

GRIFFITH PARK ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES-MAY 27, 2021, 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call-Alex Phillips absent.
2. Minutes- Bryan will address one minor correction.
3. Special Guests-Sarah Tanberg,CD4,joining later
4. General Public Comment –no comments
5. Information Reports and Presentations
  - a. Board Secretary Election. Chris Laib. Motion item carries, unanimous vote.
  - b. Griffith Observatory Foundation (formally FOTO)- Nikki Gordon and Danish Khan presenting on the partnership role with the Griffith Observatory. Diversity, equity, STEM, re-branding and relaunch of the membership program. Since the 1970's partnership role has included support of the renovation and expansion of the building, school programs, upgrading and retrofitting the Observatory. 28,000 children annually have the opportunity to visit the Observatory.
  - c. USGS, Marcos Alvarez, Seismologist and Brian McDowell , engineer, presenting a proposal for an Earthquake Early Warning System and place it at the top of Mt Hollywood. The proposal would not add any additional footprint or require any new infrastructure. The site proposed would use an existing and offline tower that would be repurposed. The tower will serve as a relay station to transmit real-time data to the Cal Tech campus in Pasadena. Motion item to write a support letter carries, unanimous vote. Mike Hain will draft letter.
  - d. GPAB Mission Statement: Ron Deutsch presents. Discussion follows regarding the language, specifically the wording "eliminating private vehicles" .Michelle Crames would like to modify the language to "drastically reducing" as she feels the word "eliminate" is not thinking about equity. Preferably would have "accessibility" added. Park Superintendent, Stefanie Smith agrees with Michelle that the word "eliminate" is too strong as many functions of the park are not able to be "car free" such as golfing, birthday parties, sports, picnicking. Karen Thornton would like to keep "eliminate " as it sets a goal to work toward and we should strive for that. However, if we are able to "drastically reduce" than that is a win. Jason Greenwald asks if the board will vote on the motion by Ron and Karen will carry as drafted or should it be modified to reflect other member's points? Ron thinks mission statement should remain bold and aspirational and Gene Gilbert adds that consensus is important and the group should be aspirational not punitive. Bryan Mercke feels this item needs consensus .Michelle Crames brings forth motion to amend language to "drastically reduce" and Mike Hain seconds. Board votes on amendment, motion carries 7-1.
6. Superintendent Reports:
  - a. Safer at Home- guidelines remain the same but that is set to change on 6/15/2021

- b. Volunteering in the Park- new guidelines have been set and we are able to welcome our volunteers back to the park.
- c. GPAB New Member Recruitment- Record number of applicants, we are conducting interviews. Great outreach from the Communication Ad-Hoc Committee.
- d. Table Tennis for Griffith Park Recreation Center- Donation of 2 tables by the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council and the Los Feliz Improvement Association.
- e. Bronson Caves- Closed for safety.
- f. Bronson Park Improvements in the preliminary stages still.
- g. Observatory –Planning on a late June or early July reopening.
- h. LADOT DASH OBS- service to the Observatory resumes June 23,2021.
- i. Ferrero Fields- Request by GPAB member to have safety matters looked on the 134 off-ramp have been assessed by DOT and some signage improvements are expected.
- j. Captain Albert Torres- Memorial plaque unveiling on June 16,2021. All invited.
- k. Independent Shakespeare is returning this August for their 11<sup>th</sup> season in the park.

#### 7. COMMITTEE AND AD HOC REPORTS

- a. Public Safety Ad Hoc- Chris Laib and committee went on a horseback ride, hosted by Karen Thornton, to see the park from the elevation and perspective of horseback riders/horses. Off road bicycles are of acute concern, observed evidence of off road biking—tracks on upper trails.
- b. Community Engagement Ad Hoc- Michelle Crammes briefs group on collaboration that is taking place with all of our park partners . Katherine P. from the LAPF and the LA Zoo are collaborating on native plants and sustainability. Would like to coordinate all volunteers across the park.
- c. Bylaws, Mission and Vision Plan Action –Item Review Ad Hoc –Bylaws revised for next meeting. Ron Deutsch thanks Bryan for the work and time spent on committee.
- d. Equestrian Ad Hoc- Putting a list together of delayed repair issues for maintenance.

#### 8. BOARD BUSINESS

Ron requests follow up on the fence along Mullholland Hwy be placed on next month's agenda. Chris asks that we discuss meeting in person for next month's agenda.

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourns at 8:52 in appreciation of outgoing Board Secretary Bryan Mercke and his service to the Board.

Next meeting scheduled for June 24,2021.