

Griffith Park Advisory Board
Thursday, August 24th, 2017, 6:30pm
Griffith Park Visitor's Center Auditorium
4730 Crystal Springs Drive L.A.CA, 90027

Welcome and Introductions

1. Roll Call

Present: Susan, Don, Kris, Laura, Ron, Sheila, Lucinda, Chris, Greg, Jamie. Absent: Chip Tracy James, RAP, Catherine Landers, CD4, Joe Salaices

2. Approval of Minutes for July

Moved by Don, seconded by Jamie. Laura abstained due to absence. Approved.

3. Comments from any City, County, State or Federal representatives in attendance (5 minutes each)

Catherine Landers from CD4 announced that in a hearing today regarding the chain on the Beachwood Gate, the judge ruled that the City was in compliance with the order and the Ranch did not have enough evidence to accuse the City with contempt. The Sunset Ranch encroachment case relating to land on Griffith Park will have the trial on January 18, 2018.

4. Public Comment on items not on the Agenda (2 minutes each)

No public comment.

5. RAP Announcements and/or Reports from Griffith Park

Joe Salaices noted that there were quite a few people at the Observatory for the partial eclipse. He thanked Tracy James for her traffic planning that included getting DOT at intersections and arranging for the Dash bus (Metro) to run earlier in the day and more frequently.

6. Marian Dodge update regarding the Sign Ordinance. Request for support of the City Planning Commission's October 22, 2015 version of the ordinance, and opposing signs in City parks.

Marian presented the changes in the Sign Ordinance that are suggested by PLUM. One aspect would allow digital signs on city property including in city parks.

Laura moved that GPAB support the City Planning Commission's October 22, 2015, version of the Sign Ordinance which opposes commercial signs in city parks. Lucinda seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

7. Marian Dodge update regarding P22 Day, Sunday, October 22nd, and Urban Wildlife Week. Offer of free Outreach table for GPAB

Marian announced that the City of Los Angeles has recognized a special day for P22 and there will be events for the whole week of October 15 - 22. The Festival on Sunday the 22nd will be in the center of the Park and will be sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, the National Park Service, RAP, and Friends of Griffith Park.

8. Update on Observatory staff parking

Joe noted that he is looking at off-site parking for the Observatory staff of about 50 cars.

9. Update on Harvest Fest November 5

Tracy announced that there will be an Oktoberfest-type event on November 5 that will include a beer garden, and German food. Ron, Greg, Laura, and Kris volunteered to set up a booth for GPAB.

10. Update on Berlin Forest October event.

It was reported that there will be an event in October to celebrate the Berlin/Los Angeles connection. The mayors from the two cities will plant a tree in commemoration of the event and new tables will be installed.

11. Possible update from Ad Hoc committee regarding pedestrian access via the Beachwood Gate to the Hollyridge Trail and opportunities for trail access

Kris noted that the committee had not heard from the City in response to GPAB's Alternate Trail proposal. Catherine responded that it was the protocol of CD4 to have someone in person respond to such a request and that she was doing so now. She said that CD4 had received our request and that is why CD4 had asked the Bureau of Engineering to do a survey of

all the boundaries in the western part of the Park. She noted that once the survey is completed, CD 4 will make public what they are allowed to make public.

12. Update on Haunted Hayride

Chris and Chip met with principals and the meeting notes are attached to these Minutes below.*

13. Discussion and action to request increased Park Ranger presence to stay and enforce laws at the most visited access point. Regarding the traffic problems on Mulholland and the Vista at Lake Hollywood, Joe noted that 8 guards have been hired, but they need supervision. He said that they plan to put up concrete fencing instead of guard rails. He suggested that they need to concentrate their efforts on finding parking. Tracy added that the Park believes that one solution is off-site parking. She noted that the Park has found parking lots, particularly at Hollywood and Highland, and that distance to the Red Line is a factor. She added that tourists who use social media need to know what public transit exists. Discussion included the mention that the Mayor is encouraging increased tourism without working with other City entities to solve the resultant traffic and parking problems.

14. Update regarding decision to keep Western Canyon open (specifically 8/12) and parameters for such decisions moving forward in light of safety concerns

Joe explained that on August 12, a huge number of cars tried to get to the Observatory for meteorite shower which was not announced by the Park. Officers had to turn all cars back and it was total gridlock.

15. Review of GPAB mission regarding the Vision Plan and goals for 2017/18

Don presented the outlines for a Mission Statement for GPAB. He presented a list of pertinent statements of GPAB's purposes from the handbook, and added relevant elements from the Vision plan which should be part of our mission. Don, Ron and Jamie will meet to formalize a mission statement for GPAB.

16. Announcements/Updates from GPAB Liaisons or Ad Hoc Committees not on the Agenda (3 minutes each)

No announcements or updates.

17. Board Member announcements on items not on the Agenda (2 minutes each)

Greg noted that on the Wilson golf course, 2 huge sycamores were taken down. Laura announced that Friends of Griffith Park had planted over 300 trees last year and that in early December through March there will be more trees planted.

18. Old/Ongoing Business

No old business.

19. New/Future Business - Follow through items:

1. Harvest Fest booth idea: Nov 5 Booth: Laura, Kris, Ron and Greg will meet to plan it;
2. Consider a booth for P22 event October 15 - 22.
3. Consider board members attend Haunted Hayride event in November.
4. Don, Ron and Jamie will start the process of writing a mission statement for GPAB.

It was decided to cancel the September meeting since many of the board members will be absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting: October 26, 2017

*Ad Hoc Committee Report on Haunted Hayride:

7/26 Haunted Hayride meeting;

Attending: Melissa Carbonne, Joe Salaices, Chip Clement, Chris Laib and Alyson Richards

Notes

-2017 will be 8th season

-Typical season 9/29-10/31

-Spill out: Weeknight is 10pm/weekends are 1am

-Year to year vendor contract with RAP; negotiable each year without set formula

- \$1,000,000 contributed to date
- 80% of funds stay in GP;
- Funds routed thru LA Parks Foundation. Direct RAP costs are covered by the contribution; GP Superintendent has discretion as to remainder of funds use; Joe states he is inclined to use them for special projects, way-finding signage, for example
- Financial and contractual relationship is year to year and renegotiated annually;
- Attendance hovers between 40-50k; last year saw a decrease in attendance; profits are down in recent years, yet event fees have not been reduced; fees for Griffith Park are "substantially more than those at similar hayrides in NYC and SF
- Access/ parking through east side of park; some shuttling from Crystal Springs.
- Parking at merry go round lots 1,2,3
- Physical expansion not possible
- Entire Hayride site is fenced in during run
- Hayride passengers are confined to 'wagons', except for a few contained specific attractions, like the Dark Maze (3,000sq '), which is fenced in
- There is particular attention paid to environmental concerns, concession products are all plant based and the hay used is hypo-allergenic
- Security (mostly off duty LAPD) and Fire Marshall always present.
- There have been no fires during 8 year event run