

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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



BOARD MEMBERS:

Chip Clements Laura Howe
Ron Deutsch Ted Johnson
Barbara Ferris Chris Laib
 Lucinda Phillips

Griffith Park Advisory Board
Thursday, May 26th 6:30pm
Griffith Park Visitor's Center Auditorium
4730 Crystal Springs Drive L.A., CA, 90027

DRAFT MINUTES

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.

The Griffith Park Advisory Board of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks was called to order at 6:40 PM.

Item 1. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ted, seconded by Lucinda and passed. Don, Laura, and Barbara abstained due to absence.

Item 2. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Susan Swan, Don Seligman, Kris Sullivan, Chip Clements, Ron Deutsch, Barbara Ferris, Laura Howe, Ted Johnson, Chris Laib, Lucinda Phillips.

Catherine Landers from CD 4 and Serena Ward, Community Liaison to the Greek Theatre, were present.

Item 3. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Friends of Griffith Park thanked Recreation and Parks for its help with the Anza Trail celebration and others thanked RAP for maintenance of the Betty Davis area.

4. Comments from any City, County, State or Federal representatives in attendance

It was noted that after the climbing of the Hollywood Sign by an individual on May 27, that the rangers have stepped up enforcement of the area.

5. Update from the Bureau of Engineering on the Riverside Bridge widening project

Joe gave an overview of the Federal project to expand the width of the Riverside bridge over the Los Angeles River.

Shirley Low and Jerry Hernandez of City Bureau of Engineering gave a description of how the process will work. Jerry stated that he will be providing updates at our meetings all along, that there will be a local call number for local residents, and that he will get back to us concerning the CalTrans side of the project. The project will continue until 2019.

6. Craig Raines: Presentation and possible motion re Los Feliz entry design concept (Planning division project to make park more drought tolerant around the train area):

Craig Raines who is a Landscape Architect for Rec and Parks presented designs for the land at the intersection of Los Feliz and Griffith Park Drive. He stated that the aim of the project is to develop a smart irrigation system, create turf reduction and install drought resistant plants in keeping with the design at the Mulholland fountain across the road.

There was a discussion among board members concerning our role in the process of this project.

An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Laura, Ron, and Kris was formed to have its members take a look at the area and bring back information and recommendations to the Board.

7. Update re Memorial Day traffic plan

Joe spoke about the plan which included asking DOT to get more tow trucks to move blocking cars, extra parking available on Sunday of the holiday at the Greek Theatre, a circulating DASH bus from Vermont station and from the Greek to the Observatory, and temporary no parking signs.

He also noted that the MND report from the traffic consultant is coming soon. There is a push for meters on Western and Eastern Observatory roads which may be installed in the Fall.

8. Overview of process for public safety in the Park.

Joe explained how rescues are carried out in the Park. Calling 911 is always the first thing to be done. A ranger noted that signs warning hikers of danger are often defaced or down. He explained that 12 to 15 people are needed for serious rescues without helicopters.

9. Proposal for GPAB to create a list of projects to focus on, possible fund-raising opportunities to support them

Joe recommended that fund raising is most productive if it is connected to specific projects. The Board asked Joe to come up with a list of projects with their price tags before a discussion of actual fund raising ideas begins.

10. Action Plans regarding The Vision Plan for Griffith Park Action Plan Goals for GPAB. Goals with a consensus for action:

A. Establish subcommittees to investigate, organize, and estimate costs for:

1. Acquisition of all contiguous properties to facilitate wildlife corridors (pages 116-117, 39) while minimizing any development within the Wilderness Area of the park (pages 38, 53).

2. Repair degraded ecosystems and watersheds (Page 12): Restoration of natural habitats and ecosystems and removal of fences and barriers limiting wildlife movement (Pages 37, 39, 40, 45) as well as the removal of redundant and non-essential features (e.g. water tanks no longer in use).

Don explained that the idea is to get an ad hoc committee to investigate each of these projects which would include setting up an action plan, estimating the costs, and bringing back this information to the Board.

An Ad Hoc Committee for Number 1 above was formed with Chip, Chris, and Kris as members.

An Ad Hoc Committee for Number 2 above was formed with Ron, Don, and Laura as members.

11. Board Member comments on items not on the Agenda

Several board members stated their concern about the Commonwealth Nursery project. Joe stated that there will be a presentation next month about the restoration plan.

12. Old/Ongoing Business

Susan announced that Lynn Brown had to resign due to health reasons. Susan Lee also resigned due to absences.

13. New/Future Business

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM