

MINUTES

THE GRIFFITH PARK ADVISORY BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
March 22, 2018

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:40 PM AT GRIFFITH PARK VISITOR'S CENTER, LA CA 90027

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

PRESENT: FULL BOARD, CHIP CLEMENTS, RON DEUTSCH, LAURA HOWE, SHEILA IRANI, CHRIS LAIB, LUCINDA PHILLIPS.
RAP: JOE SALAICES, TRACY JAMES

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The GPAB minutes from March 3, 2018 were approved. Vote: 5 YES, ABSTAIN 1 (LAURA HOWE, ABSENT 3/8/2018)

ITEM 3: COMMENTS FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Catherine Landers commented that the recent decision in the case of Friends of Griffith Park vs. City of Los Angeles, the judge ruled that the City could close the Beachwood Trail gate.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom LaBonge introduced Hector Rivera in a tribute to his role as the first responder 20 years ago where three LAFD personnel and one child were killed when their helicopter crashed in Griffith Park en route to Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The Board thanked Hector for his service to the crash victims and the years of service working in Griffith Park.

Charles Malki commented on the need for a gate before the Lake Hollywood Dr. Tank before the Cahuenga Peak Trail to prevent hikers at night to go up the hill and endanger themselves.

George Clark recommended that the Board deliberate on impact on neighborhoods and residents, as he felt all the solutions in the Dixon Study would degrade the park.

Jean Clark questioned why the Board scaled the options without City agency approvals of the option.

Emmy reminded the Board that Colonel Griffith donated the park for public use.

Christine Kent questioned why certain suggestions that the community gave Dixon were not considered in the study.

ITEM 5: UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Joe Salaices reminded the community that Spring Break for many students has begun and RAP is providing extra shuttles, crossing guards, DOT officers and Rangers. Parking will be available at the Greek Theater. RAP is expecting 13,000 cars a day, with a peak on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018.

Greek Theater will officially open on April 7, 2018.

Lane Configuration for parking outside the Greek Theater has changed to add a dedicated Bus Lane for the Shuttle. A sidewalk will be added from Bird Sanctuary, LOT H area on the south side up Observatory Road towards the Observatory. Expected completion is Memorial Day 2018.

Lucinda Phillips commented about the cell tower planned for Red Oak and Fern Dell that appears to look like a large wooden power pole contrary to the designs Synergy presented at GPAB.

ACTION: Joe Salaices will speak with BOE to alter the look.

ITEM 8: DIXON STUDY DISCUSSION AND SCORING

This item was voted on by Board unanimously to be moved up to ITEM 6 in the interest of time and sensitivity to the audience who were mainly at the Board meeting to hear the discussion.

The definition and value of a LIKERT scale grading system to be applied to the options in the DIXON study immediately relevant to GRIFFITH PARK were communicated by Sheila Irani. The scale was decided from 1 (highly did not agree or like) to 7 (highly agreed and liked) for the options discussed. Each option would allow for public comment for up to two minutes.

Comments pertaining to the overall study:

George Abrahams: Some of the public comment were not included. He Suggested that DASH go up to the Western Canyon from the Red Line on Wilshire Vermont. He wished Toyon Access could have been reviewed.

Jane Goichman: The overall negative impact from overcrowding by visitors to the residential neighborhoods also includes the impact on tourists as well as residents and both need to be considered for each option, not just tourists. Some of the solutions must be implemented in tandem to be of value and effective, and the solutions should be regarded and adopted with an eye to short term, medium term and long term. The impact is increasing and must be dealt with immediately.

DIXON STUDY REVIEW BY BOARD – using Likert Scale and initials for each board member.

Sheila Irani – SI

Chip Clements – CC

Lucinda Phillips - LP

Ron Deutsch – RD

Laura Howe – LH

Chris Laib - CL

1. Installation of Sidewalk on Canyon Drive and into Bronson Canyon Park. – HIGHEST SCORING OPTION

Votes: SI 7 CC 7 LP 7 RD 7 LH 2 CL 6

Total points: 36 ; Average score 6

2. Implement Electric Shuttle with a stop into Beachwood Gate

Votes: SI 6 CC 3 LP 6 RD 1 LH 6 CL 7

Total points: 29; Average score 4.83

3. Implement alternate access hiking trail plan at Beachwood Drive

Votes: SI 5 CC N/A LP 7 RD 1 LH 7 CL 7

Total points: 27; Average score 5.4 (not including CC in tally)

4.

