

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  
Lucinda Phillips

## Griffith Park Advisory Board MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 22nd, 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  
Called to order at 6:42 PM

### 1. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that the correct name of the organization is Symphony in the Glen, not Park. Don moved to approve the September Minutes, Lucinda seconded. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

### 2. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chip Clements, Laura Howe, Ted Johnson, Chris Laib, Kris Sullivan, Susan Swan, Lynn Brown, Don Seligman, Lucinda Phillips. Absent: Barbara Ferris, Susan Lee.  
Department of Recreation and Parks: Joe Salaices.  
Council District Four: Catherine Landers and Adam Miller

### 3. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Marian Dodge of Friends of Griffith Park invited the public to tours of historic Ferndell on November 22 and December 5.

Joe Young of the Sierra Club noted that the brass plaque listing donors at Cahuenga Peak was removed and that a new one will replace it.

4. Possible updates from Recreation and Parks staff, City representatives, local community groups (2 minutes each)  
Community Liaison to the Greek Theatre Serena Fiss-Ward reported on proposed food and beverage plans and that Griffith Park is working with a consultant on the parking issues.

### 5. Possible Board Member updates (2 minutes each)

It was noted that the Tiffany Seating area near Captain's Roost has been installed and

that the seating was funded by the LA Parks Foundation, and The Trust for Public Land. Recreation and Parks approved the installation.

6. Presentation from Evelyn Wendel of WeTap: ideas for drinking fountains in Griffith Park

In order to discourage the use of plastic water bottles in the Park, Evelyn offered to help assess the water fountains in the park so that the public will have an available source of drinking water in the Park. Her organization has a track record of assessing water fountains in the LA Unified School District and promoting the use of them state-wide. Several members raised concerns that water fountains should be designed consistently in the park architecture model and that it would be better to restore old fountains rather than replace them. Evelyn said that she was flexible and would help figure out where new fountains or water stations could be added.

7. Possible update from Ad Hoc Committee on proposed traffic, trail, maps and other signage in and around Griffith Park

Joe noted that the new signs were 4 weeks away from being installed.

8. Update on problems relating to traffic mobility with the Observatory Eclipse event and Greek Theatre traffic on 9/27

Lucinda reported that due to the highly attended Observatory Eclipse event and a Greek Theatre event occurring on the same night, traffic was at a standstill on both sides of Ferndell and on Red Oak and Live Oak streets. There was a big concern about fire and safety in the whole area. Chris stated that a calendar is needed to make sure that there aren't two events at the same time and that a commitment is needed from Griffith Park to insure this doesn't happen again. Joe agreed that there needs to be better coordination between the Greek Theatre and the Observatory.

9. Update on Rec and Parks Mobility Plan for Griffith Park

Joe reported that he has hired a consultant who is going through the CEQA draft plan.

The plan is to change the traffic flow up by the Observatory, and to use shuttles. Once the consultant issues the final report, it will be shared with the community. In addition, he is working on a specific website for the Park which will include all information about the shuttle and is researching an app for parking locations. There will be a limit on cars going into the Park. He plans to spend time with our Ad Hoc Transportation Committee to go over the plan.

10. Update on the removal of trees in Griffith Park

Chris informed the group about all the dead trees in the Park and that funding problems have delayed their removal. He noted that Councilmember Ryu has a task force that will consider putting money into the removal of the dead trees.

11. Usage of Rodenticide in Parks, what RAP is doing, what the vendors ( ie. the observatory, Greek, golf courses) are doing

Laura requested information about the use of rodenticide in the Park including the Observatory, Greek Theatre, and the golf courses. She noted that the mountain lion known as P34 died from rodenticide. Joe reported that Laura Bauernfeind will report next month about rodenticide in the park. A concessionaire rep will be asked to address our board on this issue, too. Ted reported that no rodenticide has been used on the golf courses for the last 2 years, but that it was not clear whether the concessions used it.

12. Possible update on the use of the park for the Olympics, including; biking –BMX, Mountain, etc.

Chris suggested that the City has to follow the same laws that citizens do in regard to the promotion of biking in the Park that is included in Olympic Bid Book. He suggested that we send a letter to the RAP Commission and to the Mayor's Office to show our opposition to BMX or mountain biking in Griffith Park during the Olympics. The letter should also point out various falsehoods in the Bid Book.

13. Update from Historic Structures Ad Hoc Committee regarding the History Element Survey that has begun. Synopsis of what has been done so far and where it is headed.

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

Don reported that this committee has been working hard and has been looking at the less trafficked areas of the Park to assess historic structures. The committee plans to walk in certain areas of the park to see if there are any historical structures that should be in the final document. He hoped to have a final report in 6 months or less.

14. Possible update from Restroom Structures Ad Hoc Committee

(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.)

Ted is currently the sole member of the Ad Hoc Committee and there was no report.

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

This item was tabled.

16. Property adjacent to Griffith Park for sale and potential issues, including 0 Mt Lee Drive land for sale,

( [http://www.zillow.com/homedetails/0-Mt-Lee-Dr-Los-Angeles-CA-90068/2101821591\\_zpid/](http://www.zillow.com/homedetails/0-Mt-Lee-Dr-Los-Angeles-CA-90068/2101821591_zpid/) ), potential cataloguing of properties under private ownership that are park-adjacent or properties using parkland as private.

Sheila Irani presented a map showing 2 properties near Mt. Lee that are for sale. Susan and Joe agreed to write a letter from the Board to the Park Commission to ask for an assessment of any private land that may exist on the edges of the Park.

17. 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  
Lucinda requested that a copy of the Griffith Park Historic Resources be provided for the next meeting and that it include the Wilderness Areas.

Lucinda brought up the graffitied memorial near the Charlie Turner Trail.

There was concern that the memorial was never given a permit and that it is no longer cared for. Joe suggested that it shouldn't be removed until more research was done about its origins.

18 Old/Ongoing Business

No report.

19. New/Future Business.

Susan reminded the Board that November 12 is the next meeting. December 10 will be the date of the December meeting.

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

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

Email us at: [rap.griffithpark@lacity.org](mailto:rap.griffithpark@lacity.org)

Find us and Like us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/GriffithParkAdvisoryBoard](http://www.facebook.com/GriffithParkAdvisoryBoard)

HOLIDAY meeting schedule:

November meeting will be Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

December meeting will be Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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