

Approved Final Griffith Park Advisory Board Minutes

September 22, 2022

6:31, via zoom

- 1). **Rollcall:** Greenwald, Crames, Laib, Chung, Crow, Gilbert, Thornton. Phillips excused. Ashouri joins at 6:39
- 2). **Approval of August minutes:** First, Crames, second Thornton; approved with 8 yeas (unanimous), no corrections
- 3). **Special guests:** Xanthe Scheps; announces she has taken a job with another council office, her last day as our community rep is 9/23/22; no replacement yet; Emma Taylor can be contacted in interim emma.taylor@lacity.org
- 4). **Comments regarding items not on the agenda**
 - M. Dodge: For Friends Of Griffith Park. 9/24 is National Parks Day; FOGP will convene a gathering at the Ranger Station area at 8:30. P-22 Day is 10/22-more info at fogp.org
 - Gerry Hans: For FOGP; The Bee Rock trail restoration is moving very quickly; it began on 8/22 and is three quarters finished; interpretive signage is being developed; thank you GPAB for your Zoo EIR letter; he notices that RAP hasn't weighed in with a letter...
 - Steve Alper: The western side of the park, Mt Hollywood Park, and Innsdale Trail don't seem to receive as much attention from our board; he advocates we spend more focus there

5) **Special Informational Reports**

-Joe Salaices, RAP consultant, presents regarding the Brown Act

RAP is conducting Brown Act training for all the park and other advisory boards; they are utilizing the same power point that is approved for Neighborhood Councils; Salaices screen shares a power point

Key areas of emphasis in the Brown Act are public participation, proper notice and transparency in deliberation and decision making; meeting agendas for all committee and board meetings, are to be publicly posted 72 hours in advance of meetings; no private, daisy chain, internet or telephonic discussions of board topics outside of the publics' presence; public comment to be accommodated before any board discussion; standing committees are subject to Brown Act; ad hoc committees with three or less members not subject; advises we should address our ad hoc committee system and volunteers who consult with us; Chair Greenwald adds topic to the October executive committee meeting agenda

Board Questions and Comments

- Ashouri: Can agenda item public comment be made during the general public comment period at the start of the agenda? Salaices: Yes, but board does not need to comment and should not deliberate on the topic until its place on the agenda.
- Greenwald: Can the public speak on an agenda item during general comment if there is a stated motion on the topic agonized? Salaices: Yes
- Laib: Does this mean that a member of the public can speak twice on the topic during the meeting? Salaices: Yes, but again the board should withhold deliberation until the topic is announced on agenda

The power point Salaices shared may be found at empower.org/workshops-trainings

Public Comment

-G Hans: Please clarify the meaning of attendance. Is the public really attending on a zoom meeting? What is an agenda item? Salaices: Covid protocols have required electronic meetings and agenda items are those published in a clear format with some description and posted 72 hours in advance of the meetings

-M Dodge: The public cannot see the numbers of participants on a zoom meeting

-K O'Neal: If the public attends an ad hoc, her understanding is we still do not have to follow Brown Act

Board Questions and Comments

-Ashouri: Should committee decisions be made by consensus or should there be a vote?

-Laib: Our historic operating procedure has been for the committees to report to the board with their findings, then for the board to deliberate and decide on issues; i.e. for the business of the board to be conducted first in committees, then for the full board to debate, alter, accept or reject committee findings in our final decisions.

-Greenwald: Thanks Salaices and states that these issues will be discussed at the October executive committee meeting, which shall be posted in advance and available to public and other board member participation

LA Film

-Nicole Robottom, Park Film Office

The Park Film Office monitors, licenses and coordinates film shoots in the park. They work with the new RAP ecologist

Board Questions and comments

-Ashouri: Do the gate attendants enforce speeding laws and is there any consideration of solar or battery power source for shoots? Superintendent Smith: All production companies are supplied park rules during shoots

-Thornton: Concerned about how drinking and smoking are depicted in park shoots.

Robottom: No actual liquor used in shoots; smoking and any fire only with a Fire Marshall present

-Greenwald: Thornton's question is regarding content; we don't want anyone thinking they can smoke in the park, for example

-Chung: Before permit is issued, does production company have to supply any kind of environmental impact declaration. Robottom: Yes

Public Comment and Questions

-G Hans: There has been progress and thankful that Film Office is working with ecologist, but nighttime shoots are very impactful/damaging to wildlife

-K. O'Neal: How do residents get notified about a shoot and whether there is smoking or pyrotechnics? Robottom: The park film office does not do notification, but LA Film is required to notify adjacent residents. They are trying to reduce night shoots in Griffith Park. Smith: All night shoots are now approved by the ecologist

6). Superintendents Report

Superintendent Smith

-The Old Zoo fencing not complete; thank you to board for their help

-The Merry Go Round, Parkline Shuttle and Bronson Caves still are not operational

-The recent Friendship Hall public transit meeting, while lightly attended, was good

-Progress is ongoing on park transit changes

- The Haunted Hayride begins next week
- The GPAB board officer election will be held at the October meeting; please email her or James if interested in running for office

7). **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Chair Greenwald: Sustainability ad hoc committee leadership, Griffith Park meter revenue allocation and an invitation to new RAP General Manager discussed

Engagement ad hoc committee

Board Chair Greenwald: Crow will now chair; no report

Safety ad hoc committee

Chair Laib: Delighted that the dept moved so quickly on Old Zoo fencing and mitigating hazards there; we visited the Mt Hollywood Park adjacent neighborhood proposed fencing site; Laib and Crow met with Sheila Irani, VP of HOA; the committee considered both the physical and fire safety elements of the highly visited area and its steepness and location adjacent to homes; on a 2-1 vote, the committee decided that RAP should not be responsible for installing fencing, and that less fencing in the park is preferential; update on the south Griffith Park area hazards include some progress on less camping, the Hyperion Bridge underpass encampment site was cleared, the Bridge Housing site is out of covid quarantine and Superintendent Smith is coordinating with maintenance to do some clean up, particularly at the base of the steep hillside ascending to Waverly and other residential areas, which the committee continues to believe is a fire hazard.

Transit and Mobility ad hoc committee

Chair Greenwald: Our Zoo EIR letter was posted with the agenda and went out within deadline; it addressed both of the issues approved at the September board meeting; the process is continuing and we shall likely weigh in again

Thornton: Thanks to committee for the hard and good work. Do we expect a response? Greenwald: Both CD4 and the Mayors office have acknowledged receipt and the EIR process will require a written response, perhaps later this year when the Zoo submits the final EIR to City Council; there is still more work to be done.

-Laib: Per a prior public comment, does RAP weigh in? Smith: The executive office does

Equestrian ad hoc committee

Chair Thornton: The Mt Hollywood road closure is great and resulting in an influx of wildlife utilizing that area; some crossing improvements have also been made.

Sustainability ad hoc committee

Board chair Greenwald; No report due to Chair Phillips absence

8). **Board Business:** None

9). **Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn in honor and gratitude to Scheps; first, Thornton, second Chung; unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:46pm

Next meeting on 10/27/22, via zoom