

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: Crammes - Present, Thornton - Present, Crow - Present, Carlson, Chung - Absent (Arrived Later), Greenwald - Present, Griffin - Present, Laib - Present, Phillips - Present

Board Announcements:

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Revisions: Add fiscal year total figures and exact 6-month figures to last month for parking revenue.

Crammes - Approve with revisions, Thornton - Second — minutes approved provisionally

## 3. SPECIAL GUESTS

CD4 absent. Notes to pass along—

- Left turn light on Vermont

- Last month, we had reported that the Department of Transportation anticipated a 2-3 month timeline for the installation of this light. However, due to citywide equipment shortages, the latest update now indicates the 3 month timeline instead, so another 2 months. We will continue to monitor this and update folks.

- Griffith Park improvement update

- CAOs report of the money is out and was heard and approved by council yesterday. So basically we move to the funding agreement part. Mehmet will be chatting with LADOT and CAO soon on that front.

- If you want to keep track of this, the council file is 23-0899

- Pony Rides

- Folks may know Placeworks was selected as the consultant here  
- The website is up: <https://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/pony-rides>  
- More engagement will be forthcoming in the coming months

- ABH site

- No update

- Tom Labonge Day of Service

- CD4 and CD13, in partnership with the Civil Rights Department, are holding a Tom Labonge Day of Service on September 30th, at 9am at the Silver Lake Meadows. We will be doing a community cleanup, mulching, and will have representatives from a variety of different organizations and city departments such as truck demonstrations from Sanitation, presentations from LADWP, and Elected Officials from all over the City!

## 4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ethan Weaver - Running for CD4 - Realizes issues regarding GP is complicated. Interested in listening and learning. To learn more: [ethanweaver.com](http://ethanweaver.com) @ethanweaverla

Tracy James - We need to move board business to Superintendent reports.

Alice Heath- Equestrian - There is 30 feet of fence missing along Forest Lawn and Zoo Dr. Concern horses could end up on 134, which poses grave danger to animals and motorists.

Liz Radley - Equestrian - Riverside Bridge bicycle trail with horse trail and freeway area - Rangers and LAPD claim they have only partial jurisdiction and cannot act. Fence is also cut in the area and there needs to be coordination between rangers, LAPD, Army Corp., etc. to have fence fixed. Hoping real estate division could advise on what the geographical jurisdictions are exactly so action can be taken to rectify situation.

## 5. INFORMATION REPORTS AND PRESENTATION

Rick Reinschmidt - Golf Manager for LA City Golf - Speaking on difficulties reserving tee times and bots taking spots - Vendor is called Golf Now and they created a Bot Squasher specifically for the booking engine. If the system suspects unusual activity then a tracker is assigned to the IP address in question. System is working as thousands of flags have gone up. Says reservation system is operational and fair. Golf has surged as a result of pandemic and that is partially to blame for the dearth of reservations. Most courses in LA are private so reservations are harder to come by for public courses. Roosevelt course for example has seen a 40% increase in reservations since 2017. There's a 27% increase in golf rounds played since 2017 — despite going down to 10 minute intervals between tee times (up from 6 or 8 minute intervals = less reservations available).

Phillips - Can you walk us through process - what is the benefit to a bot farm blocking off tee times - is there a deposit to reserve?

Reinschmidt - No deposit. Nothing pre-paid.

Phillips - People are claiming they are showing up to the course and despite no reservations there aren't golfers.

Reinschmidt - I saw this email and printed out the reservation list and it was full. All of the reservations fulfilled and used. During pandemic walk-ons weren't allowed, people are used to this.

Crames - Do people who make the tee times need to show up and provide ID.

Reinschmidt - Yes

Griffin - Is there a no show fee?

Reinschmidt - Yes, \$10.

Crames - Do a lot of people cancel or give their reservation to someone else.

Reinschmidt - You pass along reservations?

Laib - I'm a golfer. I can't get a tee time and I am up at 5 AM and on the queue at 6. What I see is particular people outside the golf office at Wilson with a wad of cash. Perception is no one can get a tee time for course or driving range and there is a resale market going on for the reservations. I think the solution is staggered release of tee times.

Reinschmidt - We have tried that with last 3 vendors and none can accommodate. We are going to work with our next Vendor to ensure there is more fairness in the system. We may employ a booking fee as well.

Thornton - You said Golf Now found 1000s of bots since 2017, do you think if you caught 1000s there may be 1000s more that were not caught?

Smith - That's why we pay for a service to stay on top of bots or bad actors.

Crames - Can we set up a system where an account is only eligible for a set number of reservations? Is one a day fair or once a week fair?

Reinschmidt - One a day is fair.

Thornton - I think booking fees should be implemented.

Reinschmidt - Those fees are becoming the norm.

Crow - Is there any veracity to the reports that people are paying for tee time or driving range reservations?

