

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chair: Susan Swan
Vice Chair: Don Seligman
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Lynn Brown
Chip Clements
Barbara Ferris
Laura Howe
Ted Johnson
Chris Laib
Susan Lee
Janell Mullen
Lucinda Phillips

**Griffith Park Advisory Board
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 24th, 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

The August 27th minutes were approved after being amended to state that Tracy James is a Recreation and Parks Representative.

2. Roll Call

Present: Susan Swan, Don Seligman, Lynn Brown, Chip Clements, Laura Howe, Chris Laib, Susan Lee, Lucinda Phillips, Ted Johnson. Absent: Kris Sullivan, Barbara Ferris, Janell Mullen. Also in attendance: Joe Salaices and Serena Fiss-Ward (Rec and Parks Greek Theater Liaison).

3. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Concern was expressed regarding the non-permitted "Baggin's Birthday Bash" – (BYOB) Hobbit Party held on 9-21-15, at Mineral Wells. Joe Salaices stated that the Park Rangers shut down the beer and wine consumption but allowed the event to continue because of the large number of participants and inherent difficulty of closing it down. Mr. Salaices spoke on the Park's Permit Policy.

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

Joe Salaices presented an update on the DWP/Water tank project that is expected to begin in late October and continue for 3 months. He is concerned that DWP's excavations will cause a hard closure of hiking and equestrian trails as well as possible roads including Vista del Valle at 5 Points due to the open-trench pipe installations. Should be completed 3 months after they start. Joe will speak with DWP reps. to get more information on the project.

Joe also discussed and presented a handout regarding the Sunday 9-27-15 Greek Theater and Observatory Lunar eclipse events' Traffic meeting. With both events overlapping, the city is anticipating more than usual traffic issues. Joe explained how the Park Rangers and DOT staff will handle the situation.

Serena Fiss-Ward reported that the Greek Theatre contract has been awarded to SMG. Still working on a contract for food and beverage.

5. Possible Board Member updates (2 minutes each)

Don Seligman spoke on the work he and his committee has done regarding structures within the Park. They have already identified 46 structures and are working on their history (age and original purpose), locating old photographs and mapping their location. Their main interest is for pre 1965 structures and include non-building structures such as the Hollywood Sign and WPA aged drinking fountains, etc. Their goal is to compile documentation of each element to be included in a recommendation for maintenance/restoration/or removal. Long term goal is to select a consultant to evaluate costs for the recommendations for the specific structures. Next step is to walk every section to take images. Look for drinking fountains, working or not. Don stated that Joe Salaices was very helpful regarding the historical structures in the Park.

Laura Howe spoke on the great work done in the area behind the Old Zoo by Friends of Griffith Park assisted by others including local youth groups. 60+ people did mulching and graffiti cleanup.

6. Possible update from Ad Hoc Committee on proposed traffic, trail, maps and other signage in and around Griffith Park
Both Joe and Laura stated that the Park's Hiking/Trail signs are in production.

7. 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
Vision Plan for Griffith Park: Tabled to the October meeting.

B. Development of a method to determine older unused buildings throughout the Park and if they are in need of refurbishment or removal. 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. See Item #5 above.

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. Possible update from Restroom Structures Ad Hoc Committee
No report

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

Joe Salaices said there was a 5 acre fire above the Wilson/Harding Golf Course Parking lot on 9-5-15 that could have been much worse. He credited the quick knockdown to the work of the Rangers and fire departments who quickly responded and with the help of water drops were able to contain and extinguish the flames.

. The 2015 Symphony in the Park is finished for the year.

. Shakespeare in the Park had over 50k attendees this year

. The Haunted Hayride will begin on October 2, 2015 and continue for 17 days (Thursday – Sunday) ending on October 31. Joe stated that the Haunted Hayride brings in about 130K/year and about 500K since it began. This money stays in the Park and is what is paying for the new signage.

. The Griffith Park Half Marathon is scheduled for January 24, 2016

9. Update on DWP project to extend recycled water to Vermont Canyon.

See Item #4 above

10 Old/Ongoing Business

Preparing for El Nino – Joe stated that the Park is already checking roofs and area of potential landslides, checking storm drains and catch basins and removing dead and fallen trees.

A. Discussion regarding the start time for the GPAB meeting

Motion Lynn, Second Susan L Vote was unanimous that the meeting frequency and start times will be staying as is; once/month and beginning at 6:30PM

12. New/Future Business.

The GPAB would like an update on the use of the park for the Olympics, including; biking –BMX, Mountain, etc.

Next meeting Thursday, 10-22-15 at 6:30 PM

13. ADJOURNMENT

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/>