

GRIFFITH PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes JANUARY 24,2019

1. Roll Call 6:39pm - Lucinda Phillips, Laura Howe, Ron Deutsch (Sheila Irani and Chip Clements present but late)
2. Approval of Minutes-tabled until later in the meeting and later approved.
3. Comments from City, State, and County Representatives- none in attendance.
4. Public Comments Not on Agenda: *Emmy: SUV'S on closed roads at night getting in through access at the Old Zoo. Dangerous for hikers and pedestrians. *Gerry: group of 37 volunteers worked at the Bird Sanctuary. Went to City Hall for RAP budget meetings to lobby on behalf of park.* Ron; read community letters (attached) from hikers regarding Sunset Ranch telling hikers they cannot be on Hollyridge Trail or exit through gate. Agenda for next month for possible letter to Ranch. *Laura; filming issues in Fern Canyon. Protected plants ruined after 7 year rehabilitation effort. Laura and Tracy will begin process of creating a list of 'sensitive areas' which will recommend areas of Griffith that have sensitive habit and need protection from filming.* Sheila; PPD's and reservation parking for Lake Hollywood Park as traffic is worse than ever and this may help manage. Sheila puts motion in to have item on agenda month. Also mentions being approached by Warner Bros regarding aerial tram. *Joe; WB has not approached Joe yet he is aware of their visiting community members. They are working independently from RAP. RAP is in process of accepting aerial transit proposals from 4 firms to do a feasibility study on this idea. No decisions, commitments have been made and moving forward will involve full vetting and participation of every stakeholder that wishes to contribute. Request made for RFP for Feasibility Study to be looked at next month's meeting. *Joe; Mullholland Fence; DWP and RAP working on project at Lake Hollywood.* Chip has issue with the fence which extends to curb giving no room for pedestrians to get out of vehicle way if needed. Safety concern. Agenda for next month's meeting.
5. Fencing proposal to improve equestrian safety. Flower vendors jump from freeway overpass at tunnels 7 and 8. Horses get spooked and serious injuries have been reported.
6. Motion to form a community group with the assistance of professional environmentalists to restore habitat, prevent off trail ingress and protect sensitive areas, including use for film permits and special events. More traffic money needs to be diverted to environmental concerns and habitat protection. Motion passes.
7. Update on Park Restrooms-BOE working on restrooms on east side of park. DWP has now provided service and end of February should be completed. Fern Dell burned bathroom to be demolished. Restrooms above playground will be refurbished and ADA accessible.
8. Updates from the Superintendent-
 - a. Fern Dell Bridge: Gerry reports that progress is being made.

- b. Left pocket at Vermont: progress report. Tom L. reports arrow for Fern Dell was approved years ago and needs to be followed up on. Agenda Fern Dell arrow for next month's meeting.
 - c. Park Wide Shuttle- progress being made. RAP has 7 shuttles and will present collateral for shuttles programs .Agenda HPZ for next month to present.
 - d. Sunday LAPF Marathon.
 - e. Bronson – getting road marking improvements very soon. Sidewalk on east side will come later. D/G preferred for this (Gerry). Sheila mentions Innsdale Trail idea for gating as fireworks/partying are becoming more rampant at night.
 - f. Greek Theatre/Roosevelt Updates- Improvements are in progress, large Oak down during rains. Golf course to hopeful reopen April 2019: recycled water.
 - g. Fire at Skyline- homeless activity noted but not determined cause. Body found in area but not from fire.
 - h. Rodenticide Update- Joe begins touring facilities. Noted violations at golf course and spoke to concessioner to correct and clean up surrounding area to deter rodent activity. Ron would like to compliance review to be on agenda for next meeting. Chip updates on Contra Pest a rodent birth control .
 - i. New Chief Park Ranger has been hired.
- 9 . Request for agenda items- noted above
9. Adjournment 8:34pm.

From: Tony Castanares <tonycastanares@gmail.com>
Date: January 24, 2019 at 11:22:53 AM PST
To: Kris Sullivan <threadartist22@roadrunner.com>
Subject: Incident of January 1, 2019, involving Sunset Ranch

Dear Kris,

I am writing to set forth the exact facts that occurred in this incident, since I was the person principally involved.