A. Wonderview Gate with Option A trail (parallels road)

Votes: SI 7 CC 5 LP 1 RD 5 LH 1 CL 5

Total points: 24; Average score 4.00

B. Wonderview Gate with Option B Trail (around Toyon Tanks) LOWEST SCORED OPTION

Votes: SI 1 CC 1 LP 1 RD 1 LH 1 CL 1

Total points: 6; Average score 1.00

5. Supplement Circulator with Aerial Tram

Votes: SI 6 CC 1 LP 1 RD 1 LH 1 CL 1

Total points: 11; Average score 1.83

COMMENTS FROM BOARD:

Preserve the upper reaches of Griffith Park as a wildlife area. More environmental impact should have been included in the description of the options by DIXON. Would like to know why some options discussed by the community were not included in the study. More consideration for hikers and pedestrians should have been included. The Mayor's office should be investing into a Visitor's Center with viewing platform of sign to commercialize the tourist interest in the City's landmark icon. Mini Hollywood signs should be placed all over the City where visitors go to create alternative sites to photo the sign. City should take a fixed percentage of the taxes collected from tourism and invest in security, infrastructure and visitor center and other enhancements so that neighborhoods do not bear the brunt of the impact from tourism.

ITEM 7: Rodenticide Report

Speaker, Gerry Hans, Friends of Griffith Park, introduced by Lucinda Phillips

First and Second Generation rodenticides used to abate mice, rats, ground squirrels and rabbit populations are entering the wildlife food chain and affecting wildlife such as coyote, bobcat, raptors and mountain lions creating a dangerous problem that may extinguish or seriously deplete the animal population within Griffith Park. These rodenticides are anti-coagulants.

In 2014, RAP voluntarily stopped using 2nd generation, and began relying on traps and using 1st generation only when necessary. However, the contractors used by the food service providers, the pony rides, and even Observatory are using dangerous rodenticides.

ACTION: Next month's agenda should include a rodenticide policy to be adopted by vendors as well as RAP.

ITEM 6: To generate a letter to RAP to update and install the automatic irrigation system in Fern Dell.

Motion made by Lucinda Phillips, seconded by Laura Howe.

Vote: 6 YES, 0 NO. PASSED.

ACTION: Letter to RAP requesting that Fern Dell's irrigation system be updated to be automatic watering system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A: MOTION TO APPROVE MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISING CONCEPT

Motion made by Sheila Irani, seconded by Ron Deutsch

Vote: YES 6, NO 0. PASSED

ACTION: CREATE A BUDGET FOR PROJECTOR, and MOVIE RENTAL, SELECT DATE FOR FIRST MOVIE

B. TRAIL DAMAGE MITIGATION

Laura Howe is planning trail mitigation for June 2nd on National Trails Day.

Details to follow in future board meetings.

C. Motion to begin trash segregation in Griffith Park as a pilot program, to capture recyclables.

Motion made by Sheila Irani, seconded by Chris Laib.

Vote: YES 6, NO 0. PASSED

ACTION: SELECT AREAS WHERE TRASH CANS EXIST AND ADD A SEPARATE BIN ADJACENT TO THE CURRENT TRASH CAN WITH DIFFERENT COLOR PLASTIC BAGS FOR PLASTICS AND GLASS AND ALUMINUM. THE BAGS SHOULD BE COLLECTED WHEN FULL BY RAP PERSONNEL, THEN COLLECTED AND DROPPED OFF AT COMMONWEALTH FOR PICKUP BY BUREAU OF SANITATION EVERY WEEK ON THEIR NORMAL RESIDENTIAL RUN.

ON GOING BUSINESS:

Laura Howe announced that Friends of Griffith Park and RAP will be hosting a Cedar Tree planting on April 21, 2018 from 9 AM to 12 PM for Earth Day at Cedar Grove. They are looking for volunteers.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:35 PM