

Griffith Park Advisory Board  
Minutes – February 27, 2020, 6:30 PM

- Roll Call: Carlos Montoya, Mike Hain, and Sheila Irani, absent.
- Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved.
- Special Guests: No special guests
- General Public Comment:
- Gerry from Friends of Griffith Park – Updated the Board on installing Kestrel bird boxes to encourage nesting throughout the park.
- Member of the public expressed concern about a lack of ranger led hikes.
- Marian of Friends of Griffith Park notified the Board that FOGP has hikes on Saturday mornings, and attendees must RSVP.
- Information Reports and Presentations:
- Girl Scout Troop, Los Feliz 165, would like support to install A Little Library in Griffith Park.
  - Motion made to push Girl Scout Troop presentation up on the agenda. Motion passes.
  - The Little Library is a small structure where community members leave books and take books. The location would be near the new playground next to the Greek Theater. The library would have children, teen, and adult sections, and the Troop plan to launch a book drive to fill the library. The Troop plans to raise the needed funds to build the library and proposed adding a planter to the library with local and hardy plants.
  - Motion made to draft letter of support to the Park Commission for Girl Scout Troop, Los Feliz 165, to construct A Little Library near the new playground next to the Greek Theater. Motion passes.
- Chief Park Ranger Losorelli discussed arming Rangers per LA City Councilman Joe Buscaino’s proposal.
  - Chief Losorelli explained to the Board that Park Rangers are mostly law enforcement now, and the City Council expects Park Rangers to respond to reports of crime within the Park. Chief Losorelli explained that he believes Park Rangers need weapons for their security and for the safety of the Park. This is needed to increase the ranks of the Park Rangers – because Rangers go through the police academy and expect weapons – so that the Park Rangers can patrol more parks within the city. Currently, Chief Losorelli does not feel he can safely send Park Rangers to what he believes are dangerous parks. Chief Losorelli explained that he believes Park Rangers are no different than LAPD and CHP – they are law enforcement.
  - Board Questions:
    - Chairperson Deutsch asked how many instances were there when Rangers needed weapons? Chief responded that Rangers have been assaulted with knives before.
    - Co-Chairperson Howe expressed concern that the character of the Rangers will change and the escalation of violence will increase. Co-Chairperson Howe asked, how will the Rangers maintain the perception of being accessible with weapons? Chief responded that there are already armed

officers in parks.

- Member Phillips asked if Rangers are in support of this. Chief responded affirmatively and added that the use of force policy is the same as the LAPD. Chief went on to state that the response time for LAPD in the Park is 7-10 minutes, while Rangers are first responders.
- Secretary Mercke asked if Rangers were willing or able to adopt a use of force policy more restrictive than LAPD's use of force, considering that their image as approachable Rangers is extremely important and considering the ongoing public concerns about police use of force. Ranger representatives were unwilling to do this and believed the LAPD's use of force standard was appropriate.
- **Public Comment:**
  - Gerry of FOGP stated that building up the ranks of the Rangers is important, and asked, is there a correlation between not having a gun and difficulty recruiting? The Ranger representative responded that people do not want to go to the police academy and then not have a gun at the end of the training.
  - Emmy of Sierra Club stated she found the notion of arming Rangers disturbing. She asked how the Rangers would deal with racial bias and the mentally ill? The Ranger representative responded that they already have a lot of bias training. The Ranger representative went on to state that the City is currently paying armed security guards with considerably less training than the police and rangers to patrol parks, and arming Rangers would be a safer alternative.
  - Chairperson Deutsch requested a motion on this issue at the next meeting.
- Matters Under Board Consideration:
- Discussion of pony/train concessions: Board members discussed possibility of alcohol sales at the pony and train rides. Co-Chairperson Howe expressed concern that in an area with many children, runners, and high traffic that adding alcohol seems unnecessary and problematic.
  - A Request for Proposal (RFP) is currently soliciting proposals for vendors at the concessions near the pony and train rides, and Chairperson Deutsch asked Park representatives to keep the board informed on what kinds of proposals prospective vendors may have for concessions so the Board may have input.
- Ad-Hoc Reports:
- Trail Restoration: The team is in the process of getting the Santa Monica trail task force to help move forward on trail survey issues.
- Public Art Initiative: Member Irani presented samples of art by artist Emily Brunner that was on utility boxes. The artist is interested in doing similar work in the Park. Members are working on identifying appropriate walls and spaces where murals may enhance the park. Potential themes of murals will recognize aboriginal people of the Park.
- Communications: GPAB Instagram is still operating and announcing event and issues regarding the Park.
- Fundraising: Discussion of possible summer movie nights and other fundraising events.
- Film: Filming guidelines were submitted in January, and Members have heard nothing

back yet.

- Superintendent Reports:
- Update on new Superintendent: Sean Hinton is the acting Superintendent, and Stefanie Smith is the acting assistant Superintendent, likely to be the next Superintendent.
- Parkline shuttle: The shuttle is running well and getting approximately 600 riders per day. The Park is working on getting racks for the busses.
- Aerial Transit System: Presentation is supposed to be ready by March by Stantek.
- Fencing tunnels 7 and 8: The tunnels near Forest Line Drive is getting fencing installed by mid-March.
- Automatic irrigation installation next to Live Steamers: Near the Live Steamers the park is installing automatic irrigation to save water and staff time.
- Bridge Housing: The groundbreaking of the Bridge Housing project is ongoing and should be completed by June. Some litigation is attempting to stop the project but is not likely going to be successful.
- Equine bridge incident: A horse was killed in an accident on the equine bridge. The horse was spooked and ran into a wall. The bridge is closed and will hopefully reopen in approximately two months.
- Board Business: Member Irani presented drawings for an archery range. The design has been made, and the funding is nearly there. There will be 12 targets in the range. The location will be the yard across from the LA Seamers.
- Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for March 26, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Griffith Park Visitor Center Auditorium at 6:30 pm, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027
- Adjournment: Motion to adjourn passes at 8:30 pm.