

June 22

GPAB Draft Minutes

Meeting commenced at 6:30pm

1. Call to order/ roll call

Crames, Laib, Chung, Gilbert, Phillips, Thornton present;
Greenwald, Ashouri and Crow excused

Vice Chair Crames is leading the meeting, and read the RAP Advisory Board statement of purpose and rules for meeting

2. Approval of minutes Crames not present for some of last meeting so she recommends we wait for July mtg to approve, due to a lack of quorum with her recusal. Note: There were 26 written public comments sent in during the month. They were forwarded to the board. The majority of the comments pertained to transportation safety in Griffith Park

3. Special Guests

CD4. Xanthe Scheps and Mashael Majid

Their office is hosting a district wide clothing and hygiene item drive 7/9 10am-1pm at Notre Dame High school in Sherman Oaks

Board Questions:

Thornton: Why are there areas in park that allow smoking?? James: We will talk about it during safety. Laib interjected that the signs with fire info are at park headquarters.

Crames: What is fine, is it enforced? Can we get a sign for Wattles? James: Will discuss during safety.

Laib: The conversation about smoking involves CD4-can Xanthe stay till then? Xanthe: Yes

Public comment

-none

Serapia Kim, Mayors office

BET is sponsoring a projection art installation on the Hollywood Sign, celebrating black culture and Juneteenth, this coming weekend. It was approved by the Hollywood Sign Trust. It is on private land so didn't require a permit, however, the city will supply some traffic control and security. Contact Betsy@hollywoodsign.org for questions

Board comment

Phillips: GPAB would like to be in loop on Hollywood sign use issues, this being the second recently. The sign is in the park and there is a neighborhood disruption and light pollution impacts wildlife. Kim: There does need to be better communication with stakeholders on this project

Thornton: Who pays for the city staff support? Kim: Doesn't know answer, although being a private project, BET should be paying. She will report back.

Crames: GPAB has a community engagement committee and will reach out to Betsy

Public Comment

Steve Alper: Concerned about financing for sign use. Is BET paying the trust? Kim: Doesn't know, will report back to us

Chief Ranger Loserelli

4th of July prep. Runyon Canyon will be closed at 5pm each night that weekend and extra ranger patrol will be on site. Fire apparatus will be assigned to Lake Canyon area until midnight.

There's been a high increase in vehicular break ins at GO, Greek and Wilson/Harding golf course. Midday.

Ranger Division has a zero tolerance policy on smoking in the park and they are citing smokers. There are foreign tourists who do not understand the smoking rules so the rangers exercise more tolerance. There have been a couple of small fires recently. The new fire truck is very helpful. Rangers will be deployed at the BET Hollywood Sign event this weekend

Board comment

Crames: Are the smash and grabs consistent with overall city trends? Loserelli. Yes

Laib: Have the smash and grabs involved car theft? And how is Old Zoo crime?

Loserelli: No on thefts and more peaceful at Old Zoo. Feels the break ins are related to a ring or individual, due to similar method and time of day and "coincide with school being out"

Thornton: Would cameras help in the parking areas? Loserelli: We do have (mobile) cameras deployed in the park. We could use more cameras, particularly fixed, permanent ones

Public comment

Lionel Mares. Will park be closed for 4th? Loserelli: GP operating normal hours. Only Runyon closing early. If heavy traffic, we do close the park roads. But normally not an issue for 4th of July

4. General Public Comment on items not on agenda

-Lionel Mares: Many mens restrooms in park don't have doors. One at Fern Dell and one near Greek. No privacy. Stop sign at Zoo Dr has been hit by a car and some bicycle bike signs have graffiti-need to be repaired/cleaned.

5. Information reports and special guests

Courtney McCammon, parks ecologist

First months have been a whirlwind, I've met a lot of partners/stakeholders. Working with Leon at Urban Forestry re: tree trimming and raptor/bird nests. Rangers and I have been nature hiking and looking at interpretation topics re: plants and birds. Training maintenance division in GP, so they understand plant and animal issues in their work. She's working on the Junior Ranger booklet, which will be about 20 pages as a scientific notebook, and is looking to engage an illustrator.

