

Griffith Park Advisory Board

Final minutes, March 2023 meeting

March 23, 2023 6:30pm

Live at the Greek Theatre Hospitality Room

Call to order: Crames at 6:31pm

Roll Call: Laib

Crames, Thornton, Laib, Crow, Gilbert, Greenwald present. Phillips absent and excused;
Chung not present, not excused

Approval of Minutes: Laib

Corrections: none

Motion to approve

First: Gilbert Second: Thornton

Approved by all present with an abstention by Greenwald, who was absent last meeting.

Note: 10 letters were sent to RAP during the past month and distributed to board. 8 pertaining to pony ride concession closure, 1 pertaining to crime in South Griffith Park and 1 complaint about GP Dr closure

Comments from special guests:

Declan Floyd, deputy for state Senator Portantino

-The Senator has a bill to support public meeting flexibility i.e. virtual vs live meetings. Hybrids are only allowed currently for strict purposes.

-The Senator got \$5m allocated for various park issues. He loves bike riding in GP and supports traffic reduction measures.

Jennifer Hull, CD4:

-Vermont southbound park egress left turn signal still expected this spring

-Working with central traffic re: speeding in GP.

-CD4 has a presented a motion for a P22 memorial project in the park

-Shakespeare in the Park trying to get overhead ATT lines buried at the new performance stage at Old Zoo

-Canyon Lake fence contract underway

-Mulholland existing fence issues are also being addressed

-A third fence project being considered west of the Lake Hollywood Park is being considered

James: The Mulholland fence looks terrible, is falling apart and we're tired of paying for it

Laib: Is the Lake Hollywood Park fence the one that Lake Hollywood HOA considers a public/resident safety requirement-above the steep slope leading down to residences? James: Yes, this is the one your safety committee looked at that you deemed an unsafe fire and crime area

General Public Comment

Katherine Shore: Would like Western Cyn above Fern Dell closed to cars

Alexander Behar: Shared some security concerns with the south Gr Park nursery school.

Special Reports and Presentations

Griffith Observatory Parking Revenue Review: Sean Hinton, RAP

-Revenue:

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

5,517,000 = total revenue

-Expenses:

341,360 park access/transportation

105,115 capital improvements

808,000 Griffith Park staff support

40,000 deferred maintenance & equipment
144,000 credit card fees
1,438,475 = total park expenditures
+ 2,700,000 general fund draw
4,138,475 = total expenditures

1,378,525 balance

July 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

-Revenue: 2,842,372
-Expenses:
133,683 park access/transportation
277,000 capital improvements
179,300 Griffith Park staff support
40,000 deferred maintenance/equipment
57,000 credit card fees
686,983 = total park expenditures
+ 1,600,000 general fund draw
2,286,983 = total expenditures

Board Questions:

Crames: What happens to the 1.3m balance? Smith: it sits in the account and there is a protocol for a minimum 500k retention, as charges/withdrawals hit unpredictably
Greenwald: TY for the transparency. Parking revenue has certainly grown. Asst GM Rudnick is meeting with me and Chair Crames in April re: reducing the general fund draw and they will report back to board.

Crames: We may want to consider creating an ad hoc for the Parkline Shuttle. Superintendent Smith: I want the Parkline Shuttle back and for it to be successful.

Public Comment:

Griffin: Is there a problem with public disclosure of parking revenues being they are estimates?

Laib: Can we get a written report of these? They are difficult to understand without viewing in writing. And these funds are a matter of public record, correct?

Superintendents Report: Stefanie Smith, GP Superintendent

-Pony Ride Concession: A consultant is being hired, hopefully by April; the adjacent train concessionaire will get to use the space for up to 1 year.

-Los Feliz Pool, Parkline Shuttle, Bronson Cave and Merry-Go-Round are still closed

-Transit work on GP Dr is at the contractor stage. Some planning modifications taking place.

-Crystal Springs Dr plans are out to various gov't partner agencies for feasibility/input, requiring perhaps two more months of review. Some State funding steps in process. Project may start within months.

Greenwald: Claritive question about initiation of work. Smith: Believes it will likely be during this calendar year.

-GP performing art stage. Bid requests issued. Bid for the ADA access bridge is out. Work would not start till fall 2023 after this season ends. ATT is holding everyone up.

-48 trees were removed during recent storms.

Laib: Any injuries to people? Smith: No

-Soil, mud removal very substantial this winter

-15 GPAB candidates interviewed; 2 will be placed for April meeting, assuming they finish background process

-KDI, a consulting firm, has been engaged by CD4 to propose some activity programming at the old LA Shares site

Board comment:

Crames-can we contact the mayors office? Smith: Yes, I will connect you

Public Comment

-Sabrina: GPAB meetings conflict with some other meetings. Smith: Only tonight because another meeting had to reschedule. GPAB is always fourth Thursday of each month

-Sabrina: Finding this room was difficult. Smith: Yes, this was a one time location change due to storm damage to normal locale

Committee Reports

Executive: Crames

-New members discussed. We want to engage some of the community members to also join ad hocs

Pony Rides Venue ad hoc: Thornton

-Reaching out to schools and parents to see what they want. 90% still want ponies and want it to be educational and fun.

-LA Equine Advisory Group committee has also formed an adhoc on this concession.

Public comment: Griffin. Are you also trying to engage adolescents? And could there be an acoustic set? Thornton:

Yes, engaging adolescents important

Eric: What areas of the park need activation? James: In next report

South Griffith Park Planning ad hoc: Crow/Laib

-Distributed minutes of first meeting, announced the members and their research projects and the scope and objective of committee. The recommendations for the site should be forwarded by May meeting

Board Comment

Greenwald: Appreciate the breadth of what both ad hocs are doing and adherence to the Vision for GP

Public Comment

Griffin: Empty spaces attract crime. Activities and use make crime more difficult

Alexander Behar: Skate park is a great idea

Eric: Agrees regarding skate park

Board Business: Crames

-Parkline Shuttle feasibility

-Safety concern about the nursery school

Adjournment: Crames

A salute to Gene Gilbert, a longtime member and Gr Park activist who is retiring from the board. Accolades from board members and staff. A city commendation certificate was awarded to Gilbert by CD4 deputy Hull.

Adjournment in honor of Gene Gilbert!

First: Laib Second: Crow

Unanimous. Meeting ends at 8:22pm

Next Meeting: April 27 at Friendship Hall