

Griffith Park Advisory Board

Final Minutes

June 24, 2021

Meeting began at 6:31 pm
via zoom

1. Roll Call: Greenwald, Crames, Laib, Gilbert, Hain, Phillips, Thornton attending. Deutsch excused.
2. Minutes: Approved without correction
3. General Public Comments: M. Dodge reports that FOGP will have a clean up at Bird Sanctuary on June 26, 8:30am
4. Special Guest: Sarah Tanberg, Council District 4
The council office emphasizing fire safety. Sarah will be on call July 4 weekend and coordinate with safety agencies. Councilperson Raman pleased to attend Albert Torres memorial and CD 4 presented the family with City Council commendation
5. **Information Reports and Presentations:**
 - Mulholland Highway Fencing
Sarah referenced the Dixon report and prior councilperson planting of trees and installation of fencing as a 'non workable' permanent solution. Visitors and residents have access rights. Whether vehicles stopping for photography without fencing or pedestrian walking into street off the narrow pathway with it, there are public safety concerns. There have also been complaints about wildlife corridor blockage. The council office aspires to deliver further direction within 90 days.
-10 public comments
-2 board comments
 - Los Angeles Zoo final EIR
Board chair Greenwald reviewed final EIR approval by The Zoo Commission, adopted without consideration of our Alternative 2 recommendation. This surfaces a conflict between city adopted park traffic reduction protocols and the addition of 1.25 million annual visitors in a final EIR; particularly one that doesn't contain meaningful and measurable traffic mitigation.
-2 public comments
-2 board comments, including an analysis of Alt 2, which mitigates 7 of the 17 negative impacts in the final EIR.
Motion: Phillips, seconded by Thornton that GPAB write letter to entire City Council reiterating our position and council's prior positions re traffic mitigation in the adopted Griffith Park vision. Unanimous approval.
 - Griffith Observatory parking meter revenue
Chair Greenwald thanks Recreation and Parks for transparency in providing several years of revenue data
-2 board comments
-3 public comments
Motion: Phillips, seconded by Gilbert that we invite a Rec and Parks executive to next GPAB meeting and further discuss allocation of the monies vis a vis the stated objective when the program was launched. Unanimous approval.
 - GPAB bylaws
Chair Greenwald advises he replaces Deutsch as acting chair of ad hoc. Gilbert and Greenwald present revised bylaws
Motion to adopt. Phillips, seconded by Thornton. Unanimous approval
 - Discussion about return to live meetings

Acting Superintendent Smith advises that the department is allowing return to live meetings effective October 1, 2021, in accordance with a State advisory re boards governed by the Brown Act. Board discussion, resulting in recommendation for further study in the community engagement committee, led by Crames and Phillips. Committee to report back re merits and logistics

6. Superintendent Updates

Acting Superintendent Smith advises that daily Dash service returned on 6/23, Griffith Observatory reopens on 6/24, Fri-Sunday only, until fully restaffed. Parkline shuttle a priority but no restart date yet. RAP employees must still wear face coverings, and children also required at all indoor RAP facilities. New GPAB member applications are robust and deliberations shall continue into July. Albert Torres memorial on 6/15 was special, a plaque placed in Park Central courtyard. Additional summer transportation staffing at Los Feliz and Fern Dell, Vermont and Commonwealth, Lot G, Section 9 and Griffith Observatory parking area. No Parking signs placed adjacent to heavy trafficked intersections on Friday-Sunday. Extra brush clearance continuing throughout the park.

7. Committee Reports

Safety ad hoc

Chair Laib advises that a meeting is being set up with LAFD, CD4, RAP and GPAB about coordinating efforts re wildfire safety, including adjacent neighborhood evacuation protocols. A Griffith Park ranger equestrian detail to be discussed at next ad hoc meeting.

Community Engagement

Chair Crames reports about micro forest planting in Bette Davis park, involvement of various stakeholder groups and the Observatory reopening

Bylaw, vision and mission plan

Chair Greenwald reports that 2 of 3 tasks completed, and that the Griffith Park Vision recommendations are next to be scheduled

Equestrian ad hoc

Chair Thornton compliments Superintendent Smith on quick repairs called in by equestrians and that her ad hoc is also taking up equestrian ranger unit

8. Board Business

Discussion of Griffith Park biologist requested for July meeting

Next meeting July 22, 6:30pm via zoom

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourns at 9:01 pm