

Griffith Park Advisory Board  
February 2022  
Meeting commenced at 6:31pm

### **Role Call**

Greenwald, Cramas, Laib, Chung, Gilbert, Phillips, Thornton  
Ashouri joined at 6:50pm

### **Announcements by Chair**

This is the first meeting without Ron Deutsch. "Let's proceed in his spirit"

### **Approval of Minutes**

First from Phillips, second from Thornton. Unanimous approval with no corrections

### **Presentations by elected officials and special guests**

Ranger Chief Losorelli

-Fairly quiet in the park except for robberies at Wilson/Harding and Roosevelt golf shops.

Cash was taken in both incidents, and one robbery was at gunpoint

-Only one homeless camping issue in the park; someone camping on Autry lawn in early February

-There's a new class 3 fire truck in GP, housed at the ranger headquarters, and it can access the upper rugged areas of the park. All rangers have been trained on its operation and it's ready to go for the summer season

-The Hollywood Sign modification to Rams House caused some commotion, but overall less than expected

-Overall, crime is down in the park

#### Board Questions

Thornton: Would it be valuable to have extra LAPD patrols in park after rangers leave at 10:30pm? Losorelli: Yes, and they are taking place and he coordinates closely with NE station

Laib: Were the perpetrators in the golf course robberies armed? Losorelli: Wilson/Harding involved a firearm. We think the two robberies were related and have a lead on who did them

T. James: Thank you Chief. How are you handling a proliferation of electric rec vehicles on closed roads? Losorelli: Electric bikes, skateboards and other vehicles not allowed on unpaved roads; they are for exclusive use of equestrians and pedestrians

A discussion about licensing, the various new e transportation devices and a need for clearer ordinance, per Losorelli, being "worked on"

Laib: The funders of the new LAFD No Smoking signs have the belief that the rangers are not ticketing smokers. Losorelli: We have "zero tolerance for smoking anywhere in GP". Rangers are writing tickets

Phillips: Great that you are ticketing, and recommends an accelerating fine concept for repeat offenders

Greenwald: We are VERY concerned about wildfires and smoking is an existential threat to the park

Cramas: TY. Does the new firetruck have a name? Losorelli: Not yet, but an intriguing idea!

CD4 report, Helene Rotolo and Xanthe Scheps

-Rotolo has received a promotion and will be doing special projects at CD4, will still be involved with many shared projects in GP

-She introduced her replacement, Xanthe Scheps, who will have a start up period with Rotolo.

Scheps made some introductory remarks, she is a native Angeleno, and shared her email: [xanthe.scheps@lacity.org](mailto:xanthe.scheps@lacity.org)

-Councilperson Raman sponsored a zero carbon building ordinance, to further equitable climate impacts.

-LA Zoo was visited by the Councilperson and staff on 2/14. She believes the zoo is listening to the community feedback, that it does "need an upgrade", and that our concerns have to be addressed. The LFNC March community zoo meeting has been postponed, likely until April

## Board Comments

Greenwald: This board is very engaged in the zoo EIR process.

Laib: Thank you Rotolo and welcome Scheps

Greenwald introduced the new Ecologist for the LA park system, Courtney McCammon. This position was one of the primary needs for the park, identified many years ago in the Vision for Griffith Park. Its fulfillment is a great milestone for the city and testament to this board's hard work.

Smith: All the constituent groups brought this position to fruition and M. Rudnick got us over the finish line. McCammon has spent her first week on the job meeting with maintenance, rangers, forestry and has hit the job running.

McCammon: I feel very welcome. I have a BA and Masters from Loyola Marymount. 10 years of field consultant work, including surveys of flora and wildlife, raptor studies in GP, a close relationship with FOGP, and has also spent time in Elysian and Debs Parks. First task are working with Leon in Urban Forestry, the brushing staff, film office re appropriate filming protocols. Goals include public and internal RAP education, monthly nature walks.

## Board Questions

Ashoui: Welcome! And, a plug for restoration of native plants in the park. McCammon: First step is a census and that will inform a wildlife and flora management plan

Crames: Exciting! Please look at us as a resource to use our public engagement platform to propagate what you're doing.

