

**Griffith Park Master Plan – Working Group
Meeting Summary – May 5, 2008**

The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group convened their meeting on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 6:40 p.m. at the Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium.

Present: Working Group: Bernadette Soter, Clare Darden, Craig Kessler, George Grace,
Gerry Hans, Jeff Gardner, Louis Alvarado, Lynn Brown, Richard
Bogy, and Susan Swan

Council District 4: Jullian Calvin-Harris

Recreation and Parks: Marilyn J. White and Christina Iwata

Absent: Jose Sigala and Valerie Vanaman

Facilitator: Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks

Ms. Israel opened the meeting by calling the roll of the working group members and introducing Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff. This was followed by the discussion of meeting summaries. It was agreed upon by the Working Group members to hold the following meeting summaries for discussion at the June 2, 2008 Working Group meeting: August 6, 2007, March 3, 2008, and April 7, 2008.

A presentation was done by Mr. Robert Garcia of City Projects and their partners. In February 2007, the City Projects received funding from the Santa Monica Conservancy (SMC) to conduct a study on the feasibility of transforming the Central Service Yard (CSY) into parkland. The contract was received on May 5, 2008 and hope to finish the study within six months. The study will include the possible costs, alternative locations for the different departments, and other related materials. SMC has access to Proposition 84. Historically, SMC has preserved several park spaces. The Working Group members expressed that they would still like this parcel to be under the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' (RAP) jurisdiction, which is part of Colonel Griffith's deed. In January 2007, some of the Working Group members looking at this parcel and has included it on the draft master plan document.

Mr. Gardner commended the City Projects staff for working on this study. He suggested connecting CSY to Griffith Park by adding an equestrian/pedestrian bridge. Mr. Robert Garcia would like to come up with a vision on quality of life. Mr. Grace suggested that the City Projects staff look at the draft done by the Working Group members. There is a lot of information that they may be able to use for this study.

The Executive Summary has to be reviewed and discussed at the June 2, 2008 Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group (GPMPWG) meeting. Developing a one-page list of the Working Group members as an appendix to the draft document was suggested.

Ms. Soter would like to add examples of special facilities owned by RAP, such as, Pershing Square and Venice Beach Boardwalk. A sub-committee meeting must be held before the June 2, 2008 GPMPWG meeting to discuss different ideas. There was no quorum at the last sub-committee meeting that was held on Friday, May 2, 2008. Ms. Soter has not received any comments from the Working Group members regarding the appendices. The use of the Cartifact maps has been approved according to Mr. Grace. All Working Group members were in agreement to replace the wildlife list on the document from the Wildlife Management Plan by Mr. Dan Cooper. Ms. Soter will reformat the document and will send to Ms. Iwata.

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On April 24, 2008, \$25,000 was approved to be transferred from City Council to RAP account for the costs of finalizing the draft master plan document. A meeting has been held with RAP's Planning and Development Section regarding the specific plans for the next steps. The draft document was returned to the Working Group members for their review and for the Executive Summary and appendices to be added.

It was suggested that once the Executive Summary is approved by the Working Group members, they should prioritize their recommendations by urgency regardless of the funding issues. The Elysian Park Master Plan includes prioritized recommendations and can be looked up on www.laparks.org. This priority list is another project for the sub-committee to tackle.

One of Council District 4's (CD 4) priorities is the acquisition of Cahuenga Peak back to the City. Although there is no set timeline, CD 4 has been working with SMC on this project. An account has been set up by RAP to receive donations for this project. However, no donation has been received to date. A suggestion was made to advertise the creation of this account. The asking price for this property is 22 million dollars. To keep this property from active real estate, the City has been working on proving that it is not buildable.

Ms. Israel thanked all those who supported RAP at the budget hearing. The next step will be going to Council for RAP budget hearing but no date has been set as of yet. Ms. Harris-Calvin thanked everyone who came to the Griffith Park Resource Board meeting. The May 8th Griffith Park Fire Commemoration and press conference will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008 by the Greek Theatre parking lot.

The next Working Group meeting will be held Monday, June 2, 2008. The May 5, 2008 meeting concluded at 8:07 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Hoping that the City Projects' study be included within the draft master plan document
- Suggestion to have a 25-year vision on the document for guidance.
- A suggestion to have a supplementary binder for appendices. It may be bulky but would be available at public meetings.
- Happy to hear that Mr. Dan Cooper's Wildlife Management Plan will be included in the Griffith Park Master Plan draft document.
- Suggestion on showing the organizations/community groups which the Working Group members represent be created as an appendix.
- Is there a budget for the hiring of a consultant for this draft document?
- Appreciation was expressed for all the work the Working Group members have done.
- Glad to see that the Working Group members are working on keeping the urban wilderness identity of Griffith Park.
- The traffic speed needs to be looked at in Griffith Park.