

## Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group

### Summary of Fourth Meeting held October 11, 2005

The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group convened their fourth meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at the Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium.

Present: Bernadette Soter, Clare Dareden, Craig Kessler, George Grace, Gerry Hans, Jeff Gardner, Louis Alvarado, Lynn Brown, Richard Bogy, Susan Swan, and Valerie Vanaman.

Absent: Wendy Triplett

Facilitator: Kevin Regan, Assistant General Manager,  
Department of Recreation and Parks

Mr. Regan opened the meeting by introducing Ms. Vicki Israel as the new superintendent to Griffith Park. Specifically, Ms. Israel is the superintendent to the newly formed Griffith Region which includes management of all operations as well as oversight and planning responsibilities of Griffith Park, Runyon Canyon, the Wattles Mansion, and maybe Yucca and Las Palmas parks. The golf courses in Griffith Park will still be under the supervision and management of Golf Manager, James Ward.

Mr. Steve Davis, from the Bureau of Engineering was also introduced. He is a Landscape Architect and is currently involved in the Elysian Park Master Plan process.

Finally, Ms. Susan Aarii was introduced. Susan will be fulfilling some of the administrative duties for the Master Plan Working Group, such as producing the meeting agenda and summaries.

Some discussion then ensued regarding personnel changes involved in this process. Concern was expressed that a management style was decided for Griffith Park without notification of the Working Group members, and that the chapter on Park Management was not yet discussed. Working Group members felt that decisions were being made without input from the group and the question of “why should we continue to be involved in the process?” was put forth.

Mr. Regan responded that everyone in the Working Group is involved in the working group process because they care about Griffith Park. He stressed that what matters is the process, not who from the department is assigned to assist.

There was some lengthy dialogue regarding the Working Group’s perception of unfairness in the process of removing personnel originally assigned to the Working Group. Mr. Regan informed the Working Group that Recreation and Parks is a large operational Department of the City and as such, personnel matters are not open for discussion. Mr. Regan gave the assurance that there would be discussion on the chapter on Park Management and that the working group process had the full support of Councilmember LaBonge and the Recreation and Parks Department. He also provided

## Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group

### Summary of Fourth Meeting held October 11, 2005

some background regarding the responsibilities of the superintendent position of the former Griffith-Metro region and outlined the advantages in having a sole Griffith Region.

#### ◇ **Old Business**

It was announced that further public review period of the public meeting documents would be on: Monday, October 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Tuesday, October 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the main meeting room of Central Service Yard (CSY), 3900 West Chevy Chase Drive, Los Angeles

#### ◇ **Subcommittee Update**

- Recommendation for Vision Chapter (objectives)

Ms. Vanaman shared the main points of the committee's recommendations as the chairperson for the sub-committee that revised the Vision Chapter. Specific goals and objectives included the following:

- ✓ Manage the park as a natural area consistent with the park's Urban Wilderness identity
- ✓ Implement environmentally sound and sustainable programs and policies within the park
- ✓ Improve park mobility
- ✓ Promote an Urban Wilderness identity in the park reinforced by the design of facilities and amenities
- ✓ Focus park management on the Urban Wilderness identity and improve accountability and effectiveness

Working Group members thanked Ms. Vanaman for her group's diligence and hard work in producing such a well written document.

Public comment as it related to the Vision Chapter only was then heard with some discussion interspersed by Working Group members.

Specific wording for parts of the Vision Chapter was then discussed with Working Group members in agreement to the following changes:

## Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group

### Summary of Fourth Meeting held October 11, 2005

Under the section “Focus park management on the Urban Wilderness identity and improve accountability and effectiveness

- Re-state the following from: “Promote recreation and enjoyment by individuals and small groups as opposed to large group special events and improve management of special events to minimize impact on the Park and interference with Park users.”

TO: “Continuing to promote the existing diversity of recreation and enjoyment by individuals and small groups as opposed to large group special events and improve management of special events to minimize impact on the Park and interference with Park users.”

- From including the following: “Base decision-making on potential impacts of predicted population increases in Los Angeles region.”

TO: deleting this sentence in its entirety due to redundancy

#### ◇ **Meeting Schedule Confirmation and Location**

The next Working Group meeting will be held Monday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium.

#### ◇ **New Business**

Mr. Regan announced that a representative from the Melendrez Group as well as General Manager Jon Mukri, would be available to make a presentation at a future Working Group meeting. Responses from the Working Group were varied but it was ultimately agreed that any and all resources available for assistance in completing the re-work of the Master Plan would be valuable and should be considered.

Working Group members agreed that the next chapter for discussion would be the Environment Chapter. Prior to the next meeting, Ms. Vanaman agreed to chair a sub-committee to examine on whether or not to divide the chapter into “natural” vs. “built” as well as make chapter proposals. She indicated that sub-committee meeting dates and locations would be sent via e-mail.

#### ◇ **Public Comment**

It was announced that Elaine Brock from the Department of Water and Power would be making a presentation next Thursday at the Buena Vista Library at 6:30 p.m. regarding DWP operations in Griffith Park.

## Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group

### **Summary of Fourth Meeting held October 11, 2005**

Mr. Fitzpatrick, from Councilmember LaBonge's office, announced that there would be a new field deputy for the Los Feliz area as Matt Levy would be leaving, but he did not yet have a replacement.

Various opinions were expressed ranging from problems with planning to having leases written by the City and not the lease user.