I was hiking with you and another couple to Mt. Lee. We entered at the Deronda gate. Having recently read the City's brief on appeal, which claimed that the Beachwood access to the Hollyridge Trail was open to the public, because it was open for egress, I wanted to check the situation for myself, so our party descended Mt. Lee Drive to the dirt road and turned left, and then right onto the Hollyridge Trail at its top. Sure enough, the signs at the intersection, saying the Trail was closed below, had been removed, so we proceeded down.

About halfway, we encountered a large party of riders (I didn't count, but would estimate 15-20) from Sunset Ranch coming toward us. We formed single file on the right side of the trail, with me in front. As I passed the front few riders, the last rider emerged onto the center and then onto my side of the trail, coming alongside another rider, but not leaving sufficient room for us to pass. This rider was evidently a Sunset Ranch employee, riding sweep.

Not wishing to shout, I gestured politely for her to move over enough to allow safe passage. Her response was a shouted "This is a horse trail," coupled with a refusal to make room, forcing me to the side of the trail. The 4 of us were very concerned for our safety since any one of the horses could have reacted dangerously.

If needed for litigation or otherwise, I will sign a declaration of these facts under penalty of perjury. Please feel free to provide this message to anyone you wish, and anyone is free to make whatever use of it he or she may wish.

ROBERT TERCEK
2668 HOLLYRIDGE DRIVE
LOS ANGELES CA. 90068

January 19, 2019

To: Griffith Park Advisory Board
cc: Recreation and Parks Superintendent Joe Salaires
cc; LA Parks Commission.
cc: Council District 4.

SUBJECT: Sunset Ranch workers are attempting to block hiker access from Griffith Park to Beachwood Canyon

Dear Griffith Park Advisory Board Members,

I want to inform you about a campaign of harassment and intimidation against members of public using Griffith Park trails that has been conducted by employees of the Sunset Horse Ranch. I have experienced this harassment personally.

Since 2008 I have been a resident of the Beachwood Canyon neighborhood. One of my primary reasons for purchasing a home in this area was to enjoy hiking in Griffith Park.

The gate that has been erected at the end of Beachwood Canyon cuts off *ingress* into the park, but to my understanding, the public still has the right to use that roadway for *egress* as they hike out of the park.

However, some employees of the Sunset Canyon Horse Ranch seem to have a different opinion, and they have begun to aggressively block hikers from exiting via the roadway at the Ranch. During the past two years I have been dismayed to witness, and sometimes experience firsthand, a campaign of harassment against hikers in Griffith Park who seek to exit via the roadway to Beachwood Canyon.

On three occasions I have been accosted by employees of Sunset Ranch who have attempted to block me from walking down the roadway from the ranch to the gate. These employees have used menacing terms like "trespassing" and threats of legal action to intimidate me. I have also heard from neighbors who have experienced the same harsh treatment from Ranch workers. In the hills before sunset, I no longer feel entirely safe as I walk past Sunset Ranch because I am worried that a disgruntled Ranch worker might spring out and do more than accost me: I feel that they are ready to take physical action to repel hikers.

I still proceed under the conviction that the public has the right to pass freely along the roadway that leads from the Ranch to Beachwood Drive. But if I am correct, then why do Ranch hands continue to harass me and challenge me and impede my progress? Why are they threatening me with legal action? This is raw intimidation, and I think it should stop.

I am not the only person who is confused by this campaign of harassment. I have heard from several others who have had similar experiences. And now all of us are confused.

It would help greatly if the Parks Superintendent or the Parks Commission could issue an announcement to clarify this matter. Can the Park please issue a clear statement about what right the public may or may not have with regard to Griffith Park egress and ingress via the gate and roadway at the Sunset Ranch?

I'd be grateful if those rights could be **enumerated in writing and posted as a sign** on the trailhead and the gate, so that hikers know their rights and can resist the Ranch's aggressive campaign of disinformation.

May I also suggest that you host a public meeting where the owners of the Sunset Ranch can have a discussion with the public, especially their neighbors in the Beachwood Canyon area. We all share the same park resources: it is unfair and wrong for the Sunset Ranch to attempt to seize roadway access for their exclusive use by barring the public from a public park.

Thank you,

Robert Tercek
Concerned Resident