

Final Minutes
Griffith Park Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
December 7, 2023
Griffith Park Visitors Center

1. Call to Order: Thornton at 6:30pm

Roll Call: Laib

Thornton, Crow, Laib, Carlson, Chung, Greenwald, Griffin present. Phillips excused.

2. Approval of November minutes

Carlson first, Thornton second. Approved without corrections. Laib and Greenwald abstain

3. Special Guests

None

Comments from City, County, Federal and other governmental representatives in attendance

None

4. General Public Comment

Alpert: GPAB should consider an ad-hoc to address west Griffith Park issues

Dodge: Friends of Griffith Park: During holidays, if one experiences stress, take a hike in America's largest urban park!

Eric Adams: Tried to organize a 'Gay In' in the park. Not an easy project. Working on next year.

Stephanie Vendig, GP Adult Activity Center: GPAAC would like to partner with GPAB, particularly in evolution of South GP.

5. Informational Reports and presentations: Hull, CD4

-Jennifer thanked board for our work on the South Griffith Park Ad Hoc.

-CD4 has transferred \$250k for a SGP master planning process, from funding earmarked by Congressperson Schiff.

-Earmarked funding includes \$2m for the restoration of the Griffith Park plunge. An additional \$2m funding will be transferred from CD4 Quimby Funds.

-ABH Riverside ambassador funding has been identified for 2 ambassadors, who will have a functional relationship with Circle, Rangers and LAPD, and potentially cover both sides of the street. CD4 is aspiring to have the program operational within months.

-Phase 3 of the GP transit plan funding, identified by Assemblyperson Friedman, is nearing final approval in the state Assembly.

Board questions and comments

Laib: Thank you for your efforts on the planning process for South GP; a process that has been promised by your two council predecessors.

Laib: As for the month to month end-of-lease for the ABH, there is a concern in the community that assigns a perpetual tenancy for ABH in the park.

Hull and Sarah Tanberg: Housing is not permitted in city parks. The current use of park land for housing is related exclusively to the Mayoral emergency declaration and terminates when that declaration ends.

Crow: Is there a site identified outside the park, but in the vicinity, for permanent supportive housing?

Hull/Tanberg: No, it's challenging. We also know that the GPAB ad hoc has identified a site nearby and are willing to facilitate feasibility consideration.

Thornton: Will the Ambassadors be trained to work with park staff/Rangers?

Hull/Tanberg: Yes

Superintendent Smith: We will coordinate and help train the Ambassadors on RAP procedures and park staff relationships.

Public questions/comment:

Alexander Bahar: Mentioned crime and fire problems with ABH and that they are delineated in the So GP ad hoc report.

Thornton: What is timeline on the Master plan process?

Hull/Tanberg: We are hoping to get our motion approved and the process started in early 2024.

6. Superintendent updates: Superintendent Smith

-Pony Ride Site update

We have 6-8 pop ups meetings planned for January in the park. Some of the park user feedback has started already. We will finalize first round community feedback by 1/1/24. There will be Town Halls and surveys at start of new year. We hope to have a final recommendation by spring for city council consideration.

-Observatory parking kiosks update: Anthony Gallo

The meter vendor and T Mobile have an upcoming meeting, in mid December. A tech satellite is being placed in the park to facilitate operations of the metering system. There is a RFP out for future vendors and safeguards.

-Golf reservation system update

Management at the golf division has implemented several safety concepts in the reservation system, including a 'bot squasher' and is designing a paid deposit reservation concept.

-Emergency housing in the park

The city is looking for more permanent housing.

-Park Concessions

The Merry Go Round is still in probate. The new Trails Cafe site at park central is being developed. A list of concession rules was discussed.

-LA Parks Foundation

There is agreement that a special Griffith Park assigned fund can be/is being set up, so GPAB, GTAC can fundraise. The GP Superintendent has unilateral control of those funds.

Board questions/comments

Carlson: Why are outside vendors being allowed so close to children's play areas? Smith: The rules have a 100' exclusion area but it is very difficult to enforce. She has spoken with ranger management.

Public comment/questions: None

7. Committee and Ad Hoc Reports: Thornton

The agenda was discussed/formulated in the Executive Committee meeting.

8. Board Business

Griffin: We are working on a GP jazz festival, initially to be held at the Old Zoo performing arts location. We will seek corporate and music industry partners and make it a grass roots festival, attracting local jazz talent and bringing a more diverse crowd into the park. Ultimately, we hope it becomes a revenue generating event for the park.

Smith: RAP supports this and something like this was done before in the park.

9. Adjournment

First: Greenwald Second: Chung.

At 7:59pm

Next GPAB meeting will be January 25, at Park Central center.