

## **Griffith Park Advisory Board Regular Meeting**

September 26, 2024 at 6:30pm

### *Final Minutes*

#### **1. Call to order**

Vice-chair Crow called meeting to order at 6:30 pm

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

Excused: Thorton, Laib

Absent:

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved unanimously.

#### **3. Special Guests**

##### **Mehmet Berker – CD 4**

- Reach 1 is fully funded but not all reaches are funded at this time.
- Phase 3 of reconfiguration of GP Drive will include fully separated bike lane
  - LADOT Needed a revision and that caused a delay, will commence after Haunted Hayride shuts down
- Discussed funding issues and plans for next steps in funding
- Pony Rides – RAP leading the process
- Crystal Springs Drive – phase 3 safety and active transportation projects, going through review and approval from LADOT, will move back into construction after Haunted Hayride
- South GP Master Plan – have final draft in review
- Movie Night – Queer movie night, 7pm, Luca, at golf course

##### **Board Comments**

Greenwald – Are the DOT requests procedural?

Berker – yes, mostly. Some sections are being replaced and redrawn.

Greenwald – How long once it starts?

Berker – one month, working on one side at a time

Greenwald – conceivable could be done by end of year?

Berker – it's conceivable

Hagans - who maintains Pollywog for the equestrians? Who does someone go to for sand? And will RAP maintain after phase 1?

Berker – RAP maintains and will after phase 1.

Amy – have there been surveyors in South Griffith Park area?

Berker – Needs assessment for ADA obligations, someone working on historic resource portion of pool. Nothing known related to A Bridge Housing.

Hagans – What is the trajectory for starting pollywog project?

Berker – It will be known when the federal budget passes with reauthorization.

Ranger Kleckner – Phase 3, are two lanes remaining in place?

Berker – going down to one each way.

Crow – For the pony rides does the City Council have to issue the RFP?

Berker – No, RAP is empowered to handle it and implement it.

#### **Public comment**

Ken – Surveyors were seen in Lake Hollywood area

Berker – BOE has conducted surveys for new trailhead, and it's in the BOE budget. This will show us where the topology provides options. These issues will be presented at a future meeting and charettes. It will on DWP land and maintained by RAP.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Marion – Friends of Griffith Park raptor survey has finished and report out is tonight. P22 day is coming up, everyone is invited, 11-4pm on crystal springs.

#### **5. Information Reports and Presentations**

##### **Information Reports and Presentations - Ranger Kleckner**

Ranger Kleckner – This is my first GPAB meeting. I'm here to bring up an issue that has been going on for a long time. There is a public safety issue occurring in the park. The Pipeline Trail, which is not a real trail, is an issue. We have a lot of community support. People are pushing the rangers to do something about Pipeline Trail. What I'm referring to is a series of hiker rescues that have to occur. People are looking for shortcuts to the Hollywood Sign. They are taking this treacherous trail in flip flops, with kids, and the rescues must occur by helicopters. There are many leg injuries. Signs are not appropriate. We tried to figure out what has worked before. This has happened before on the loop trail. Put up a chain link

fence and then the park has grown back. Here is what I'm proposing. There is the bird sanctuary trail, which is the only legitimate trail to keep in that area. Put-up chain-link fencing, 100ft to restrict people from going up.

Crow – this is the one that is straight up?

Phillips – there is a sloped area too? Will the 100 ft cover that?

Ranger Kleckner – the goal is to help families with kids not take the trail. There will be 10% of people that still use it. But the fence is accessible by rangers, and they can be repaired if broken. We've tried different things. We've tried filling with brush, filling with dirt, we've tried signs. They don't work. We need to change the sign but we also need a fence to cut off 3 arteries. We do have a lot of support. Hard to make a good argument against it.

Phillips – What about people at the top who will see the trail at the top and not see the fence?

Ranger Kleckner - If we keep people on bird sanctuary trail. We need a lot more signs.

Phillips – Is there any way to create natural berms?

Ranger Kleckner - It's difficult to get equipment to the area to create the berms.

Chung – just for context, are we talking about the straight up trail near the bridge? And the other one?

Gustincic – Is the 200 ft of fence going to impact wildlife?

Ranger Kleckner – No, they won't have any problem getting around a fence. They are usually moving in the other direction. But the wildlife will grow back and that will benefit wildlife.

Greenwald – Thank you for your commitment on this issue. Is it contemplated the fencing will be permanent? Can it come out once vegetation grows back? What can our board do to be supportive?

Ranger Kleckner - We went in with the idea that it's a temperature check. It won't take long for the brush to grow back. It's our goal to take the fence down, but maybe people will start doing it again. We would like it to be temporary but it's hard to know how people behave.

Crow – will the contractor come present to us?

Tracy James – It's a non-motion item because it's for safety. They will just move forward and add the fencing, but you are the connection to the public.

Phillips- When will it go up?

Tracy James – maybe by Christmas? We are not closing off an official trail.

Greenwald – To echo a point Tracy made, it's an important distinction that an official trail would not be closed without a formal process.

Carlson – I think we need to revisit the trail map issue. Because some visitors don't know where to go and don't realize that going on the trail that takes them far to the

left will actually wrap around near the top.

### **Public comment**

Ken – People will follow google maps. We should fix the maps.

Marion – The rescues happen all the time. It's a public safety issue for the people and the rangers. My vote is to leave the fence and let the plants conceal it.

