

Griffith Park Advisory Board Regular Meeting

October 24th, 2024 at 6:30pm

Final Minutes

1. Call to order

Vice-chair Crow called meeting to order at 6:35 pm

Present: Crow, Carlson, Chung, Greenwald, Griffin, Laib, Hagans, Phillips

Excused: Thorton, Gustincic

Absent:

2. Approval of Minutes

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

Greenwald – Can we make sure all minutes are on the website after approval?

Laib – I will clean up the past ones

3. Special Guests

Mehmet Berker – CD 4

- Speed humps by Ferraro fields – The preliminary markings should have been installed, and speed humps should be in within two weeks.
- T and LAE advisory committee invited me and we put in a resolution in support of expansion of Rim of the Valley. All land is public land and CD 4 is supporting another bill that supports the San Gabriel mountains, plus another from Padilla. It should move through council in November. Talk to T and equestrian committee with questions.

J Anderson – CD4

- I'm here in place of Jennifer to discuss the Wonderview Trail extension.

4. Public Comment

- Marion dodge – P22 day last Saturday was fabulous, lots of exhibitors, national park service, others.
- Gerry – There will be press release to announce call for proposals from artists to create a sculpture of P22. We're in the eighth year of the Raptor Study, it is now posted on our website. Numbers are up all around. We support Rim of the Valley, have drafted about six support letters.

- Gavin Brennan – Bike tours throughout the park and LA. Raise awareness about bike safety within the park. There are no bike lanes up to observatory.

5. Information Reports and Presentations

Board Elections

- Tracy announces election. Candidates have two minutes to speak.
- First is Alex Crow running for Board Chair

Alex spoke of his history being on the board for three years, love of the park, the park is the crown jewel of LA. Has learned so much from people who have come before him, and even after. We have a rare opportunity with the Olympics coming up to get things done and cut through red tape. We have bright and ambitious minds on this board and the wind is on our sales.

- Griffin – when are doing the jazz show?
- Crow – It's in the cards
- Greenwald – Do you want to say anything about how you view the vision plan and are there particular portions of that plan that you would like to focus on?
- Crow - One of the most interesting things about this board is that we have this vision plan. I'm not sure we've always used it as a focal point, but I would like to move back to that and push forward the urban wilderness identity.

Motion: Greenwald first and Griffin second. Unanimous.

- Moving along to Vice Chair – Alex Phillips

I've been on the board for a while and been reluctant to step into an executive role. Great opportunity to step up and support someone who has moved through all ranks. I have connections who will help me learn to be a vice chair. In terms of the vision plan, working on the zoo EIR, we referred to the plan, and I'm looking forward to tackling thorny issues.

Motion: Greenwald first and Griffin second. Unanimous.

- Finally, for Secretary – Jane Carlson

I think the role of Secretary is more than just taking notes and sharing the minutes, but ensuring transparency and access to information. I would like to find ways to improve upon that through better information sharing and making it more accessible. And the Vision Plan also mentions accessibility and I would like to focus on making the park itself more accessible to visitors, including folks who have never had a chance to experience the park.

Motion: Griffin first and Laib second. Unanimous.

CD/Bureau of Engineering – Wonderview Trail Extension

CD4 and Bureau of Engineering presented outside the Board room on the trail extension as part of a public presentation.

- Laib – It looks steep, will you be adding stairs?
- BOE – Yes, we will be adding wooden stairs.
- Phillips – What is the timing for completion?
- BOE – One year for approval and about a year and a half for construction.
- Greenwald – Where will the funding come from? And how far is this from the trailhead?
- Mehmet – The amount funded to date is about \$450,000. And it is 30-40 yards from the trailhead.