Reinschmidt - None. There was the same perception when I started 22 years ago. We are going to try and eliminate cancellation button and then stagger releases for canceled reservations manually, the system isn't able to do that automatically. There is 3 or 4 years until our next RFP when this can be rectified.

On Smoking Policy:

Reinschmidt - On enforcing ordinance, smoking in GP is exempt. Those exempt areas were never defined. When tee times are booked now there is a pop up window that mentions GP is high-severity firezone and you individuals must opt-in to acknowledging danger. There are then 15-20 no smoking signs in the area. Tees and fairways are the areas where smoking is allowed and every tee box has a receptacle for cigarette butts. Additional signage located throughout in the course directing golfers to use receptacles and stay away from brush areas.

Laib and Thornton - Can signage be provided in languages other than English?

Reinschmidt - We'll look into it.

Crames - How could we get rid of smoking unequivocally.

Laib - It was a carve out by Tom LaBonge. As such, only Nithya is able to revoke the exemption.

Crames - What is maintenance cost of cleaning receptacles?

Reinschmidt - Negligible.

Laib - Has Golf Advisory Board weighed in on this?

Reinschmidt - It hasn't come up.

Board thanks Reinschmidt for coming.

Smith - We can draft a letter and ask to see the next RFP.

Laib - I can write the letter.

***Laib will write letter.***

Crames - I would like to write a letter asking CD4 to stop smoking.

Greenwald - We can't do that as it is not on the agenda.

Thornton - We will add it.

## 6. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Stefanie Smith

- Haunted Hayride Startup
  - Opening weekend was this past weekend. Setup was smooth. Not as busy as it will be in October. RAP is working with the Hayride team. No issues reported with equestrians. Tickets are available to inspect premises for board.
    - Thornton - My horse and I rode the site and the organization is much better than last year.
    - Smith - I think the dialogue between the board and the Hayride org has been productive.
- Google Maps Routing Issues
  - Tracy James - The Oaks neighborhood wanted us to look into traffic routing through their neighborhood. The Ferndell entrance is closed at sunset, which has caused these routing issues. Some of the problem is with Apple. Google has been working with us. We hope the issues are resolved quickly.
- Saturday 10/14/23, 6 AM - 11 AM - Eclipse is coming. Traffic will be an issue.
- Observatory Parking Kiosks
  - We met with Executive Management who is moving forward with RFP. Scope of work being configured. That will go out to 4 man cellular companies: ATT, Verizon, T-Mobile, Spectrum.
    - They will provide their own diagnoses of the issues and their solutions.
    - Greenwald: Some feedback for leadership team - For us to learn now at the end of September — more than 6 months after problems started — that an RFP is only now being issued is causing frustration. Everyone on board understands that every week that goes by results in serious financial ramifications for the park, while it is clear that Stefanie and Tracy understand the issue, it is not demonstrable by executive management that they understand the severity of the issue. Board is getting impatient.
      - Crames - Is there an update to temporary solution
      - Laib - Can we invite Brenda Aguirre who responded to our last letter to the next GPAB meeting?
- Pony Ride Venue Consultant 9/7 Review
  - RAP has retained Placeworks to perform public engagement process. Animal and non-animal activities are being entertained as possibilities for future use. RAP wants activities that are youth and family oriented as well as affordable and accessible. At end of public input process, a report will be shared with local orgs and constituents. Website: [www.laparks.com/griffithpark/pony-rides](http://www.laparks.com/griffithpark/pony-rides)

- Laib - What is the timeline here?
- Smith - Spring 2024 is the goal.
- Kimley-Horn Traffic Improvement
  - Report has been finalized. Working on Phase III. On-call contractor liaison will be putting it out to bid. RAP hopefully would like to get work started while we are waiting for \$4.2M to come in from the state (that money is earmarked for several projects).
- Board Elections
  - Next month will be elections. Let us know if you would like to be considered for executive committee or reelection.

## 7. COMMITTEE AND AD HOC REPORTS

- Executive Committee
- Crames - LAX has outlawed plastic, can the park do so as well?
  - This edict has already been placed. Inventory is being depleted.
- Crames - Can broken fountains and horse troughs be replaced or restored?
  - Smith - Many have been replaced and others should be addressed soon. We can have maintenance come and give a report.
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## 8. BOARD BUSINESS

- Thornton - GP gives away free mulch. I filled truck twice and filled yard. Not enough people know about this and yes this amenity. We closed road to the mulch. Road is closed from the Northside. Mulch is isolated out by Mineral Wells and chipping machine. If mulch were available in a more accessible area than more people would be able to enjoy free mulch and potting soil such as a location off Zoo Drive next to utility yard.
  - Smith - This is sanitation, not RAP who operates this service. The location you mentioned is used regularly by RAP. It would need to be looked into. There would be issues with supervision once the materials are moved.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Crames - Motion to adjourn. Greenwald - Motion, Phillips Second.

*Meeting Adjourned*