

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chair: Susan Swan
Vice Chair: Don Seligman
Secretary: Kris Sullivan



BOARD MEMBERS:

Lynn Brown Laura Howe
Chip Clements Ted Johnson
Ron Deutsch Chris Laib
Barbara Ferris Susan Lee
Lucinda Phillips

Griffith Park Advisory Board
MINUTES Thursday, March 24th 6:30pm
Griffith Park Visitor's Center Auditorium
4730 Crystal Springs Drive L.A.,CA, 90027

Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. All Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, for a maximum of 20 minutes total, unless waived by the presiding Officer of the Board.

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of order or merged as deemed appropriate by Board. All items for discussion and action unless otherwise noted.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Susan Swan, Don Seligman, Kris Sullivan, Lynn Brown, Chip Clements, Ron Deutsch, Barbara Ferris, Laura Howe.
Absent: Lucinda Phillips, Ted Johnson, Chris Laib, Susan Lee

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chip and seconded by Laura. The motion passed 6/0/2 with Kris and Barbara abstaining due to absence.

3. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Joe Young of the Sierra Club mentioned several places in the park where there is erosion along roads.
Lynn noted that she had received positive comments about the mounted patrol.

4. Comments from any City, County, State or Federal representatives in attendance.

Serena Ward, Community Liaison to the Greek Theater, Adriana Smith, Asst Community Liaison to the Greek Theater

5. Update regarding Griffith Park Mobility Plan MND

Joe gave a report about changes to the original plan. He stated that there would not be shuttles on Mt. Hollywood Drive, but that the shuttles would stop at the base of the road. He stated that Western Canyon would not become a one-way road until mitigation is completed along Los Feliz Boulevard in order to help the neighborhood. Other agencies would have to make changes. He noted that he is making good progress with the DASH service to increase service to 7 days a week with 2 buses per hour. The Service would not go up Hillhurst, but up Vermont. He stated that the MTA would promote the Sunset/Vermont station as the go to station for Griffith Park and would add Griffith Park to the announcements made on the subway.

There was a general discussion about speeding in the park and Joe said he would talk to the LAPD and the Security Services Division about the problem.

6. Update regarding the Haunted Hayride event during the Halloween season.

The board consensus was that events that cost admission should be discouraged if at all possible.

7. Update regarding the status of the Wayfaring signage

Joe stated that the signs are done and will be delivered in mid-April and will be installed in late April according to the plan.

8. Update on the use of rodenticide re: the report that was to have been presented at the Arts-Parks-River City Council committee.

Kevin Regan had promised to get this to us at the January board meeting.

A discussion centered on to what degree the concessionaires in the Park are abiding by the Park policy about poisons and what alternatives to poison are being considered. Joe said that he will get something more concrete next month and bring in pesticide people and Laura Bauernfeind.

9. Update on Fern Dell Revitalization Project. The consultant is Nicole Possert.

Friends of Griffith Park hired Nicole Possert to do an analysis of the restoration of Fern Dell. She presented a report on the restoration process and future phases of the project. Joe said that everything would be presented to the Griffith Park Planning Department before commencement of the project.

10. Update on P-22, and discussion on how to request and fund a full-time park ecologist per the GP Wildlife Management Plan of 2008. There was a general discussion about P-22 and a desire for more information about him to be presented to the Board in the future. Joe stated that a park ecologist was not in the budget for 2016-17, but was hopeful that funds would be available for one in the 2017-18 budget.

11. Discussion regarding the idea of wildlife corridors as referenced in the GP Wildlife Management Plan.

There was a discussion about ways to ensure corridors for movement of wildlife. Joe stated that he will go to the Park Commission and make sure the Wildlife Management Plan and Vision Plan are not drafts but actual plans. He will report back to the Board.

12. Update regarding how to control trail bikes using the bridle trails at night.

There was a report that someone had cut a fence at Bronson and was cycling the trails at night. Joe then discussed that there will be more enforcement possible when more rangers are hired. He noted that the process for adding more rangers has already begun and that the goal is to have 75 rangers for all of Rec and Parks.

13. Action Plans as per discussion at February Board meeting regarding The Vision Plan for Griffith Park Action Plan Goals for GPAB: Don's goal is to form subcommittees for each of 3 categories below.

I. Goals with a consensus for action: Establish Subcommittees to Investigate, Organize, and Estimate costs for:

1. Acquisition of all contiguous properties to facilitate wildlife corridors (pages 116-117, 39) while minimizing any development within the Wilderness Area of the park (pages 38, 53).
2. Repair degraded ecosystems and watersheds (Page 12): Restoration of natural habitats and ecosystems
3. removal of fences and barriers limiting wildlife movement (Pages 37, 39, 40, 45)
4. removal of redundant and non-essential features (e.g. water tanks no longer in use).
5. 4 Replace asphalt with low temperature permeable surfaces in parking lots (Pages 13, 17, 38, 64).

The Board discussed the goals (under I. Goals...) and thanked Don for all his work and preparation. Don moved that we adopt numbers 1 - 4 of the plan and set up subcommittees for each section. Kris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

II. Periodic timely reports at board meetings from groups currently engaged in the restoration and improvement of major environments: Bird Sanctuary (Page 39), Fern Dell (Page 39), Los Angeles River (Page 39), Commonwealth Nursery (Page 48), Old Zoo, Official Trails (Page 39), youth baseball fields (Page 12), permanent stage in Old Zoo picnic area (Page 11), La Kretz Bridge (Page 12).

It was noted that the reports listed under II. are already being done by other groups so that those groups can report to us on the progress of the items.

III. Contract analysts to survey and calculate current use of park user facilities and when historic data is available, compare with past usage: picnic areas (Page 45), sporting facilities (Page 45), food services (Page 47), and other park user needs (Pages 19, 54).

Discussion followed on point III. that such surveys can be contracted out.

14. Old/Ongoing Business

There was no Old Business or Ongoing Business.

15. New/Future Business

Joe reported information about the Wattles Mansion Designer Showcase.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles, (323) 661-9465

Email us at: rap.griffithpark@lacity.org

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Next meeting will be Thursday April 28th

Agendas will be posted at the Crystal Springs Ranger Station and online at <http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithpk/>