

Final Minutes GRIFFITH PARK ADVISORY BOARD

July 28, 2022

Roll call

Greenwald, Laib, Chung, Crow, Gilbert, Phillips, Thornton attending; Ashouri and Crammes excused

Minutes

May: Phillips first, Thornton second. Unanimous approval with no corrections

June: Phillips first, Thornton second. 6 approve with no corrections; Greenwald abstains, due to being absent for June meeting.

Note: There were over 100 emails to RAP in July; all on Griffith Park transit issues, 80% for Griffith Park Dr. temporary closure, 20% against.

Board Announcements

None

Reports from Government Officials

Council District 4, Xanthe Scheps

-The Councilmember put forth a resolution to raise the state rate for board and care for the infirm and elderly, which should result in more beds being available.

-On Saturday June 30, there is a school supply drive at the Hollywood United Church from 10am-1pm; Scheps will also pick up any supplies donated.

Seamus Garrity, Deputy, Assembly District 43

-Assemblymember Friedman was able to get \$4m allocated for GP safety improvements and for the LA Zoo.

-Assemblyperson got \$2m for charging stations and biking infrastructure to connect active transit improvements along the Verdugo Wash, including the I-5 overpass.

Tracy James interjects that RAP is "extremely grateful for the support from the Assembly office".

General Public Comments for Items not on the agenda

-Elizabeth: There is a hazardous health situation at the Riverside Dr. Bridge Home in GP, including drug dealing, illegally siphoned water, open flame cooking, several fires, and RV's illegally parked. This violates a commitment made by the city re: security at the Bridge Home.

-Marian Dodge for FOGP: An invitation for a nature hike from Mineral Wells to Amir's Garden, led by Jorge Ochoa, this coming Saturday.

-Michael Schneider: Thank you for support of the recent transit changes.

-Gerry Hans for FOGP: Bee Rock trail restoration is beginning this weekend and will take place in phases into next year; it will serve as a model for good trail management.

Information Reports and Presentations

Sowmya Chandrasekhar and Matt Stewart, Kimley Horn Consultants, regarding safety and active transportation improvements in GP

-In follow-up to their scope of work presented in May, Kimley Horn presented a series of recommendations to address three primary goals: reducing cut-through traffic in the park; reducing vehicle speed much closer to the 25 MPH limit; and upgrading active transportation infrastructure including, where possible, physical separation.

Among their short-term (six months or less) recommendations were the permanent closure of the section of Griffith Park Drive that has been closed as a pilot (from Travel Town south to the

compost facility); speed humps and radar speed feedback signs; and a Crystal Springs “road buffet” that could lead to one-lane vehicle travel in each direction.

A copy of the Kimley-Horn presentation is available at www.laparks.org/griffithpark

Board Questions and Comments

Laib, Phillips, Thornton and Crow commented

Superintendent Smith also added that the goal is that vehicles in the park are carrying people there to use the park.

Public Questions and Comment

-Lionel Mares: Crystal Springs Rd bike lane signs are defaced and need to be replaced; Zoo area stop sign has been damaged

-Damian Kevitt: Question about location of Mt Hollywood gate.

-Liz Radley: Traffic restrictions are supported by the equestrians, and speeding bicyclists can frighten horses, please slow down upon approach.

-Marian Dodge: Does anyone know how many speeding tickets have been written?

-Kathryn Louise: She also noticed the zoo sign being down.

-Elizabeth Lovins: The new bicycle lanes on Riverside Dr are being blocked by RVs and tents; CD4 should ask for greater feedback on its projects.

Further board comments and questions

Greenwald: Are you considering the Zoo EIR plans in your work? For example, their plan to reconfigure Crystal Springs Dr? Sowmya: Yes, Tracy and Stefanie are apprising and interfacing

Gilbert: Commends all the work and particularly impressed that they are looking at the issues with Tunnel 1.

Phillips: Is Mineral Wells being disadvantaged by the GP Dr partial closure? Sowmya: No impact and more enjoyable for the passive users, due to less speeding through that area.

Laib: Is the Park Line shuttle being considered for drop off/on? Sowmya: Yes, and city bus stops also being considered within the park.

Greenwald: Can we actually reduce Crystal Springs Dr to one lane each direction? Sowmya: Yes, in fact Crystal Springs Dr is over allocated for auto traffic.

Thornton: The continental crosswalks present difficulties for horses, due to their “inability to see multiple lines”.

James: We would like a letter of support for the permanent closure of GP Drive from this board, it is beneficial.

Motion: Laib: The GPAB supports permanent closure of Griffith Park Drive from Travel Town to the Mt. Hollywood junction, with an exception for limited access for city vehicles, when necessary. Thornton: Second

Board Discussion, unanimous vote to approve; Greenwald and Phillips to draft letter.

Recirculated Zoo EIR

Greenwald announces the public release of the Zoo EIR, version 1.5. The transit and mobility ad hoc committee will be making recommendations at the August board meeting, which is within the public comment period and will give us time to weigh in.

Board Comments and Questions

Thornton: Where can we see the EIR revision? Greenwald shared the URL and that there will be a town hall meeting on 8/15 in the evening. The meeting link will be on the zoo website

Superintendent Update

-Covid protocols remain the same.

- Old Zoo fencing project to be completed in August.
- Bronson Cave, Parkline Shuttle, Merry go Round and Los Feliz plunge are not operational
- Shakespeare in the Park performing thru Sept 4th at the Old Zoo, Autry is having events, the Signs of Life new show at the Samuel Oschin Planetarium at Griffith Observatory is great!
- Park brush clearance adjacent to private properties is complete.

Public Comment and Questions

Steve Alper: What is the protocol for brush clearance adjacent to private property? Smith: Within 200' of any structures required.

Committee Reports

- Executive Committee: No meeting
- Community Engagement: No meeting
- Safety: Laib: The No Smoking signs are with park maintenance and will start to be installed. Very pleased with fast track department has taken on Old Zoo fencing.
- Transit and mobility: Greenwald: Working on lots of things, will have a report at next meeting.
- Equestrian: Thornton: Gene has been very busy working on Tunnel 1 issues, will report back.
- Sustainability: Phillips: Nothing new.

Board Business

Laib: What is plan for abandoned old site at LA Shares? Greenwald: "CD 4 is working on it".

Adjournment: 8:44pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 25