

Griffith Park Advisory Board

Draft minutes February 2023 meeting

February 23, 2023, via zoom

Roll: Crammes, Thornton, Laib, Chung, Crow, Gilbert, Phillips. Greenwald excused/absent

Minutes. Approved unanimously without changes 1st Phillips 2nd Thornton

Note: There were ——— letters sent into Rec and Parks this month. Most re the closed Pony Rides and the crime in south GP. The letters were distributed to the board prior to this meeting

Reports from Special Guests:

Jennifer Hull. New deputy CD4. She has everything east of Hollywood Sign east to LA River. Motion from [SEP] Raman for Zero Carbon Emissions in GP. Instructs that RAP report back on implementation

Mehmet: Loves that GOAB is active re pony Rides. KDI initiative, a design form for pop up activations of underutilized lots/land. CD4 looking to activate some of the outdoor space near ABS; they have a grant to do this. Joseph Siroky, new deputy for Hollywood Hills west of Hollywood sign

General Public Comments:

-zoom user: wants pony rides back. No to "right of entry". Too many homeless encampments along 5 fwy

-7354: Support of Pony Rides. They are important for children.

-Steve Alper: TY to CD4 for having 4 attendees at recent community meeting

-Gerry Hans: TY GPAB for our support of park central mural and our letter, and to CD4 support letter also. FOGB had 2024 volunteer hours in GP last year. P22 day will be held again this year 10/22 at park central

-Marian Dodge: Last weekend FOGP and Troop 10 from Monterrey Park did work in GP; there is a motion at the legislature to continue zoom mtgs...

-Sherry Breskin: Concerned about Pony Rides being restored. People want it back

-Funky Phantom/Charlie: past LFNC member, supported ABH in beginning. However, it has morphed into something altogether. Lack of enforcement and compliance to lease conditions. Crime stats unexpected but real. We should consider another location. A failed experiment

-4080: Elizabeth, 25 year LF resident. Community has tried to help ABH success.

Drugs, crime, gangs rampant. Not appropriate in the park. Shouldn't the seniors get a home! Do not renew the lease

-Liz Radley: Can CD4 help with new mgmt at ABH? And the trail dedicated to equestrians is being overrun by others; Riverside/Victory gate needs to be closed

-A Kelly: Pony Rides were overrun by a handful of activists. They ignored the reports that independent vets gave. Council "caved" to their pressure. Go to Save Pony Rides.com

lot where LA Shares was. It is now a mostly fallow area, open 24 hour area. The Chief Ranger shared the increased crime stats there and that these bridge homes have all over the city. We now know they attract a host of bad actors who prey on their vulnerable inhabitants.

We remind everyone that the lease for the Bridge Home has a provision that it be a *Special Enforcement Zone*, which has not been implemented.

Finally, this site in Griffith Park was promised to the *GP Adult Activity Center* for its permanent home by Councilman LA Bonge, then Councilman Ryu, a use that is consistent with many city parks in LA, and is also one of the goals of the city adopted *Vision for Griffith Park*.

No one questions the need for housing for LA's significant homeless population. More than a few now question whether a city park is an appropriate location, particularly adjacent to high traffic youth playgrounds, soccer fields, tennis courts and the Los Feliz Plunge. It has been pointed out that the City Council has banned encampments adjacent to schools for the safety of these citizens.

Mehmet from CD4 and Alex Crow are now going to respond to some of the surrounding community concerns and questions about the Bridge Home Sarah Tanberg: Senior CD4 deputy for homeless services ; there are several PATH members who will answer some of the questions about the Bridge Home.

-Andrea: PATH. 356 people served since opening. 43 in permanent housing. Covid created a shutdown in operations for a long time. There is a long process getting people placed in housing. Beginning with establishing ID, involving several state and federal agencies.

-Tescia Uribe, PATH: Security 24/7 and cameras around direct site; drug use and any violent crime is responsibility of LAPD. Outside activities are greatest challenge and park rangers are collaborative.

Tiffany Shirley, PATH: We want to collaborate with community. We try to educate our guests to be 'part of community'. Drug use is an issue we deal with every day.

Sarah: TY to LF community which welcomed this site at inception.

Board Questions

- Laib: Special Enforcement Zone: LAPD presence? Tanberg: Ryu didn't follow up on this.
- Crames: How does this site success in placement rate relative to others? Uribe: We had a lot of immediate Covid setbacks. We're comparable with other shelters-maybe a bit higher placement rate
- Phillips: Good job handling commentary. It's emotional. Tanberg: We hope GPAB will make a recommendation as to how we can help.

Tanberg: We still can't catch up with permanent housing sites; the rental market in LA is a bigger problem

Public comment

-Karen Stetler: Los Feliz, Waverly Dr resident and LFIA board member. We were supportive at beginning. There have been a lot of problems. We are afraid of fire. It doesn't feel that there is any active security in the adjacent area. Tanberg: where did crime stats come from? Laib: LAPD Northeast station

-Road and Safety report: Const crews have started installing speed bumps and asphalt improvements on Riverside Dr. Plans for Crystal Springs Dr modification are in. CD 4 supports. Now going to other agencies, including Cal Trans for input.

-In person meetings now mandatory, beginning in March. Hybrid meetings not currently feasible.

-GPAB candidate process: 3 open seats. Will have some candidates by next meeting

-Park closures

Parkline shuttle, Bronson Caves, Merry go Round and Pony rides still closed

-Storm prep is underway in the park

Committee Reports

-Ex Committee: Conversation with Jimmy Kim, who wants to implement better tech with PAB's so that our work is more available to public.

His second, Brenda Aguirre will be more integrated into our work

Wants to schedule some maintenance crews to later in day shifts, so that early next day users have clean facilities

-Pony Ride Concession Replacement Ad Hoc report: Thornton

Hundreds of emails being read. The ad hoc committee members include a broad swath including child therapists, equestrians, parents, animal rights activists. Meetings taking place, including one coming up at park central visitors ctr on 2/28 at 6pm, open to public. Within 1 month, there should be a recommendation. It may take

Up to a year to implement

Board Business:

None

Adjournment: Phillips first/ Crow/second. Unanimous 9:06pm

Next meeting: March 23 live at Park Central Auditorium.