

MINUTES

THE GRIFFITH PARK ADVISORY BOARD DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS JANUARY 25, 2018

The Griffith Park Advisory Board of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, was called to order at 6:35 p.m. at the Griffith Park Visitor's Center, Los Angeles, CA 90027. **Present:** Chip Clements, Greg Bertens, Ron Deutsch, Laura Howe, Sheila Irani, Chris Laib, Lucinda Phillips, Jamie Robertson. **Absent:** None, **Recreation and Parks:** Joe Salaices, Deirdre Symons

ITEM 1 ROLL CALL

Joe Salaices acted as temporary Chair and formally called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and initiated a roll call.

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB) minutes of November 30, 2017, were approved with an amendment to ITEM 10.

ITEM 3 COMMENTS FROM ANY CITY, COUNTY, STATE OR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE (5 Minutes each).

The Joe Salaices, Superintendent of the Department of Recreation and Parks and temporary GPAB Chair recognized Seamus Garrity, Field Representative for Assemblywoman Laura Friedman, who stated that there were 36 bills coming up for vote on February 16, 2018.

The Chair recognized Catherine Landers, Field Deputy from Council District 4. Catherine advised that Dixon LTD has released their Griffith Park Access and Mobility study. It includes 29 different mitigation strategies. The Councilman is asking that all the departments involved report back to the City Council on feasibility.

ITEM 4 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (2 Minutes each).

The Chair recognized Marian Dodge, President of the Friends of Griffith Park (FOGP), who advised that the water tank removal project was going smoothly, and she gave out the latest FOGP magazine.

The chair recognized Gerry Hans, with the FOGP, who stated that the Raptor Training session scheduled for Jan. 27 has 50 confirmed attendees and the second session on Feb. 10 was filling up fast. Gerry requested that everyone study Dixon's strategies with an eye toward protecting the environment. Gerry also presented a Beachwood Gate Closure Protest petition signed with 1,111 signatures.

The chair recognized Emmy Goldknopt, of the Sierra Club, who advised that the spotlight was off on the flag, located in Merry-Go-Round Lot #3.

The chair recognized Evan, a local cyclist, who said that attempting to monetize Griffith Park undermines that which makes the Park special and he is against crass commercialization.

ITEM 5 RAP ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR REPORTS FROM GRIFFITH PARK SUPERINTENDENT, JOE SALAICES.

Joe advised that 3 abandoned water tanks have now been removed and that the Department of Water and Power has offered to pay to remove tank No. 113.

Joe stated that he hopes the Fern Dell pedestrian project will begin in late Spring/early Summer and the cost should be \$195,000. Funding is being investigated.

Joe advised that RAP wants to add a sidewalk from Commonwealth going north up to the Bird Sanctuary. The walkway would be on the west side of the street.

Joe read a letter from Iris Davis, RAP Board of Commissioners Secretary, regarding how best to correspond with the Board. Iris suggested that one person, the GPAB Secretary, forward all letters and keep a record of them. Chris Laib, Ron Deutsch, Laura Howe and Lucinda Phillips, all GPAB Members, advised that they were interested in receiving feedback on actual content, not just acknowledgement of receipt letters. Joe advised that the challenge, going forward, is marshalling individual responses. Often letters circle the Department, looking for a landing spot with the one individual whose duties most closely align with the subject matter. Joe acknowledged the GPAB's request for validation and respect.

ITEM 6 REVIEW BY-LAWS. POSSIBLE MOTION AND ACTION.

Laura made a motion that the By-Laws be amended to read "No less than 7 members". Sheila seconded it and it passed.

ITEM 7 REVIEW VISION AND MISSION of GPAB.

The newest Mission Statement was approved on Oct. 26, 2017 and the review was tabled.

ITEM 8 DISCUSS RECENT UPDATE TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORTING POLICY

Joe read a letter from City Of Los Angeles Personnel Manager, Wendy G. Macy, regarding the "New Sexual Harassment Reporting Procedures". Joe advised that all scenarios, where there is clear harassment, should be reported.

GPAB expressed concern regarding involving the perception of inappropriate behavior. GPAB was also concerned that the Human Resources Department does not have a clearing house for issues like this. Ron Deutsch, and other members, felt that they didn't know what the liabilities were and what the recourse would be. Joe offered to ask a representative from H.R. to attend the next GPAB meeting to address any questions.

ITEM 9 DISCUSSION ON ELECTION OF A GPAB CHAIR, CO-CHAIR AND SECRETARY. POSSIBLE MOTION AND ACTION.

Chris Laib made a motion to elect Ron Deutsch as Chair. Chip Seconded. The motion was approved.

Chris made a motion to elect Laura Howe as Vice-Chair. Jamie seconded. The motion was approved.

ITEM 10 DISCUSSION ON INSTALLING A SIDEWALK FROM THE GREEK THEATRE LOT H TO THE OBSERVATORY. REQUESTING SUPPORT LETTER. POSSIBLE MOTION AND ACTION.

There was a brief discussion about the sidewalk install. Sheila made a motion to approve a support letter and Ron seconded it. It was approved. Friends of Griffith Park also offered to write a support letter.

ITEM 11 OLD/ON GOING BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 12 NEW BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Greek Traffic layout discussion

ITEM 13 No Announcements

The next Griffith Park Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. The January 25, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

There will be a Special GPAB Meeting on March 8, 2018 at 6:30 in the Visitor's Center Auditorium.