

Call to order

Crames welcomes all and will chair this meeting

Roll Call

All present except Laib and Crow absent.

Board announcements

Intro by Crames - meeting structure, ability to email Tracy, importance of the ad hocs

Minutes

Greenwald pointed out some specific issues w/ the minutes - will be reflected to Crow. Thornton motion to approve minutes w/ changes listed by Greenwald, Phillips second. Passes unanimously.

Special Guests

Jennifer from CD4. Concerns about smoking in park and had convo w/ RAP and Rick from Golf course. All were receptive. Mulholland Fountain inquiries about updates - LADWP saying some delays w/ contractor and opening day 2027.

Mehmet from CD4.

- LA Riverway around Ferraro Fields - BoE and LADOT. Received bids back and qualified bidder (higher than expected). Still in award phase - construction timeline TBD. Entire Northern stretch north of soccer and then localized near 134.

- LA Riverway phase 4 - DOT led to extend from terminus for about 1mi to just east of Forest Lawn. What do they need from CalTrans for Equestrian path. Gap resolution needs to involve CalTrans as well (they control the underpass). DOT needs to tell CalTrans what they really want. August 2024 is a bogie for money phase.

- Karen asking about bike path dead end timeline/phasing. Mehmet answering that CD7 needs to submit a proposed project.

- Jason asking about timing for LA Riverway Ferraro Project timing. Mehmet saying should be going to board in the next month or so and separately they have money for speed humps that should be done in August (then CalTrans stage is later)

LA Parks Foundation - Justin Yoshimaru and Tony Budrovich came in to introduce themselves.

- Carlson asking what they do
- Tony - goal is to help park foundations get better. Funding help. Be basically more nimble than the city orgs can be.
- Tracy saying that LAPF was instrumental in getting things done like road closure was a big lift by them.

General Public Comment

- General question about whether office was at Commonwealth - yes.
- Marian Dodge - P22 mural has been approved but artist is pregnant due relatively soon. Also FOGP gave a tour to LA Conservancy for young conservationists in Fern Dell

Information Reports and Presentations

Courtney McCammon - Presentation - new interpretive signage 10 signs in total but we already approved P22 one.

- Things she has completed: monthly nature and bird walks, golf survey and mapping, restoration site w/ FOGP and LAPF, lots of training, film permit and response monitoring, GP management plan, camera traps off GP drive, weed manager implementation w/ LASAN and LA County, special status species protocol for RAP, ongoing nesting bird surveys and brush clearance, LASAN biodiversity coordination including annual department goals.
- Future plans - CalFlora weed manager, mapping invasives - has help from a lot of other organizations (largely nonprofits). Courtney is the rep for RAP. Very involved process. Goal is restoration, volunteer events, grants, etc. Funding is kind of key next step.
- More looking to future -
 - Sensitive species analysis - what are we doing for them? Project based. Write up a formal assessment
 - New restoration site/native plant install in GP (roosevelt GC) - public event w/ invasive clearing and new native planting. Coordinate w/ LAPF. 15-20 new plants.
 - Reorganize and reissue RAP film procedures. Park wide and Fern Dell specifically. Re-Do "restricted areas" map. Incorporate nesting raptor information into an interactive map. Training of monitors.
- Interpretive signs -
 - LA river betty davis, top bee rock (panorama), welcome to GP at welcome center, roosevelt GC, park after dark (observatory), Woodland wonder section nine, Fern Dell water, Varied Habitats of GP (by old Zoo), birds of GP (charlie turner).
 - Gave greater detail about the specifics of each sign. With some brief board dialogue about QR codes, sizing, additional information, ability to post online. Seems like some issues with additional funding and website hosting/IT. Bee Rock is different and more like Tom LaBonge sign in that it is longer. Talked about where some of these signs will go specifically. LA river sign only issue is that it is tough to find a space - Thornton saying spot suggested isn't great. Roosevelt GC is going right where the planting is going to take place.
- Q&A:
 - Tracy explaining signs are graffiti proof and how GP Foundation interacts w/ LAPF.
 - In response to some of Phillips's question:
 - McMammon saying needs some money before CalFlora grants - could potentially use students. Bit of a barrier to just having a huge core of people doing invasive mapping.
 - Film monitors need more training and empowerment.
 - Karen suggesting potentially getting assistant AD's involved
 - Will look into adding Ranger phone number to the signs
 - Greenwald vocalizing his appreciation for Courtney generally. Would it be helpful to have any editorial help.
 - McMammon saying the signs will potentially be done at the beginning of next year. It would be great to do more but we would need more money to do that.
 - Chung asking about restoration event date - TBD at this point

- Thornton saying we potentially need to have another ecologist b/c we're worried about potential burnout

Greenwald motion to support McMammon sign proposal - overall concept as well as signs themselves and underscore our desire for them to be available as broadly as possible (QR, website, etc). Thornton Second. Unanimous approval.

Crames - we have often broken in August. Board members are largely around (or at least would have quorum). Tracy saying we usually have broken. Phillips saying should we play it by ear. Thornton saying should we talk about fire then - and there are things we need to talk about so why not. Crames saying we need to let people know if we're going to be around to determine quorum. **Thornton saying we should combine November and December to Dec 7th.**

Superintendent Updates

Presentation by Tracy James instead of Stefanie Smith

- Shakespeare in Park is live and attendance has been really good. Stage went out to bid and bids are due back in August. Work won't begin until September, completion end of 2024
 - Brush clearance has been completed
 - Road improvements - plans finalized for GP transportation project. Waiting from Assembly Woman Freedman's office (\$4m) - hoping to receive by the end of the year
 - Bronson Canyon Walkway - westside will be much easier than eastside. If onsite meeting is still requested by board or community (CD4 will be point of contact to make that happen).
 - Southern CA Railroad 75th - there will be several events, press, social media push.
 - Closure - pool, pony rides, parkline, bronson. DOT saying all the buses have been salvaged b/c they've been sitting for too long. Bush driver shortage is still incredibly intense (need to fill 33 positions).
 - Parking meters - sporadically working or not working (as we know)
- Thornton asking about Bronson clarification. James explained the context, basically saying only option now is that people reach out to CD4. CD4 supports the project and wants to see it moved forward. Thornton question about whether we (GPAB) want to get involved with the process and try to change the outcome. Greenwald saying he kind of agrees this is ultimately in CD4 purview despite being disappointed that the community was not really consulted as they had been promised. Michelle going to write an email to CD4 saying wants to see more community engagement regarding Bronson.
- Crames asking if we can just hire a consultant for parking meters. James saying no b/c pretty difficult.
- Crames asking about issue of no water at Dante's. James saying not a RAP issue but a LADWP issue b/c their tanks are low and nothing we can really do.

Committee and Ad Hoc reports

- Executive didn't meet formally. Crames saying it would be great to have agenda items earlier.
- James asking if we should have Chief Losorelli at an upcoming meeting. Crames responds saying perhaps fire is more important

Board Business

- Greenwald saying perhaps we should have an update on park revenue sometime soon since we were supposed to have one in July technically.

Adjournment

Greenwald motion to adjourn. Thornton second. Unanimous.