

Griffith Park Advisory Board
Minutes – March 25, 2021, 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call: All present
2. Announcements: No announcements
3. Approval of Minutes: Approved with amendments.
4. Special Guests: Sarah Tanberg from CD4: Presented short update for Wonderview Gate.
 - Member Karen Thornton asks about aerial tram. Answer: Looking at details, but at present does not feel the aerial tram fits needs of park or neighborhood.
 - Member Bryan Mercke asks about bridge housing and how it is impacting camps near the Park. Answer – Between Covid and housing crisis, the shelter has not shrunk the encampments near the Park. New shelter going up in area that has more capacity. Targeted outreach is occurring in the area to encampments.
 - Member Chris Laib asks about being provided with an update about transportation issues along southern area of Park with increased density along Los Feliz Blvd.
5. General Public Comment:
 - Kristina O’Neil – Tour busses are not allowed in hillsides because they violate weight limit and are concerned about these tour busses in and around the Park.
 - Gerry Hans – Requests item for agenda next month to get GPAB support for grant application towards work in Fern Dell. An event of species of special concern and plant hike is upcoming. Raptor survey is ongoing in nesting season.
6. Information Reports and Presentations:
 - a. Nothing Planned
7. Superintendent Reports:
 - a. Safer at Home
 - Planning to reopen travel town on April 17th, and on May 11, will open 6 days a week. Outdoor exhibits will be open, and there will be no birthday parties at present. For sanitation, it is treated as an outdoor play area and periodically cleaned.

- b. Volunteering in the Park
 - Meeting with staff about volunteering in Park, about if and when volunteers can come back in the park.
- c. Mulholland Fencing
 - The temporary fence that was brought down will be placed back up as close to hill as possible to allow access to pedestrians. We will be working with council office going forward because there are competing interests to come up with a long-term solution. We are in process of obtaining and installing new plant material soon. Putting fence back up because homeowners raised safety concerns, such as traffic and pedestrians present.
 - Public Comment: Kristina O'Neil – The meeting with city council should not be done by Zoom, it should be in person.
- d. Wonderview Trail
 - The trail is now open after the gate was installed and completed.
- e. Shakespeare Stage
 - Electrical work will begin, and bidding will begin on rest of construction. The project is completely funded.
 - Public Comment:
 - o Emmy Goldknopf – Griffith Park section of the Sierra Club is supporting reasonable restrictions of use on this stage, including how late it is open, protect any nesting birds nearby, and encourage it only be used for nonprofit events.
 - o Gerry Hans – Concerned that RAP has discretion on events. FOGP litigated about the performing arts center to try and create conditions and restrictions, including sound mitigation, and time restrictions.
- f. Funding and budgets, retirements, and the year ahead
 - Losing approximately 161 employees in RAP among all levels to early retirement incentive program. Park will lose approximately 13 gardener caretaker among others. Since start of pandemic, been unable to hire any full-time staff or part-time staff. City is receiving some stimulus which may help backfill some positions. Rangers are still being hired.

- Public Comment: Emmy Goldknopf – I think the city is wasting a lot of money on excessive responses to injuries and minor encounters in the park.

8. Committee and Ad Hoc Reports:

- Public safety – Met with Chief Losorelli and staff. Discussed concern about homeless in Park. Unlike City, rangers have ability to remove squatters in the park because of fire issues. Rangers are first responders to fire in Park. There are about two fires per week in Park. Will raise issue of smokers leaving golf course with cigarettes. Will ask for board input on signage concerning this.
 - o Second issue discussed was mask issue. Chief will not issue citations but will escort people out of Park. City attorney will not prosecute any mask violations.
 - o Third issue is about response time in north side of Park. Chief will not patrol north of LA River.
 - o Issue to investigate in the future is lack of cell access in Park.
- Community engagement – Our community is growing, and our Instagram engagement is growing. The committee is working with groups related to the Zoo and is working on connecting different groups that are interested in the Park. The parking issue continues to gain community interest and concern, including where the funds from parking is going.
- Bylaws commission, governance – Will be finalizing mission statement and portion of the bylaws.
- Equestrian ad hoc – Discussed horse safety regarding micro-forest and Betty-Davis Park. We will be able to afford three mounting blocks. Concerned about LA Riverwalk’s impact on equestrian committee. Members Karen Thornton and Gene Gilbert will form ad-hoc to discuss LA River Master Plan, including its impact on the equestrian community.

9. Suggestions for Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Items can be submitted to Chairperson Jason Greenwald.
- Propose ending smoking in golf courses.
- Letter on LA River Master Plan

10. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2021 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

11. Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:35pm.