

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Roll Call: Cramas, Thornton, Crow, Gilbert, Greenwald, Phillips. Absent: Laib, Chung.

2. CHAIR REMARKS: An ode to p-22 and the monumental impact they had on our community

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Greenwald: what is the progress on making the position permanent', motion to approve Phillips, Greenwald Seconded

4. SPECIAL GUESTS — Mehmet from CD4 — Committee assignments are open, community members please reach out if you are interested. One more day of free kitchen compost pail pickup. Notice that compost materials can be used in special Recycla receptacles. There is a recycling townhall coming next month. Renter protections passed, if there are questions please reach out to the office of CD4. Storm response closures are going to be in effect until February. John Ferraro exit speed humps hopefully coming after a safety assessment report is finished. Talking about a Site Activation to potentially be presented by the Bridge Home. Board questions: none. Public questions:

Chief Losarelli - Were experiencing high volume of motor vehicle burglaries. Added extra patrols. Numbers have gone down. Not much reported violent crime recently in park. Staying on top of issues regarding homelessness in the park and fire hazards. A lot of trees were down after storms and with RAP support most roads were reopened swiftly. Board questions: Greenwald - last time you were you reported on south of LF Blvd incidents, are they still happening? Losarelli - There were some tents that popped up south of Bridge Home, they were encouraged to accept services. No new reports of violent crime.

Xanthe Schepps recognized. Not here in official capacity. Now working with Eunisses Hernandez office. Cramas thanks for their support

5. General Public Comment

7354 - Calling in support of pony rides, wants to thank Barone for what it means to inner city youth to have the ponies available. Laments the circumstances leading up to the closure of the pony rides.

Liz Radley - Wants housing for those living under the freeway by I-5. Says e-bikes are using horse trails to travel and this is causing an unsafe situation. Wants gates between bicycle trail and horse trail closed.

Marian Dodge - Congratulates Karen on new pony. Wants to invite everyone to mushroom hike out of Travel Town on Sunday.

Gerry Hans - Had a Raptors workshop that had a high volume of volunteers to monitor nests during season. Appreciates tips from residents. Wants everyone to respect privacy of nesting raptors

6056 - Wants to reinstate pony rides. Feels it was an insult that Jimmy Kim did not consult GPAB shutting down a 74 year old institution. Calls GPAB to request the Pony Rides to be reinstated.

David S - Supports bringing the pony rides back. Says it's an antidote to video games and wants GPAB to pledge it's support bringin rides back.

Don Moss - Commenting in favor of Pony Rides. Echoes positive sentiments already shared. Wants GPAB to send suggestion to City Council that an ordinance be developed to legally outlaw harassment that Pony Rides received.

Robert T - Calling from West Covina. Supports Pony Rides. Says many folks who don't have equestrian access benefited greatly from the rides. Wants GPAB to create ad hoc committee to reinstate rides and that the equestrian community is involved.

1416 - Identifies as Nicolas, says they are a frequent bike rider. Gives kudos for closing off the area of GP Drive. Mentions there is a path that leads up mountain leading to Observatory. Says the path is deteriorating and getting worse, wants to know if RAP is aware and what can be done to improve—possibly pave—the road, says it's unsafe when descending from mountain. Board: Thornton - Stefanie, are you aware of this? Stefanie Smith - Yes, we are discussing with maintenance for addressing concerns. The issues are multitudinous and would necessitate a large outlay. Trying to identify the most pressing problem areas and fix those first.

Sherrell Cuneo - Supports Pony Rides. Took daughter to Pony Rides, wants them reinstated and brought back with stricter standards, says it is a win win. Wants to point to Vet's comments on Pony Rides.

Samantha Kirkeby - Calling in support of Pony Rides. Appreciates Sherrell's comments. Says there was no issue of abuse. Wants to know if Jimmy Kim is notified when animals die at LA Zoo. Says there was no transparency that Jimmy Kim was not notified. Says Tunnel 1 and Atwater Bridge are unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists.

5610 - Laments protestors influence on Pony Rides closure. Wants them reinstated.

Ashley Kelly - Pony Rides supporter and local horse owner. Wants to impress upon board that equestrians support Pony Rides. Believes protestors are causing undue stress for equestrians. Built a website savegriffithparkponyrides.com that contains a timeline of what happened at the rides.

Steve Alper - Lake Hollywood area is a popular area. There are some groups like Hollywoodland Homeowners Association that assert that the park's purpose is to provide homeowners with special privileges. Says that GPAB should move forward making sure the park is safe and welcoming to all visitors and increasing access.