Board Questions

Laib: Is there enough water in park for wildlife? Should we be looking at gushers?

There's a perception that wildlife is coming into neighborhoods for water. McCammon: Not sure. It's controversial. Doubts that wildlife are coming into the neighborhoods because there's not enough water in park.

Phillips: There are invasive plant species in park. What is relationship with Cal flora Weed Management System? McCammon is working with them now and the first step is mapping where there are invasions.

Crames: Zoo magnet and some other kid illustrators may be able to help with the Junior Ranger book.

Public Comment: None

6. Superintendent Update

Stefanie Smith:

Jimmy Kim has been appointed new GM of the dept. 25 year career in RAP. Came out of emergency preparedness division.

-James: GP road closure set to go. Temporary closure will begin 6/27. Staff will be on site that day to assist; this closure is a 6 week test and feed back will be collected by RAP and the Kimley Horn consultants. There will still be city staff vehicles using this road however, including dept and rangers. Kimley Horn has an ongoing driving data collection process in park. Other park wide short term measures being drafted, including traffic calming, striping, bike/pedestrian conflict mitigation. Kimley Horn will join us at the July mtg.

-Smith: James' work has been amazing, fast and extremely important. Board applause.

-Smith: Areas of the park, adjacent to private properties, brush clearance is 50% completed and will be done by July; interior park brushing areas will begin thereafter.

-Pony Rides, Inc has had their lease renewed, based on satisfactory vet review and owner improvements.

-Covid protocols remain the same.

-Rap staff will also be deployed 7/2-7/4.

James: No update on LA Shares yet.

Board Comments

Laib: Length of Pony Ride lease? Smith: 3 yr with 2 one year extensions possible.

Crames: The GP Dr closure is a great example as to how we can come together as a community.

Public comment

Demian Kevitt: Supports permanent closure of GP Dr.

There will be July 2 bicycle ride on GP Dr. James: Please be mindful there will still be city vehicles using this road segment.

Lionel Mars: Thanks to all. Keep the safety work going!

Xanthe: Really impressed with Stefanie and Tracy. Great work! Board applause.

7. Committee Reports

-Executive: Laib: Succession planning, transit/mobility and training for new members discussed.

-Community Engagement: Crames: *Signs Of Life* at the Observatory getting rave reviews. Phillips social media efforts has furthered intra park relationships.

-Public Safety: Laib: While there seems to be a prevailing belief that the well watered golf courses present low fire risk with their smoking carve out, the ad hoc committee feels strongly we must eliminate smoking on the golf courses. Golfers keep smoking when they go the parking lots, get in their cars, drive into the park and throw their hot butts into the brush. Xanthe: CD4 supports abolishing this carve out. Kim: The mayor's office will look at it. Thornton also mentioned that medical marijuana shouldn't be a carve out in the park either, as it is currently in municipal code.

-Transit and mobility: Phillips: Kimley Jones coming to next meeting. There is a park transportation map being created. There may be a zoo update next meeting. Xanthe: The CAO has been instructed to look at funds, including a bond measure, to finance LA Zoo draft EIR provisions; the draft EIR is pending city approval. The LA River master

plan was approved by the county board of supervisors. These two plans are operating on separate tracks, although there will be some ultimate symmetries.

-Equestrian:Thornton: Loves that the Pony Ride extension is approved. Closing of GP Dr benefits equestrian safety significantly. Other crossings still dangerous. Wants to knock the other two crossings off of the safety list, and will suggest an easy way to do so to RAP staff.

-Sustainability: Phillips: Working with dept. to get as many water fountains and refilling stations in the park as possible.

8. Board Business

None

9. Adjournment: In honor of get-well to Jason and Happy Birthday to Aida. Unanimous.

Meeting ended at 8:38 pm.

Next Meeting is 7/28 via zoom