

Griffith Park Advisory Board Regular Meeting

April 24, 2025, at 6:30pm

Final Minutes

1. Call to order

Chair Crow called meeting to order at 6:32 pm

Present: Crow, Carlson, Gustincic, Greenwald, Hagans, Hamilton, Laib, Lann, Phillips

Excused: Chung, Griffin

Absent:

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Crow motion to approve minutes, Phillips second. Unanimous.

Abstained: Hamilton, Greenwald, Lann

3. Board Announcements

None

4. Special Guests

Jennifer Hull

- Griffith Park Pool: Design phase is fully funded and pending initiation. Timeline details will follow.
- Budget Access: access the budget through CAO website. Released on Monday. Two public comment days, tomorrow, and 28th, Van Nuys and then City Hall, respectively.
 - o RAP hearing will be on Friday, May 2nd, 5-member committee who can ask questions on other's behalf
 - o Tracy read note from General Manager – RAP reductions focused on vacant positions, going to request they be reinstated. Also going to focus on cost recovery.
- Laib: We're going to cover certain items relevant to CD4, such as the smoking regulations at today's meeting.
 - o Hull – it's not so much that golf courses were carved out, more that there is another ordinance that permits smoking on golf courses.
 - o Laib – was it just golf courses, or golf courses and zoo or Greek?

- Hull – we would like to go back to Rick and ask about enforcement
- Greenwald inquired about fire safety updates promised by Mehmet; Hull noted \$300k in brush clearance budget.

5. Public Comment

- Stephanie Vanig: Advocated for inclusion in Senior Center design; consultant expected by June.
- Marion: Thanked members for Earth Day event participation; announced Griffith Park Explorer launch.
- Steve: Requested formation of ad hoc committee on Western Griffith Park access.

6. Information Reports and Presentations

Anthony Gallo

- Anthony Gallo: Requested board support for adding pickleball lines to underutilized tennis courts near the merry-go-round. The tennis use would be preserved by simply adding new stripes for the pickleball courts.
- Supported by Crow, Phillips, Amy, and others; noted need for resurfacing and pilot nature of proposal, which can be changed back to tennis.
- Laib inquired about crime scene tape at Roosevelt Golf Course – resolution planned for the weekend.

Smoking in the Park Discussion

- When we talk about smoking in the park, we are talking specifically about golf courses, the zoo parking lot, and the Greek theater. We reached out to LAFD for a statement, but they didn't respond. But Golf responded and I can go ahead and read that email. [reads email from Rick Reinhard] Also Ranger Klechner sent a map of the high fire severity zones and the ordinance related to it.
- Greenwald: as you may recall after the fires CD4 and CD5 put forward a motion to review regulations about fire safety. We presented a report to this board, which was forwarded onto the council districts. In that report, we did call out the smoking carve outs, and we recommended taking another look at the policies. When they respond to the info gathering calls, they may respond to our letter.
- Laib: what is our mission statement.
[Phillips reads mission statement]
- Laib: the City of LA has the complete monopoly on golf courses. You cannot go into the bushes and take 10 minutes to smoke. This claim that it drive people undercover doesn't hold.
- Gustincic: in your opinion, knowing how it all functions out there on the golf

course, if someone decided to smoke and it wasn't allowed, would anyone be out there to stop it.

- Laib: No, but I think as a board we have to take a stand and say we do not support smoking in the park.
- Phillips: My devil's advocate argument is that in these places, where smoking is part of someone's experience, what's to stop them from lighting up outside the designated areas.
 - o But the Greek is a hardened concrete area.
- Greenwald: I think this is a good conversation and an interesting conversation. RAP and the other city departments are responding to this motion and I think process-wise, we should wait for that response before submitting another letter. Maybe it's something we should discuss as an ad hoc and think about it holistically
- Laib: do you think this is something that could fade into the background as we get further from the fires?
- Greenwald: I think we will see a response within a month or two.
- Crow: this seems like an odd outlier. But it seems more pragmatic to roll
- Gustincic: I think we should keep this on the agenda. I
- Hagans: I'm in favor of waiting for the report back and that we allowed ourselves to revisit this issue.
- Crow: okay, so it sounds like we're going to follow up after a report back from the council districts and maybe reconvene the ad hoc at that time.
 - o Stephanie: are there signs that can also make it clear that smoking may cause fires. To lean on the communal aspect of it.
- Consensus: wait for council district feedback and potentially reconvening an ad hoc committee.

A Vision for Griffith Park - Mobility

- Greenwald: I think mobility is so important for a lot of reasons. It's for environmental, for equity, for safety, for a lot of reasons.
- Laib: I went on a run recently and some of the interior roads are in terrible shape.
- Carlson: I think mobility is about making the park inviting and easy to navigate. Making it a place people can get to from all areas of the County.
- Hamilton: I think this comes down to access and access for tourism and for the community, both local and international
- Gustincic: My experience has been that the problem is not people coming to the park, but people passing through the park during traffic moments.

- Greenwald: We did briefly have a shuttle called the Parkline. And while we're not in a position budget-wise to bring that back right now, but looking into the future, but I think looking bigger picture, we should be asking what transit should look like in 10-20 years.
- Crow: I feel like we commented on this in an ad hoc. Access is the issue here. And I think we not limit vehicle access, but we should think longer term about how to make our park a mini Copenhagen.
- Hamilton: what about a parking structure outside the park that costs money.
- Tracy: We've looked at so many options and there have been a lot of good ideas, but I think looking forward 10-20 years is great and would be worthwhile.

Public Comment

- Marion: one of the biggest problems is the commuters, and the speeders, and I think we need to increase the fees and ticket people every day and then we would have enough money to pay for everything we need.

7. Superintendent updates

Dave Koper

- Crystal Springs Rd and safety updates: we heard some promising news, but we still don't have big updates.
- Jazz fest: has been cancelled
 - o Crow: is this something we think we will do in the future?
 - o Tracy James: Yes, I think it's something we would really like to do. I think we just started fundraising too late. But now we have a year to fundraise.
- Performing Arts stage: groundbreaking ceremony today, a lot of people showed up, good event.
- James: we got approvals today to move forward on the updates to the existing visitor center. It should be done by 2026.

8. Committee and ad hoc reports

Visitor Center Ad Hoc

- Gustincic: we've been meeting almost every week. Tracy has no lack of work for us to do. Right now, we're digging up information on artifacts and historic pieces to add to the center.

Executive Committee

- Crow: We met and we discussed this agenda.

9. Business Board

- Crow: We have the pickle ball court letter to discuss.

Motion: Crow moves to write a letter in support of restriping the courts and creating the only pickle ball courts in the park. Phillips second. Unanimous. Phillips to write letter.

New business

- Tracy James: Does the board want to take up the issue of the many people doing business in the park? There are many many people doing lessons, tours, exercise classes, horseback rides and we do not know about their insurance.
 - o Hagans: I think we should clarify the rules, because illegal use of the park is triggering.
 - o Crow: I would like to hear more about it.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Phillips moves to adjourn. Greenwald second. Unanimous at 8:12pm.