Phillips: Welcome! Will walks be free? McCammon: Yes

Laib: Does she have any plans for Commonwealth Nursery and does she harbor any opinion on smoking on the golf courses? McCammon: I do not support smoking ANYWHERE in the park

Thornton: Welcome! We've been waiting along time for you!

Greenwald: Looking forward to being a resource for you and helping you implement tenets of the Vision for Griffith Park

## Public Comment

Dodge: Hip, Hip, Hooray! We want to help

Hans: FOGP ecstatic and appreciate RAP for getting this done, McCammon has already been a key participant in raptor study, and a closer balance between human activity nature is critical as annual visitation continues to increase.

Entire Board and public participated in a hearty HIP, HIP, HOOORAY!

-The Mural Project presentation is delayed

## **General Public Comment on items not on agenda**

There were no comments at this time, but a written comment was submitted to the board.

## **Superintendent Updates Superintendent Smith**

-Covid masking mandate in park still in effect indoors but no longer outdoors

-Old Zoo fencing funding will be either from Quimby funds or GO parking revenue

-Pony Rides have had an outside veterinarian analysis and their report sites satisfactory conditions, with some record keeping, haltering process, repaired fencing, shade and water access recommendations, most of which have already been implemented by vendor; RAP will make extension of concession agreement contingent on compliance, implementation of recommendations and will be reviewing annually

-She will be reporting on the GO parking revenue next month

-Staffing for the Hollywood Sign/Rams House sheathing was increased but it turned out to be a non event

-Haunted Hayride report included that direct revenue increased from \$150,000 (when the event was last held in 2019) to \$200,000, along with \$33,952 in extra ticket proceeds, for a revenue total of \$233,952. And, there was a retained \$25,000 deposit, for post event restoration and cleanup. The event did go smoother at Crystal Springs this year and there were weekly meetings during the event. She is not committed to how it might continue and McCammon will be involved in discussions should it be considered.

-The Fern Dell hydration station is the first of many being considered in the park are being funded by a grant.

#### Board Questions

Thornton: Are the horse crossing walks being re striped, as per prior request? Smith: Yes, next up

Laib: Is the e vehicle issue on interior roads being addressed? James: Yes, it is under current active review

#### **Committee Reports**

Executive: Greenwald

-Discussion about a retreat, either rolling or meeting. GO parking revenue advice to RAP, and process for that.

Laib: Also, we agreed that a priority for new board members is expertise that feeds committee work

Community Engagement: Crames

-Meeting was postponed and there is difficulty on this committee, as the other two members also chair committees (Phillips/Laib) and are busy

Safety: Laib

-The LAFD 50 No Smoking signs are funded by the LFIA. Reiterate they'll be used to replace defaced, faded and for additional trailhead and golf course exit placements. Existing infrastructure used for placement in all cases except possibly golf course exits. Other organizations are lobbying CD4 to terminate the GP golf course smoking carve out.

Equestrian: Thornton

-There was a greatly attended and wonderful dedication of the Lynn Brown mounting blocks. More riding events to come

Zoo: Greenwald

-CD4 is listening to the community and the zoo is also focusing and integrating community input

Laib: How should we interpret the delayed LFNC zoo community meeting? Greenwald: The zoo determining the best path forward and the delay likely reflects that, and he feels that the delay represents a good faith effort. "We won't know until we see results"

Sustainability: Phillips

-Needs a clarification re GP volunteer protocols. Smith: FOGP have received a general right of entry status. Individuals must be cleared.

-Watering stations are moving forward and a process is underway to convert existing fountains to multi use hydration stations

Laib: Multi lingual signage re reusable water bottle recommended

Crames: Recommends a park branded specific reuse water bottle as a possible revenue source

#### **Board Business**

Crames: Are there other city PABs we should be interacting with re common goals?

Laib: Lets schedule an update on current thinking about old LA Shares site and GP Adult Center permanent location

Next meeting: March 24 via zoom

#### **Adjournment**

Unanimously approved

Meeting ends at 8:46pm