Vision for Griffith Park – Chris Laib

- Overview of Vision. It was started by Tom La Bonge and Tracy James. It was meant to prohibit commercial uses that were creeping into the park. We don't have a Master Plan, we have a vision, adopted by RAP commission and City Council. Anything we do should be filtered through this document
- Executive Summary - It's an urban wilderness, unique among our park system. Hillsides and flattops of park are within that wilderness, FOGP has spent money removing built structures. There is a lot of biodiversity like protected species, trees, lizards, things you wouldn't have seen. We are to be stewards of that unseen diversity. It should have an unstructured aesthetic. Principle is to not add more built environment. One filter should be "is this going to create more built environment?"
- Phillips – where it gets tricky is with buildings for services, rest areas, etc.
- Greenwald – If we carry these principles in mind, what are the exceptions. We get into the nuance while still adhering to the overall philosophy. Urban wilderness is used in two ways, 1) overall urban wilderness identity and 2) the urban wilderness section of the park. Within that specific area there are minimal built structures but throughout the park the idea is to make things look as natural and minimal as possible.
- Hagans – the signs blend in so well, that sometimes people can't see them.
- Laib – urban and urban wilderness are not incompatible
- Greenwald – there was a previous discussion about private vehicle in the park, and some at one point called for removal of all private vehicles in the park. But it's still a regional park, and we cannot forget key users that are using the park in different ways.

- Stefanie – Maybe it's not about no built structures, but calming and minimizing so people can still access the park. Things like permeable surface lots are already happening.
- Greenwald – Would Gerry like to say anything?
- Gerry – I was on the Master Plan working group, wasn't until 2014 it was accepted, but changed to a Vision for Griffith Park. There is more to the story, and it will be interesting to see how it developed.

Information Reports and Presentations – Holiday Schedule

- Crow – The next meeting is scheduled for Thanksgiving, and then after that in December it's the day after Christmas, Hanukkah, a Kwanza.
- Motion: Griffin motion to meet on December 5th, Greenwald second. Unanimous .

6. Superintendent Updates

- Pony rides – Consultant went to commissioner meeting and provided seven options. Commissioners requested executive management review and report back to commissioners on the next step. The consultant's job has been completed.
 - o Phillips and Laib – Who will make the final decision?
 - o Stefanie - Ultimately the commission will make the final decision.
- Haunted Hayride – Going through until November 2nd. We've asked them to make some modifications.
 - o Crow – What feedback did you hear? I've seen lots of traffic officers.
 - o Stefanie – Litter, shuttles and signage for the shuttles, making sure people know the picnic area is still open.
 - o Greenwald – Overall, how would you say it's going this year compared to last year?
 - o Stefanie – Staff was very friendly, I didn't see traffic the day I went, they are very open to communication.
 - o Carlson – would the organizers be open to a kid-friendly event?
 - o Stefanie – We are considering a fall festival at travel town.
- Crystal Springs – Revisions still ongoing to meet LADOT's format.
 - o Greenwald – Are these the same changes?
 - o Stefanie – Yes, just still working through the same formatting changes.
- Visitor Center – Tracy has been doing a lot of outreach and there will eventually be an RFP.

- Griffin – Will there be an offsite office managing it?
- Stefanie – It will be within our office

7. Committee and Ad Hoc Reports

Vice-chair Crow: The Executive Committee met and discussed the presentation for the Vision document. We bid farewell to Karen. Our next Executive committee meeting will be before our December 5th meeting, usually the first Monday of the month. I will follow up with Alex and Jane for the next meeting.

8. Board Business

- Hagans – I want to thank maintenance for the no bike signs, robust conversation on social media about how dangerous it has been, vibe of gratitude, clarity is kind.
- Crow – Has it been adequately resolved?
- Hagans – It's been managed, some aggression towards signs.
- Crow – You let us know in the future if this should be a motion item.
- Stefanie – Not all of it is on RAP property, but when it is they can address it quickly.

9. Adjournment

Motion: Greenwald moves to adjourn in honor of past chair, outgoing executive team, and incoming executive team. Griffin motion, Phillips second. Unanimous at 8:08pm. Next meeting Thursday, December 5th, 2024.