

## Griffith Park Master Plan - Working Group

### MEETING SUMMARY

#### Second Meeting, August 1, 2005

The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group convened their second meeting on Monday, August 1, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Ranger Station Auditorium. The meeting was preceded by an informal session at which Working Group members looked through the various other Park planning documents which had been requested at the previous meeting.

Members in attendance at this meeting were:

George Grace, Susan Swan, Craig Kessler (alternate Jim Gilbert was in attendance), Gerry Hans, Bernadette Soter, Valerie Vannerman, Lynn Brown, Jeff Gardener, Louis Alvarado, Wendy Triplett. Richard Bogy was absent. Acting Assistant General Manager Kevin Regan facilitated the meeting.

#### **Old Business**

Follow-up discussion on membership of the Working Group was concluded with the direction to Recreation and Parks staff to formally invite a representative of the Griffith Trust to sit on the Working Group, if the Trust so wished. Otherwise, the constituency of the Working Group is set at this time.

Working Group members discussed the various Park planning background documents made available as requested and determined to forward a list to Recreation and Parks of the materials which should be copied for all Working Group members. Members also had an interest in pertinent elements of the City's General Plan (Open Space and Public Facilities as it relates to parks and recreation) which the Council office committed to supply.

Recreation and Parks was also able to obtain from storage at the offices of draft Master Plan contractor, Melendrez, all original Community Workshop Materials as well as all materials connected with a report done as a Leisure Studies class project through Cal State Northridge, and the final Northridge report. Working Group members and the public expressed an interest in viewing these documents at a Saturday open house session, to be set up by Recreation and Parks, and were generally pleased to note that the materials were still extant. An interest in digitally archiving materials was discussed.

□ **Draft Plan Chapter Review**

Note: Points of Recommendation for addition or correction to the Draft Griffith Park Master Plan will be noted as Working Group Recommendation or **WGR**.

Chapter review of the draft Plan was prefaced by comments about the title and acknowledgments page, with note that the impression of collaboration and input by many of the entities in the acknowledgments was overstated and misleading.

**WGR:** Upon publication of a future draft, acknowledgments must be reflective of actual, meaningful participation.

**WGR:** The preface will need to incorporate the Working Group process and any other steps that may occur prior to re-draft.

• 1. Introduction

In discussion, Working Group members found information on the Park's history, and on the prior Master Plan efforts, to be useful background, however those facts should be validated. General concern surfaced repeatedly on the issues of development and commercialization, and suggestions of additional background to be included that would inform recommendations later in the Plan.

**WGR:** Include more coverage of Griffith's views of the Park and his intentions for its use, including his views on development and facilities in the Park.

**WGR:** Analyze the trend in ratio of developed acres versus open space acres in the Park over the century of Park history; provide analysis of the impacts on the Park of various developments over time.

• 2. Vision (Objectives)

The core issue of the purpose of a master plan, and particularly a Master Plan for Griffith Park, was a key discussion thread during review of the Vision. Concerns were raised that the Plan was prepared without first performing a Griffith Park-specific Needs Assessment and/or review of User Group Interests, and that planning for Griffith Park to meet general regional recreation needs must be performed in the context of other nearby regional recreational developments (i.e. Taylor Yards and Cornfields). In that connection, the Northridge study was of interest for further reading by Working Group members. The draft Plan's theme for the Park, "Living Laboratory for Learning," was seen as vague and suggestive of a more active, interventionist direction for the Park than was comfortable to many Working Group members. Even that theme statement was seen as leading to need for financial support, and segueing into recommendations for corporate and other financial partnerships or relationships that concerned the Working Group.

Questions were raised as to whether pressure was being exerted, and from which quarters if so, for Griffith Park to serve a larger revenue enhancement goal for the City.

Further discussion and additional specific recommendations will come at future meetings.

**WGR:** Define “Park-wide Arboretum” as used in the Plan and clarify what actions or policies that entails.

**WGR:** Provide analysis of alternative recreational resources to serve regional needs, including other parks in the City of Los Angeles, Burbank and Glendale parks, and Los Angeles Unified School District cooperative property use, and factor that into goals and objectives regarding active recreation and sports activities use in Griffith Park.

#### ❑ **Public Comment**

During the Public Comment period, members of the audience expanded on the suggestions and concerns addressed by Working Group members, with a focus on allowing Griffith Park to be unique among parks in the City and the nation, and adding protections against commercialism. About forty members of the public attended. Among the comments:

- Supports the open process of the Working Group
- Add information about the Park’s current community partners and analysis of whether current facilities in the Park are maximized.
- Needs of plants and animals in the Park must be balanced with the needs of people.

**The next meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Ranger Auditorium.** The regular schedule for meetings will be monthly on the first Monday of the month, with provision to modify for special circumstances.

The agenda for the next meeting will continue comments on Vision and include discussion on Education and start on the Built Environment.

Action Items for Recreation and Parks:

1. Distribute requested copies of reference materials to Working Group members.
2. Set up a public review session for the Community Outreach Workshop materials.
3. Provide more readable name plates for Working Group members and provide amplified sound if possible.