

Draft Minutes
Griffith Park Advisory Board
Thursday, April 27, 2023

Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles

1. Call to order: Crames at 6:32pm. A welcome to new board member, Jane Carlson, who spoke a bit about herself and her interests in Griffith Park.
2. Roll Call: Crames, Thornton, Laib, Carlson, Crow, Greenwald present. Phillips excused; Chung arrived at 7:11pm.
3. Approval of Minutes: Approved unanimously.
4. Special Guests: Jennifer Hull, Council District 4
The Canyon Lake Fence contract may be signed in late May; Mulholland fencing funding is being sourced; budget time at City Hall and funds for design work of Griffith Park pool and Boy's Camp pool being included.

Board Questions:

Laib: Is the Mulholland fence what Ryu put up to mitigate Mid Mulholland street stopping for Hollywood sign selfies? Hull: Yes

Public Comment: None

5. General Public Comment:

-Marian Dodge: School kids helped clean out culverts and drains in park and do some plantings

-Gerry Hans: Bee Rock reopening will be Saturday April 29; park at Old Zoo parking lot and come celebrate reopening of restored trail. Griffith Observatory meter payment collection posts are broken.

-Kathryn Louise: Thank you for the new Train Town sign; speed in the park is outrageous all day long.

-Alexander Behar: Los Feliz nursery school at south Griffith Park has a crime problem related to transients.

6. Special Reports

Retention of Park Rangers Smith and James

The attrition of park rangers is very high and the department is below budgeted head count. Several new rangers joined the force this month.

Board Comments:

-Laib: I have been told there is a morale problem in the range division, due to increased crime in parks, involving weapons, and them not being armed. James: Yes, these are people with families, increasingly encountering violent crime in several of the parks in the system. We are training them and they ultimately get hired by other jurisdiction police departments, where they can carry firearms.

Public Comment: None

Bike Route Adjustment Recommendation for safety James

There is a problem with the various trails at the Victory Bridge and someone is cutting off the locks on them. Bicyclists and hikers are using the equestrian trail.

Board Comment

-Thornton: We have asked the rangers to re-lock the gate several times and often the park central operators don't know where it is.

Public Comment: None

Revision of RAP Alcohol and Beverage Policy, File 23-085: Smith

The Park Commission is considering allowing sale of alcoholic beverages in all the parks, unlimited, but based on several safety measures, including fencing, site security, application and deposit. Current policy restricts the number of events, and leaves approval to the department General Manager. New policy would give park superintendents the authority and oversight. And, as steward of the park, I take this matter seriously and won't just approve anything.

Board Comment

-Greenwald: Opposes proposed amendments and thinks the board should also.

-Crow: This is a safety issue that could lead to more traffic/user safety problems in the park.

-Laib: If for no other reason than the fire safety issue, can Griffith and other wilderness parks be treated differently than other city parks? Smith: Perhaps

-Crames: **Motion** that regional parks be treated differently, that there be a 2 year pilot and regular reporting on revenues. First: Crames Second: Greenwald **Motion passes** 7-0. Chung and Greenwald agree to write letter for board approval.

7. Superintendent Updates: Smith

-Shakespeare stage construction scheduled to begin in fall. AT&T wires now buried.

-Griffith Park Dr closure: Permanent gates now installed.

-Visitor Center: The roof and water intrusion damage project should be completed in next weeks.

-Parking kiosks at Griffith Observatory: The company (FloMeter) that supplies them switched from 3G to 4G connection and that has taken them down. There are also battery/power issues. This is a significant revenue issue and Smith is in touch with the vendor regularly.

-Merry Go Round: No progress on ownership legal dispute.

-P22 mural is currently on hold pending intellectual property dispute with artists.

Mehmet at CD4 is connecting the lawyers to try to resolve.

Board Questions:

None

Public Comments:

-Hans: Unlimited alcohol a bad idea for Griffith Park, and parks in general.

8. Committee and Ad Hoc Reports

-Executive Committee: Crames

Discussion about March meeting and agenda for April meeting

-Pony Ride Replacement Ad Hoc: Thornton

Report will be delivered next month. Recommendation will be updated for today's times, but so far, the feedback is that everyone wants ponies! Other ideas include a petting zoo, native history ideas, and educational component, adoption and sanctuary.

-South Griffith Park Ad Hoc: Laib/Crow

The report will be finished next month, is thorough and the intent is to deliver it to the department in advance of the May meeting, then distribute to board and discuss the findings and recommendations at May meeting.

9. Board Business: Crames

-Zoo EIR: Greenwald

The EIR may be moving forward soon. If so, Crames gives the Zoo ad hoc, Greenwald and Phillips, authority to reconvene, analyze and make a recommendation to the board. The public comment period will be short and we will have to move fast.

10. New and Unfinished Business:

Smith: Golf reservation complaints have been accelerating and she will look into it, suggests the board may want to invite the superintendent of the golf division to come to our meeting.

10. Adjournment

We adjourn in memory of Mayor Richard Riordan. Greenwald said some words about the Mayor's tenure and achievements. Unanimous consent.

Adjournment at 8:48pm

Next meeting, to be held live, probably at the Visitors Center on May 25, 2023 at 6:30pm