

Subject: Re: Failing Stone Wall - Western Canyon near Griffith Observatory
Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 7:51:22 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: rosa.cartagena@lacity.org on behalf of Rap Commissioners
To: Annette Sikand

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Aug 13, 2024 at 4:06PM Annette Sikand < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners:

I have been a resident of Los Feliz for over 60 years. I frequently hike in Griffith Park and have also financially supported several projects in Griffith Park, including the expansion of the Park and improvements to the Berlin Forest, Dante's View and Captain's Roost. I knew former councilmember Tom LaBonge and worked with him on several of these projects. One of the projects that was dear to Tom's heart was the failing wall on Western Canyon near the Griffith Observatory.

The 300-ft long, 5-ft tall stone wall was constructed by Federally assisted workers during the 1930s. Two Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps flourished in Griffith Park, and many skilled infrastructure projects were completed within the Park itself. The CCC workers took pride in craftsmanship and learned trades, such as stonework, from instructors. This gave the workers an advantage in seeking private employment later.

Friends of Griffith Park has sought interest from Recreation and Parks (RAP) in

preserving the wall and initiating repair work as far back as 2010. Sections of the historic wall have collapsed since then. Other areas are missing stones, show loss of mortar and other kinds of deterioration. A complete set of wall photos from 2011 when compared to photos of the current condition illustrates that loss of stone and wall segments has accelerated dramatically.

Friends of Griffith Park obtained RAP's permission and funded a "Structural Assessment" of the WPA Wall in Summer 2022. It was completed in December 2022, and a 21-page report was delivered. The cost exceeded \$10,000.

It has now been a year and a half since the Assessment was presented to RAP management with no "next steps" identified. One of the immediate recommendations in the Assessment is to create barrier so pedestrians do not contribute to the deterioration of the walls. This has not been done.

The Friends of Griffith Park and other supporters including myself, Mark LaBonge and The Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust would like to continue to the next steps toward planning the restoration on the 300-ft long wall, realizing that now only portions of it are recoverable in their historic 1930s glory.

With Los Angeles hosting the upcoming Olympics, it is important to showcase our beautiful city and parks. The Observatory and Griffith Park are some of our jewels that we are proud of. We have the opportunity to save this wall which is a beautiful piece of our history.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Annette Sikand