

Griffith Park Advisory Board  
October 27, 2022, via zoom  
Final Minutes

1. Roll Call

Greenwald, Crames, Laib, Chung, Crow, Gilbert, Phillips, Thornton present. Ashouri absent. Thornton excused at 7:48pm to attend her college reunion

2. Approval of September 2022 Minutes

Thornton first/Crames second. Motion carries with unanimous vote and no corrections  
Note: There were 7 written comments submitted by the public. 5 were regarding speeding and road closure in the park; 1 regarding coyote feeding; 1 regarding the closure of the Merry Go Round

3. Special Guests

**Mehmet Berker, Council District 4**

The section 8 waiting list closes October 30; The Wildlife Ordinance draft is out and can be read by googling it; Kimley Horn consultants, RAP and CD4 have coordinated the Griffith Park mobility study; they will meet in early November to wrap up the final results. The CD4 LA Zoo EIR 1.5 letter stresses a desire that the Zoo be successful and a fully engaged partner in Griffith Park, that lessening vehicle trips (VMT's) is critical, and that there needs to be a real system to track trips compared to a set baseline, with an objective of reducing VMTs. They also expressed a concern about the scope and scale of the proposed Condor Canyon element. The council office introduced a motion regarding the GP Pony Rides concession, which can be read on their website

Board Comments

Laib: Thank you to council member Raman for her strong leadership and quick condemnation of the unacceptable sentiment and remarks in the recently exposed recording of districting deliberations.

**Xanthe Scheps, Council District 11** representative

Hello board, thank you for your hard work and I miss you.

4. General Public Comment

Gerry Hans, Friends of Griffith Park: Bee Rock trail now usable. Ghost trails have been closed, erosion control increased and signs posted. There were 400 volunteers on the restoration project. Also, a GP visitor center mural project is being developed regarding flora and fauna in the park.

Marian Dodge, Friends of Griffith Park: P-22 Day last weekend was a huge success attended by Councilmember Koretz and State Senator Portantino.

Natasha Darnall: Please agendaize the unacceptably dangerous pot holes on park fire roads

Lionel Mares: P-22 festival great, Zoo sign is fixed, thank you for closing the GP Dr road segment, bicycle lane signs are faded and they need replacement. And, the lanes need re-striping.

Pilar Gonzalez: A crosswalk is needed in Fern Dell near the Trails Cafe. Also, Deer are going into the road for acorns and we need a deer crossing sign.

5. Informational Reports

**Estefany Salas, LA Parks Foundation**

Screen shared signage to be placed at the south Autry entrance near the tribal gathering area. The signage commemorates the Rodger Young Village, a 1,000 unit quonset hut village for returning WWII veterans that was active from 1945 to 1954. It was funded by the Griffith J Griffith Trust.

Board Comments

Crames: That sure was a good example of government being able to create affordable and fast housing in a housing emergency.

Laib: Is the signage consistent with the other historic/informational signage in the park?

James: Yes, same vendor and style

Public Comment

Steve Alper: Is font the same as other signs? James: Not sure, but style the same

Gerry Hans: This village did not displace any habitat as it was placed where a decommissioned airfield was previously.

**Motion** to approve the sign

Phillips first/Thornton second

Unanimous approval; Phillips agrees to write letter

**6. Officer Elections**

Chair Greenwald: Under advisement from the Recreations and Parks Department, we are going to conduct the elections in a different manner and require a motion and vote on each candidate after they have each given a statement. Crames is candidate for chair, Thornton for vice chair and Laib for secretary,

Public Comment

Steve Alper: What are each of your positions on the situation in south Griffith Park near the Hollywood Sign and Lake Hollywood park? Greenwald: Advises that each candidate may respond during their statement

Crame's statement emphasized her board efforts to coordinate the various stakeholders and venues in the park to facilitate collaboration in tackling our mutual desires for the park. That her leadership style will be inclusive and she desires attracting more diverse visitors to the park; and particularly those that lack neighborhood park and outdoor activity options.

