

Griffith Park Advisory Board  
August Minutes  
August 26, 2021  
Meeting began at 6:32pm  
via zoom

1. Call to Order Roll Call: Greenwald, Crames, Laib, Chung, Gilbert, Hain, Phillips, Thornton. Deutsch excused. Announcements by Chair: Welcome of new member Aaron Chung. Chung shared that he lives in Koreatown, and has been coming to Griffith Park “since he was a baby”. Mike Hain announces this is his last meeting and that he has enjoyed the experience and has opted to stay on the safety ad hoc committee. Greenwald thanked Hain for his service and there was enthusiastic applause from the board.
2. Minutes Approved unanimously with 3 corrections. Phillips spelling correction, Hain absent, and a comment from Rudnick in response to a board question.
3. Special Guests Helene Rotolo, Council District 4 deputy. A temporary gate will be installed at top of Deronda next week, with a trilogy lock, to deter nighttime access. A permanent solution is pending BOE recommendations, which are in progress. CD4 is studying the Zoo EIR, including GPAB recommendations. There will be Mulholland fence update at the September GPAB meeting.  
Public comment: Inquiry about trilogy lock operation and whether seasonally adjusted.
4. General Public Comments 4 comments, including an update on the fifth year raptor study and a compliment to the board re the LA Zoo EIR letter; our board needs more diversity; the increase in park filming is impacting parking and trail access at popular trail locations. A suggestion that there be dedicated hiker parking and increased notification re: film shoots at trailheads.
5. Informational Reports and Presentations RAP staff report on *Tom La Bonge Panorama* by Aren Galustians and Tracy James. Improvements of existing infrastructure include repair of broken fence rails and short border retaining walls; 7 total amenities will be improved or added, including new Sequoia composite railings, ‘Mt. Hollywood Trail’ to be added to the existing post, 2 photographic point-of-interest panels, which are low profile below height of fencing.

Board comment: A question regarding picture of Tom, staff answers it was Mrs. La Bonge’s choice; will horse tie ups be updated and available, staff answers ‘yes’; a request that QR codes be added to photo panels; a concern about graffiti.

Public comment: The picture of Tom standing on the pole might encourage others to attempt a dangerous feat; money would be better spent on improving fire roads throughout the park. Staff response that the panorama site is being financed without public funds, all private, donated funds.

Motion: Board support of the La Bonge Panorama, as presented; first, Laib, second, Thornton; unanimous approval.

*Haunted Hayride* presentation by 13th Floor Productions. Three executives reporting; Timothy Pugsley, Nick Truini and Melissa Carbonne; Traffic flow a focus of improvement over past years. Zoo parking added. Event operable 7p-10:30 weeknights and until 11pm on weekends. Initially, only weekends.

Board Comments: Lighting mitigation re wildlife; Pugsley: Lighting facing inwards; dates of event; Pugsley: 9/24-10/31, beginning with weekends only. Build out is for 10 days prior; Parking concern. Pugsley: Parking in Crystal Springs will continue to allow public picnicking and parking lots 1 and 2 will have reserved spots for other park users.

Public Comment: Blockage of bike lanes. Pugsley: Security will accommodate bikers; Covid precautions. Pugsley: They’re following all municipal guidelines, consulting with UCLA medical, all shuttles will follow county guidelines and each will have sanitary stations; FOGP thanks for reducing impact, but remains opposed based on wildlife impact, and public space being used for private enterprise; northbound 5 freeway zoo exit congestion comment; why is public transportation so limited to Griffith Park, in general; were EIR and RFP processes followed? No answer; Pugsley: Security has been increased this year and are licensed and

bonded. No picnics will be displaced prior to 5 pm. Staff: The Greek ingress, egress model will be followed, in conjunction with street services and DOT, that this year's event will be "carefully scrutinized and monitored"; was there a CEQA process for this event? No response (covered during next report)

6. Superintendent Updates James gives report; all indoor RAP spaces continue to require masking; Old Zoo closures due to DWP power updates; there is significant theft and sabotage at this site; Old Zoo after-hour activity is increasing; Rudnick to report about Observatory parking revenue at Sept GPAB meeting; leaf blower complaints being reviewed by RAP, which is upgrading, and all blowers should be electric "by 2025"; no smoking signs being reviewed; 125th GP birthday party plans taking place, with private partnership and LA Conservancy involvement; the LA Shares site is scheduled for demolition and the acting superintendent has advised RAP Planning that GPAB supports the LA Shares site for a permanent GP Adult Activity Center site; RAP will report back regarding Haunted Hayride RFP and CEQA question, raised earlier.

## 7. Committee Reports

*-Public Safety ad hoc Committee:* Laib reports about field visit to the Old Zoo with staff and the deteriorated status of the old cave/cages, particularly in the back; screen shared pictures of tagging, weapons found and vandalized fencing for access to back of caves. There have been 168 ranger incident reports at the Old Zoo in the past 6 months, far more than any other GP location; site visit observations of smoking and fire rings make it an extreme fire hazard, with a steep, densely vegetated slope immediately behind the old cages. The ad hoc will return recommendations to the board at September meeting; committee voted unanimously to accept Hain's request to stay on committee; we are sourcing no smoking sign bids; reminder that fire season is upon us in the park and to call 9-1-1 for fire evidence and park rangers for conditions that could lead to fire. Their phone number is 323-644-6661.

*-Community Engagement ad hoc Committee:* Chair Crames reports that our Instagram page has 900 followers, thanks Phillips; the Zoo and Autry are doing some joint programming; Crames advocates that GPAB be involved in the City Council Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and River committee, chaired by Councilperson O'Farrell. \$8 billion in state monies being dedicated to these efforts.

*-Bylaw, Mission and Vision Plan Action-Item Review ad hoc Committee:* Chair Greenwald reports that the action items in the Vision for GP are proving challenging and that it might make sense that they be delegated to various committees; a conversation is taking place in the committee about our ad hoc committee structure breadth.

Public Comment: The board mission seems P22 centric, suggestion that we broaden our scope; the chair suggested a review of our mission statement on the RAP website.

*-Equestrian ad hoc Committee:* Chair Thornton updated the Lynn Brown memorial block project and that installations are planned for January 2022.

## 8. Board Business

-Thornton: Parking meter money "needs to stay on our radar". Chair Greenwald advises that Assistant RAP GM Rudnick will report regarding this at September meeting.

-Laib: Requests that the GP Adult Activity Center be agendaized when it makes sense.

Public Comment: A comment/clarification that eastern areas adjacent to the LA River, are part of GP, and are in Council District 13.

## 9. Adjournment

The board adjourned in honor of Mike Hain and his 3 years of service and focus on important safety issues; board members expressed their gratitude and their enjoyment in working with him.

Adjournment at 8:49pm. Next meeting is September 23, 2021 at 6:30pm.