Board Membership

Voting membership of the PAB must be no less than five (5) members and no more than thirteen (13). All PAB members are selected by RAP staff.

Don moved to to replace the current language to say voting membership must be no less than eleven (11) and no more than fifteen (15) voting members. All GPAB members are selected by RAP staff.

Ted seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

4. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Gerry Hans of Friends of Griffith Park noted that in the press coverage of the Los Angeles Olympics Proposal for the 2024 games, Griffith Park was included for several venues for mountain biking, BMX motocross and golf. He stated that mountain biking on trails is currently illegal in the park. He said that he would forward on the link to the Bid Book and pertinent pages*

Diane Silva of the Trust for Public Land presented an update for the Tiffany Overlook Project that includes stone benches.

Catherine Landers from Council District 4 was in attendance and introduced herself to the group

5. Possible updates from Recreation and Parks staff, City representatives, local community groups (2 minutes each)

No updates.

6 Possible Board Member updates (2 minutes each)

Barbara announced that there will be Shakespeare and Symphony in the Glen at the Old Zoo on September 5.

7. Introduction of Michael Krouse, Regional VP of SMG., the recommended oversight management company for the Greek Theatre.

Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, RAP, introduced Michael Krouse of SMG who is to take over operation of the management side of Greek Theater for season 2016 once SMG is approved as the management company. Mr. Krouse presented various issues that included neighborhood concerns about ingress and egress through Vermont,

noise levels, parking facilities, mass transit, and communication between the Park and SMG. He stated that his firm would continue to engage with community groups, retain a sound company and work with the Park on programming decisions.

8. Potential concerns regarding condition of and maintenance of Park trails should El Nino shape up this winter with storms and flooding.

Laura Bauernfeind, of the Forestry Division, reported that GP is familiar with specific places where problems can happen during heavy rain storms and stated that large equipment has been brought in along with k-rails and sand bags in preparation. Her long term plan is to bring back the nursery so plants can be used in eroded areas. Public comment included a suggestion that the Sierra Club would provide volunteers to help clean out culverts. Representatives from several hiking groups volunteered to help.

9. Request for support of a landscape improvement project for the Bond Area parklet. <http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/facility/bondAreaGP.htm>

Louis Lopez, an Atwater business representative, presented a sign project for the Bond Area parklet on Los Feliz Boulevard. The project would also include the removal of 2 London plane trees and the addition of plantings. The project is a partnership between the Atwater Chamber of Commerce and a billboard company. Joe mentioned that RAP commissioners need to approve the project. Kris moved to approve a letter to support the landscaping improvement project for the Bond area. Ted seconded the motion. Yea votes included Susan, Kris, Chip, Ted, Lucinda. Nay votes included Don, Lynn, Chris. Barbara abstained. The motion passed.

10. Update on proposed traffic, trail, maps and other signage in and around Griffith Park

Ted reported that the signage is almost ready and that there will be 4 trailhead signs. He stated that Tracy James assisted on the project.

11. Update on RAP intentions long and short term for the Vermont Avenue central beltway between Los Feliz Blvd. and the Griffith Park entrance

Laura Bauernfeind noted that the change to no watering of the beltways on Vermont was made due to the Governor's mandate. She stated that the irrigation has been turned off, but that there is still spot watering for trees. Public comments included that the neighbors would be willing to help restore the medians once the rain returns.

12. Development of a process to implement the Vision for Griffith Park

A. Discussion regarding review of Chapter One, ongoing review of definition regarding Urban Wilderness

B. Development of a method to determine older unused buildings throughout the Park and if they are in need of refurbishment or removal

C. Development of a method to inspect all restrooms for repair or remodeling, and to demolish restrooms that are in low or no demand (Vision of Griffith Park page 42 <http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithpk/pdf/visionPk.pdf>), review of sanitation locations and effectiveness of placement, necessity for new facilities

Don suggested that these areas are beyond the scope of a single meeting. He suggested that 2 Ad Hoc Committees be formed to identify and assess the structures. A Historic Structures Ad Hoc Committee was formed with Don as Coordinator, and Kris and Chris as Ad Hoc Committee members. A Restroom Structures Ad Hoc Committee was formed with Ted as Coordinator, and Janell and Susan Lee as Ad Hoc Committee members.

13. Special events (sponsorships, donors) to support Park; Special Events in Griffith Park Calendar

A. LA Parks Foundation 1/2 Marathon

Joe stated that the LA Parks Foundation 1/2 Marathon will be January 24, 2016. He noted that Much Ado about Nothing and Romeo and Juliet will be performed in early September. There will be a cross country race on September 26 and a Cosmo event (lunar eclipse) on September 27. Barbara suggested there be an event calendar for the whole Park to avoid double booking of sites.

14. Report on Mount Hollywood Drive Traffic Flow Study and Feasibility Project

Joe reported that the traffic report for the Pilot Project will come at the end of October.

15. Old/Ongoing Business

16. New/Future Business

A discussion about the proposed Los Angeles bid for the 2024 Olympics followed. The discussion centered around the parts of the proposal that include the use of Griffith Park as a venue. The Board held a unanimous consensus that it opposes illegal mountain biking on GP trails.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 PM

ADJOURNMENT

* Shared by Gerry Hans post-meeting and included here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/276070799/LA2024-Bid-Book> Pertinent Griffith Park pages are 64 thru 70. Either scroll down or type in 64 (of 218 total pages)

Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles, (323) 661-9465

Email us at: rap.griffithpark@lacity.org

Find us and Like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/GriffithParkAdvisoryBoard

Next meeting will be Thursday, October 22nd, 2015

Agendas will be posted at the Crystal Springs Ranger Station and online at <http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithpk/>