Ranger Kleckner – One more thing. Sherman's retirement party. The oldest horse is being retired on October 9th after 16 years as Officer Sherman. Its at 12-3pm at the equestrian center, little white house. The driver will be providing updates while transporting Sherman to Kentucky for retirement.

### **Information Reports and Presentations - Anthony Gallo**

Gallo – Fiscal year update. From Jan 1 – Jun 30, 2024 paid 1.9M. I can send you all the numbers. In this new FY, already surpassed the revenue. All the meters are working now. The heat affects them more than thought. We're working on that for next summer. They have been up and running since July 10th.

Griffin – What can be done about the heat?

Gallo – We're thinking of wrapping it in a different color

Greenwald – Thank you for all your hard work on the meters. At the next update, can we discuss the revenue draw and whether than can change?

Phillips – Are the old credit card transactions finally processed?

Gallo – yes, these are all clean new transactions. I check them throughout the day. I can access them from the office, and they all seem to be working most of the time.

Crow – The little issues knocking out 3-4 at a time, are those being addressed?

Gallo – They fix themselves when back online. I go on at the end of the day and check that each was working at some point.

Hinton – The amount of time Gallo has put into this on top of his other work is outstanding. We thank you.

### **Information Reports and Presentations – Tracy James**

Tracy James – Meet Christian, he has put the PowerPoint together for me. This is just a concept. Move the Park film services to another site to free up the Adobe to create a new visitor center.

\*Walked through a presentation\*

The timing would be before World Cup and Olympics.

Griffin – I love love love it.

Phillips – It all sounds really good. Original hesitation about not having shuttle as part of the RFP has been mitigated to some extent. The cycling community may be able to get onboard.

Tracy James – We know the community is not keen on shuttling on Mount Hollywood.

Greenwald – Thank you for the work and creativity you put into every issue. I would like to segment this out because there is a part I love and a part for further discussion. The idea of activating this space and having events here is great. And revitalizing and opening up the Adobe is a long-standing idea. As far as the Hollywood sign, it's such a tricky issue. I think it's an ongoing conversation. On the one hand we have these problems where there is no single point of focus for people that want to see the Hollywood sign. What if we focus people into the park in this way, what are the ancillary impacts that warrant further study. If we tell people to come to this spot for the Hollywood Sign, there could be impacts on traffic, parking. We unanimously agreed in the past that a Hollywood sign viewing point should be outside the park. I think we have to study it further, because the Hollywood sign part of it is thorny and complicated and deserves more discussion.

Tracy James – We have talked about the center being on Hollywood Blvd, but I don't think that is ever going to happen. It will take time to get this done, but it's still worth forming an ad hoc at the next meeting to look into some of these things.

Griffin – I will be on that ad hoc. This is a great idea.

Chung – if someone googles it to get to the Hollywood sign, people end up at the observatory, how would they know to come here instead?

Tracy – It would be a marketing effort

Crow – I love it and how ambitious it is. There are some things to still discuss. I love the timeline and that there is a timeline. Please utilize us to get this done.

## **Public Comment**

Ken – The maps still take people to the other side of the park and it's still an issue. Sierra Club would appreciate having a visitor center to start their tours.

Phillips – Will the Sierra Club have to worry about not being allowed to operate their tours?

James – They will be allowed, but not privately operated uninsured tours.

Steve – The guides on the unofficial tours do start out with rules.

Marion – how are you going to locate the illegal concessionaires? I think you sent a question to the City Attorney asking who owns the sign, did you get an answer?

James – We do, RAP owns it. The Trust doesn't agree, but we own it.

Member of public – How are you going to deal with the safety issue?

James – We do plan to add lighting and cameras, but we won't be contracting for

new services.

## **6. Superintendent Updates**

### **Sean Hinton**

- Crystal Springs postponed to a later date, RAP wanted DOT to sign off on the plans, DOT came back with additional changes before they will approve and sign off.
- Dash service to Greek – Prior to covid and prior to bus driver shortage, we plan to bring it back for the 2025 season. They are piloting it now across a few shows. The dash is free.
- Pony Rides – PlaceWorks have several different models based on information collected from the public. It can be found online and it has all the background information.
- I brought hayride tickets. We will have to relocate our meeting next month.
- T Hagans has been doing invaluable work at the LAEC. You should check it out. T will provide additional updates and be our liaison.

### **Tracy James**

- Acknowledge for the minutes that we have a letter from the public that you could act on if you would like.
- Reviewed the board chair roles and responsibilities

## **7. Committee and Ad Hoc Reports**

Vice-chair Crow: The Executive Committee met and talked about the last meeting and the next meeting.

## **8. Board Business**

- Greenwald – Recently a conversation opportunity has sprung up outside the park, it's an acre outside the park by Bronson Canyon. Piece of property is for sale now, zoned for SFH, working with a number of stakeholders, there is an offer by the MRCA to the owner, if the offer accepted, it will be preserved and be parkland.
- Hagans – Rim of the Valley roundtable coming up 6:30 October 21st Friendship Auditorium.
- Gustincic – Heard anecdotally that a commissioner asked if there was a document that governed the park and the answer was no.
- Tracy James – We have a vision plan, not a strategic plan. We had money set

aside for the strategic plan, but it wasn't started

**9. Adjournment**

Motion: Griffin first and Greenwald second. Unanimous at 8:35pm. Next meeting Thursday, October 24, 2024