**Motion** to elect Crames as chair

Greenwald first/Crow second

Unanimous approval

Thornton's statement emphasized her love of riding her horse in the park, Griffith Park's substantial equestrian history and a desire to return to public meetings. She is looking forward to learning more about the problems in south Griffith Park.

**Motion** to approve Thornton as vice chair

Laib first/Phillips second

Unanimous approval

Laib's statement emphasized his desire to hone to the tenets of the Vision for Griffith Park, particularly limiting/removing built environment and his love of living adjacent to it and being in it daily. He feels the residents in South GP are unfairly burdened by sign traffic and that RAP, CD4 and GPAB are constantly looking for solutions. Believes that the large closed DWP area around Lake Hollywood should be substantially opened to park goers.

**Motion** to approve Laib as secretary

Phillips first/Thornton second

Unanimous approval

**7. Board Committee Composition**

Outgoing Chair Greenwald: Under advice from the Recreation and Parks Department, proposes that we discontinue our current operating model of the ad hoc committees. In the future ad hocs may be convened as needed by the chair. The existing ad hoc committees will therefore be disbanded.

**Motion** to disband urgent ad hoc committees

Greenwald first/Crames second

Unanimous approval

Greenwald recommends that a by law ad hoc committee be convened to revise our procedures regarding this issue, and that it should be led by Chair Crames.

Board Comment

None

Public Comment

None

**Motion** to approve an ad hoc committee to review and revise our bylaws and board procedures

Crames first/Crow second

Unanimous approval

### 8. Year End Schedule

Outgoing chair Greenwald: Traditionally, we have combined the November and December board meetings into one year end meeting. Proposed 12/8 as that meeting date.

#### Public Comment

Gerry Hans: He wants to present that park central mural at the December meeting.

**Motion** to adopt combined November and December board meetings on 12/8

Greenwald first/Laib second

Unanimous approval

### 9. Superintendent Updates

Tracy James: Griffith Park administrator and coordinator

Congrats to the new officers. What a wonderful chair Jason Greenwald has been (unanimous applause); Bronson Caves and Merry Go Round remain closed; park line shuttle still suspended; RAP has submitted a report to the Board of Rec and Parks regarding transit issues, it was approved and now is forwarded to contractors for bidding process; Kimley Horn consulting group is also going to be submitting Crystal Springs Drive improvement solutions soon; the Pony Rides veterinarian has made an unannounced visit to the venue and will be meeting soon with the vendor; the Haunted Hayride is ending without incidents to date; masks are no longer needed anywhere in the park, however the Griffith Observatory still has an inside mask requirement; Superintendent Smith will be addressing parking revenue issues at the upcoming year-end GPAB meeting; the department will be addressing the GPAB board tenure issue, as 5 of the members have already exceeded the 2 year limit. She stated that the department will be advertising for applicants, advising those termed out, and that they will be able to reapply if desired.

#### Board Comment

Laib: Will the superintendent be discussing parking revenue allocations with us at upcoming meeting? James: No, a review of the income.

Greenwald: With the mask mandate gone, can GPAB meet live? James, yes and at park central meeting area, as in past.

### 10. Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Greenwald, chair

A discussion of the disbandment of the current ad hoc committee model.

### 11. Board Business

Laib: We should invite new RAP General Manager Kim to our next meeting

### 12. Adjournment

Greenwald asked director Crow to screen share an appreciation of recently departed Griffith Park icon Bernadette Soter. It emphasized her legacy as a Griffith Park conservationist, co author of the Vision for Griffith Park, chair of the Greater Griffith Park neighborhood council parks, rivers and open spaces committee and leader to monument Griffith Park as an LA landmark. Crames added that we also want to adjourn in commemoration of Chair Jason Greenwald's superlative leadership and guidance.

**Motion** to adjourn in commemoration of Soter and Greenwald

Chung first/Greenwald second

Unanimous

Meeting adjourns at 8:17 pm.

Next meeting will be December 8, as yet to be determined as to whether via zoom or live