6. INFORMATION REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Updates from Griffith Park Urban Ecologist, Courtney McMammon. Non-motion item. Allow for 15 minutes for questions. Has been reviewing film permits for GP area. Looking at lighting, plant and wildlife issues, nestling raptors, off trail usage, wants to make sure cast and crew don't feed wildlife. Had a restoration event with LA Parks Foundation and FoGP. 84 plants were installed west of Observatory road. Had help from maintenance department. Cleared invasive species and succulents in that area. Great success story. Hope to do more in the future. Last week was trained in CalFlora weed transfer system. LA San is helping to implement. Providing inventory of invasive species with GP. Needs this inventory to manage and maintain health of the park. Doing Audubon golf certification surveys. Packets will be going out to those wanting certification. Doing nature hikes. Took a holiday break and now coming back, first one was cancelled due to rain, but there will be another February 11th— there is an Eventbrite page. Also hosting monthly bird walks during the week — check Eventbrite. Happening out of Fern Canyon, birding in Mineral Wells for 2 hours. Camera Traps on GP Drive implemented after the closures have been getting photos that can be shared. Saw P-22 before their demise, now getting grey fox, coyotes, deer, skunks, possums. Trained full time and part time employees on bird species in the area as well as common native and invasive plants. It has been requested that there is another restoration in park before summer. Looking at specific areas with experts on where and how to perform future restoration events. Big project coming up on interpretive signage — will have 10 interpretive signs soon including one involving P-22 — they will be related to ecological and biological topics related to GP. FoGP donated spotting scope and camera traps — going to be deploying them throughout park, wants to focus on connectivity and

movement in and out of the park. Lastly, working with Tracy to contribute to GP website to have sole ecological homepage for the park. Board questions: Greenwald - Thanks Courtney for report. Is happy that urban ecologist was hired and it's essential. The creation of this position is something that was fought for, we hope Courtney will stay in this position, but this is a temporary position. This position needs to be made permanent. Thornton - Now that we are dealing with P-22's passing, losing our greatest predator how does that effect the park moving forward? McCammon - With deer population you are talking about top down pressure, but also from the bottom up perspective, deer may be more prevalent. Thornton - Are there any other animals that were predated by P-22? McCammon - Don't know how varied P-22s diet was beyond deer. Doesn't think it was varied enough to cause concern. Chung - Where is Eventbrite link? McCammon - It's in newsletter Tracy sent out. Chung - You mentioned Gray Fox species being an indicator species, what does that mean? McCammon - The health of the environment. They are in as sycamore and oak woodland, shows health. Crow - Underscore what Greenwald said. This position should be made permanent. Crames - Guidelines that were created are only as good as those who can implement them. James championed them and it's great to see McCammon bring this vision to fruition.

- Griffith Observatory Traffic Revenue, updates and review presented by Sean Hinton. Informational report, Current report is for March 1st 2022 - December 31st 2022. Total Parking Fee Revenue Collected: \$4,353,810, estimated expenditures: \$340,000 to park access and transportation (DOT sign posting, DASH bus program), \$280,000 capitol improvements (crosswalks redone, safety features such as lighting, replaced parking pay meter that was hit by vehicle, fencing at old zoo, new lighting near ranger headquarters providing safer environment) \$910,000 for GP supplemental paid staff (rangers, traffic control, maintenance, urban ecologist) \$116,000 deferred maintenance and equipment (light towers, message boards, upkeep and maintenance of pay stations) \$1.6M RAP General Fund Commitments— subtotal 3,246,000...estimated balance 1,107,810 after expenditures. Revenue also covers for full time graffiti removal crew, graffiti is addressed immediately. Emergency services for fires also covered. Underscores that Urban Ecologist McCammon is funded by this money. Turns it over to Stefanie and Tracy. Board: Greenwald - Is it possible to see a more detailed written report with numbers? In past we have seen fiscal year reporting, it would be helpful to have a fiscal year report for this year so we can more accurately gauge these results to past years' revenue totals. 2nd question, at subsequent meeting can you get projections for next year so we can have an idea of what steps department is taking to mitigate general fund draw. Hinton - I don't have current fiscal year tonight, only March-December. Can talk to Stefanie about presenting current year at next meeting. We are on track with general fund drawdown to hit \$2.2M goal. Estimated balance is \$1.1M, 6 months to go with collected revenue, we had a lot of rain and road closures that may impact revenue. Need \$600k to allocate with 6 months, thinks numbers will be good by end of year. Greenwald: Any further fiscal year numbers to have clearer comparison would be helpful. Stefanie Smith - We will put on a calendar the days we will be giving these kind of revenue reports to increase transparency. Spoke to Crames about this and we can follow up on next meeting. Thornton: Please remind me, General Fund Draw, what is it? Stefanie Smith: Fixed amount. Thornton: Is that good? Smith: Yes. Could work against you if it is a % if revenue is down. Public Comment: Liz Radley: This question is for Sean, Graffiti and tagging east of Riverside bridge where bike trail ends and horse trail begins...Crames: Is this relevant to presentation? Radley: It can wait. Gerry Hans: The 4.3 number is good consider it's only 3/4ths of the year. I believe we had a good holiday season despite rain based on crowds.

