

Griffith Park Advisory Board May, 2023 draft minutes

May 25 at Park Central Auditorium

Call to Order

Thornton welcomes all and will chair this meeting.

Roll Call

Phillips, Thornton, Laib, Crow, Greenwald, Carlson. Crammes excused; Griffin absent. Chung arrived at 6:50pm

Minutes

Thornton first/ Crow second. Approved, with no corrections.

Special guests

Xanthe Scheps and Mehmet Berker: CD 1 and CD4

-The final Zoo EIR committee hearing is scheduled for June 28.

Board Question/Comment

-Phillips: Has anything changed since last reported?

Berker: Happy with product. Reflects GPAB and CD4's requests to reduce Condor Canyon. There will be a roundabout at two intersections v. signals. There is an estimated 15% reduction in travel commute miles. Metro has also been submitted a transit plan.

-Vermont/LF left hand turn signal. No progress. CD4 will check back in one month

-Hyperion Bridge update: Seismic retrofit that will take 5-6 years. At contract awarding stage now. Start is spring 2024. No traffic closures, but various traffic pattern changes.

-GP mobility plan next phase being reviewed by RAP staff and CD4. \$4m earmark coming for GP for this project. Biggest chunk is reconfiguration of Crystal Springs Dr.

-Rowena Reservoir sidewalks ABA compliance work should be done soon, in about 1 week.

-Ferraro Fields gopher hole repairs and ruts repairs commencing.

-LA Riverway work being done with virtual workshop, now up on LADOT website. Initial work near 134/Riverside and Victory Bl. There are equestrian, bicycle, and pedestrian segments. Deadlines for funding are critical and also challenging with Cal Trans.

Board Questions/Comment

-Thornton: Seems like this project may conflict with the bike path being built by Burbank.

Berker: Planning on this is done and there is a master plan adopted. We are working on improvements to plan. Also a project being developed for Forest Lawn Dr.

-Greenwald: How are the separate projects in Zoo EIR for transport coordinated? Berker: May require work in council committee.

-Greenwald: Is there any headway re: 134 west bound off ramp speed issue into Ferraro Field?

Berker: Starting on that with DOT now.

Laib: Did I see Parkline Shuttle as an element to Zoo transit? Berker: Yes, we have directed LADOT to give recommendation. The zoo may help fund, but ultimately it will be RAP funding. We also want transit from subway stations.

Public questions

-Wahlstrom: Has a study been done re: Hyperion Bridge and would the project be quicker if closed? And, who is administering? Berker: No, it won't be quicker and closed not an option. LADOT will administer.

-Vendig: We hear that CalTrans doesn't want to improve pathways along LA River so they're more user friendly. Berker: We are also looking into this.

General Public Comment

None

Information Reports and Presentations

Pony ride ad hoc: Thornton

We were joined on this by a disparate group of volunteers. And the result, after months, is that we ultimately want a pony ride!! The committee found no abuse with the old pony ride, not anything out of the ordinary. But, that the venue hadn't changed in 74 years, was found not to be ok. Committee wants to update the venue, and have a more modern sensibility towards ponies. New standards are needed. Mostly lower income people are top demographic to attend pony rides and everyone agrees that children need to learn empathy in a live situation. Petting important. Historic nature of site dictates that the site is restricted to a degree. However, security for ponies is needed, from coyotes, for example. The barn can house other animals. Goats and bunnies are suggestions. Native tribes would like to have an Indian/horse exhibit in the venue. Specific dietary regimen and regular veterinarian visits are necessary to ensure viability of vendor. Recommend an animal education site, including educational resources.

Board Questions/Comment

- Carlson: Will new standard of care require higher ticket price? Thornton: There is a recommendation that entrance fee be \$0-5, but other funding will be needed.
- Phillips: Are there are population of concessionaires that will do this? Thornton: Yes. Several approached ad hoc.
- Laib: Do you have knowledge of city process? Thornton: Consultants are identified and Salaices is heading up the special project.
- Greenwald: Well done. Board applause.
- Thornton: There is no motion on this.
- Crow: Will PETA be a problem? Thornton: Unclear but old vendor did not fold because of PETA.

-Zoo EIR. Recommended To be pushed to June meeting, as requested by chair.

South GP ad hoc: Laib and Crow

The committee submitted its report to the board, Commission, RAP executives and CD4 about 1 week ago.

There are several recommendations, which you have all had to review. The suggestions were presented.

Board Questions/Comment

- Thornton: can the equestrian easement be utilized? Laib: challenging and requires a Byzantine county process.
- Carlson: Were environmental concerns considered? Laib: Yes and the suggestions gets seniors farther away from the freeway pollution and out of the old trailers, which have formaldehyde.

Public Question/Comment

Vendig: We need a brick and mortar permanent center. TY GPAB for resurrecting this issue. We have 400-800 members and need a stable, permanent home. There should be a master plan identifying this area as a neighborhood park and adult center.

- Victor, President of GP Adult Center board: Whatever happens there, it needs to be predominantly for seniors.
- Ellen: We pay for space at Friendship Hall now, but should have free rent at a permanent center.
- Behar: There is a negative impact from the ABH. I have identified some of it. Some residents are moving and there is a criminal impact on the other venues across the street, including a nursery and youth sports areas.

Motion:

-Greenwald: Adopt the report Second: Thornton
Unanimous approval. Applause from board.

-Executive Board Election of new secretary until October 2023.

Alex Crow nominated.

Motion: Thornton first/ Greenwald second. Unanimous vote for Crow as secretary. Loud applause from Laib!

Superintendent updates

Anthony Gallo for RAP

-Parkline shuttle, pool, pony rides, Bronson still closed.

-Kimley Horn has delivered its second phase GP traffic report.

-Shakespeare in the Park contract being renegotiated

-Griffith Observatory parking meter pay station meetings are happening. This is an extremely important revenue issue and a high priority for the department.

Board Questions/ Comment

-Greenwald: The meter issue is a revenue crisis.

Public Questions/Comment

-Dodge: How much money have we lost. Do we know? Gallo: I Don't know.

-Cameron: Camping behind the adult center and Friendship Hall needs better fencing.

Committee and Ad Hoc reports

-Executive Committee did not meet

-Thornton and Crames have disbanded both the Pony Ride Venue and South GP ad hocs.

Board business:

Laib: Add report on financial impact of meter payment failure to next meeting .

Adjournment

Phillips first/ Greenwald second. Meeting adjourns at 8:45pm

Next meeting is 6/22 at park central.