

## Griffith Park Advisory Board

Minutes – December 17, 2020, 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call: All present
2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved.
3. Special Guests: No special guests.
4. General Public Comment:
  - Gerry Hans of FoGP – It is important to point out there is no biologist and no ecologist on staff at Rec. and Parks. Need for biologist is written into vision document. We need a biologist. Fifth year of raptor survey is open, and application to join will be soon. In 2020, we had first pair of American Peregrine Falcons nest in the park. They were disturbed and the birds abandoned the chicks.
  - Marian of FoGP – Sean at Greek Theater Coffee mentioned the number of hikers is down, but my street is very busy with hikers enjoying the park. Some are still not wearing their masks.
  - Justin Szlasa – Noticed playgrounds are closed and signage notes everyone must wear a mask at all times in the Park. What I understand is that face masks are required when you are closer than 6 feet apart. Who sets the rules for the park different than the city, state, and county rules? The fees have crept up for parking by the observatory is \$15 per hour, that is very high, and the parking lot is empty a lot. Not a great way to make the park more accessible. Tennis court parking cost is high too.
  - Jerome – Noted the importance of having a biologist and to possibly work with Natural History Museum.
5. Information Reports and Presentations:
  - a. Jake Owens – Director of Conservation at the L.A. Zoo
    - Presentation titled “Saving Species from Extinction” The current focus in the Park is on birds, pollinators, and bats to increase biodiversity within the Park. Jake calls on board to think about how the zoo could assist the park meet the park’s goals and conservation within the park. Jake can be reached at [Jake.owens@lacity.org](mailto:Jake.owens@lacity.org).
    - Question from Member Deutsch: We have been focusing on getting park to a zero car community. Is there any discussion at LA zoo of working towards

that goal? Response: It is a discussion in how difficult it is to access the zoo and increase access and decrease need to drive to zoo.

- Jake Owens also noted that the zoo is not currently releasing animals into park - but is open to looking into it - and the zoo is currently conducting a tree survey in the park.
- Public Comment:
  - o Emmy Goldknopf of Sierra Club: I wonder how these ideas are interacting with the zoo vision plan of a few years ago. I hope you will oppose things that will hurt the park as a whole, such as the arial tram, that you will bring to the zoo how its plans will hurt the environment.

## 6. Superintendent Reports:

### a. Park Closures:

- The Department follows direction from the LA County Dept. of Public Health and mandates that come out from the mayor's office. Tennis, golf, pony rides, equestrian trails, picnic areas, hiking trails, playgrounds, and fitness areas are open. The Observatory, Dash and Parkline shuttles, Greek Theater, train rides, and Travel Town are closed.
- Mask signs – metal signs are in play areas reminding people to wear masks. Rangers are enforcing mask rules, but not issuing citations at this time.

### b. Communications, PABs assistance in communication with the public:

- Best way to have support is by outreach. PAB can put out monthly newsletter. 300 folks get newsletter, and we hope that grows.
- Consider placing signs at areas of high traffic that advertises GPAB and volunteer opportunities and outreach.

### c. Crime and Safety Report

- Want to have park ranger present at these meetings regarding crime and safety. For this month, Laverne Cox had a crime incident in the Park. LAPD took a hate crime report and no further information was provided on that incident. There has been a bit of an uptick in car thefts, which is somewhat usual for the holidays. Battery incident where rangers, LAPD, showed up and responded. Rangers made a traffic stop in which the vehicle was stolen and

suspects were considered armed and dangerous. Suspects apprehended without incident.

- Motorcycles: This has been put on hold so Chief Ranger can do more outreach and talk to equine advisory board. Once he has prepared final draft, will send to GPAB for review before sending to general manager
- Red flag warning days – fire – Rangers are always first on the scene and have water trucks ready to respond.
- Maintenance performs brush clearance every year and usually completed around mid-August.
- Arming of park rangers on hold due to Covid and other priorities.

d. Maintenance Report

- Seeded Lake Hollywood Park and repainting park benches. Recently with early retirement incentive program, lots of folks are retiring and maintenance is short staffed. The Park is losing almost half of the gardeners, including several others.

e. Pony Ride Concessions/Alcohol Sales

- Still plan option to sell alcohol in RFP. Release of RFP on hold due to Covid, plan to release first quarter of 2021. Plan to identify area of consumption and compliance.

f. Mulholland fence

- Scheduled meeting to meet on site, but this had to be put on hold due to Covid. This area is a high fire zone so there are concerns about overplanting the area. The fence was put up to help planting be established.

7. Suggestions for Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Consider letter of support that GP should be considered separately w/r/t volunteerism.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2020 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

9. Adjournment: 8:30pm adjourned