\$900k went to paid staff, how does that fit in with the big picture of staff and rangers and why is this money coming out of parking funds? Other question is thought Old Zoo fencing came from Haunted Hayrides, not these funds. Stefanie Smith: It did come from Haunted Hayrides and other staffing funds are for security and traffic control staff. This program pays for traffic robust staff. Additional trail work is also paid for by this money, specialized priorities are addressed with the money generated by this program. Hinton: Traffic control program is extensive and plays a key role in overall traffic in park. When roads get congested near park, if there is an emergency the roads are shutdown so when Emergency Services arrive they can gain access. When there were rains, these emergency services were called upon by Crystal Springs to provide traffic control for 2 days while cleanups happened. Crames: Can Traffic Control write tickets? Hinton: No they don't. Security Guards however can write parking citations for laws violated for issues beyond traffic citations then rangers are brought in. Crames: Does ticket revenue stay in park? Hinton: No, it goes to city because LADOT has a system set up in case tickets are disputed so they are the only ones who can handle this. We don't see the revenue from tickets, but it keeps the park working more effectively.

- Discussion regarding creating an ad- hoc committee for ideas for the pony ride location. Possible motion item. Stefanie Smith: Department will be undertaking a process to take input from the public to determine the best case to move forward with the space. Thornton: Would like to take the lead in creating ad hoc to make sure there are diverse voices representing viewpoints related to the location. Wants to create a motion to create ad hoc to do investigation to gather public opinion. Phillips: Seconded. Greenwald: We can't take a vote on this until public comment has been heard. Public Comment: Eric-I was fine with them moving on to greener pastures and I am looking forward to having new outlets that align with '21st Century Morals'. Jay Giesenheimer: I would like to be added to ad hoc committee, I believe I bring a lot to the table. Liz Radley: I want to thank Karen for leading this ad hoc committee, I would like to be considered for this committee. Want to direct people to griffithparkequestrians website group to connect. Crow: Is it possible for GPAB to provide a forum to have grievances with closure heard by those who made the decision to shut down. Crames: vote for ad hoc — all members in favor. Crames: email rap-gpab@lacity.org if you are interested in joining ad hoc.
- Bylaws review and possible modifications. Discussion led by Jason Greenwald. Possible motion item. Greenwald: Sharing screen with Board Bylaws. Trying to clean up bylaws to reflect proper procedure (brown act etc) and also elevate the bylaws to employ more heft in all areas. Mission Statement should not be reviewed as often as bylaws, was last revised 5/27/21, so this was not revisited. Article III on board membership had some updates — cosmetic changes, modified timing of elections each year, removal of members at discretion of department. Article IV cleared up language. We did away with our standing committees and that is reflected in new bylaws. Article V clarified meetings may be held monthly. Article IX current citywide code of conduct is included. Introductory line added. If board member is not fulfilling obligations they can be removed before 2 year term. We are an advisory board, but it is RAP's discretion to continue to utilize us. Board Comments - Crames: This shows tremendous commitment. Thank you. Brown Act can be intimidating, the underlying spirit of the board is one of support and this document captures that. Philips: Motion to approve. Thornton: Seconded. Stefanie Smith: I appreciate all of the hard work you all put into these bylaws. They show a great representation of GPAB. Thank you for your hard work, Jason. Vote to move forward: Roll call vote: Unanimously in favor.

- Discussion regarding returning to in-person meetings. Possible motion item. Crames: This may be out of our control. Stefanie Smith: All Brown Act meetings will go back to in person in March. Asked if we could do Hybrid, quorum would have to be in person, but we could provide access to participants to audience members. Asked if we could do every other month virtually. Greenwald: I was under the impression that councils were granted indefinite privilege to stay virtual. Please let us know if there are changes to this guidance.

7. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Stefanie:

- Road and Safety Improvements Late February early march there will be gates by Griffith Park Drive — 2 speed humps, new signage, striping...long term project is under review for Crystal Springs, we will go over that with CD4, will go to contractor once final decision is made. First goal is to reduce speed. Reduce cut through traffic.
- Bronson sidewalk
- Departments Plans for moving forward with Pony Ride location
- Interviews for current for PAB members wishing to remain on the board - We are accepting applications and have begun scheduling interviews for 3 positions
- Park Closures - Bronson Caves, Merry Go Round, Pony Rides all closed. We never have seen rain like this enough, maintenance staff did a fantastic job. When it was raining they were closed and the course was open the next day. Had a lot of mud come down Observatory tunnel, but access was restored quickly to the Observatory. P-22 ticketed event coming up, they sold out quickly — February 4th at 10:30 and February 5th is GP Marathon. Thornton: Thank you to the maintenance staff. They got equestrians back out quickly. All holes were fixed quickly.

7. COMMITTEE AND AD HOC REPORTS

- Executive Committee

Thornton: We discussed process and how to best move smoothly going forward. Crames: Laib and Thornton volunteered to take on more admin responsibilities.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

- Comments from Board Members on Matters within the Board's Jurisdiction and Requests by Members to Schedule Specific Future Agenda Items.
- We will be discussing Bridge Housing next meeting. Crames: If anyone would like to be on an ad hoc please let us know. Greenwald: This may be a note for next month, the Zoo EIR was submitted last year, but at some point in the near future they will finalize and move to City Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Crames: Motion to adjourn. Thornton: seconded.

