

Griffith Park Horticultural Learning Center

Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee

LVNOC Meeting No. 1

Commonwealth Nursery

2650 N. Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Introductions
 - A. LVNOC Members
 - B. Council District #4
 - C. City Staff
2. Proposition K and the LVNOC Process
 - A. Background on Proposition K
 - B. Select a Chair Person for the LVNOC
3. Project Description
 - A. Brief Narrative of overall master plan
 - B. Proposition K funded scope
 - C. Project Site Tour
4. Public Comments and Questions
5. Next Steps



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Bureau of Engineering
Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program

Griffith Park Horticultural Learning Center
Local Voluntary Neighborhood Oversight Committee (LVNOC) - Meeting No. 1

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 4, 2015
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Location: Griffith Park Nursery
Commonwealth Canyon Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Attendees:

| Name | Organization | Telephone | E-mail |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Rebecca Abano | Bureau of Engineering / RCFP Project Manager | (213) 847-4711 | Rebecca.abano@lacity.org |
| Thomas Gibson | Recreation and Parks | (213) 202-2666 | tom.gibson@lacity.org |
| Councilman Tom LaBonge | CD 4 | | Tom.Labonge@lacity.org |
| Shan Chao | CD 4 | (213) 485-3337 | shan.chao@lacity.org |
| Craig Raines | Recreation and Parks | (213) 202-2652 | craig.raines@lacity.org |
| Lauren Young | Neighbor | (949) 357-6181 | Lauren.m.horowitz@gmail.com |
| Mary Button | Friends of Griffith Park | (323) 465-3757 | Marybutton59@gmail.com |
| Gerry Hans | Friends of Griffith Park | (323) 456-3757 | GerryHans51@gmail.com |
| Judith Kieffer | Los Angeles Parks Foundation | (310) 472-1990 | Judith@laparksfoundation.org |
| Shona Ganguly | The Nature Conservancy | (213) 327-0104;ext 14207 | sganguly@tnc.org |
| Tom McGovern | LVNOC-Member, Friend of Griffith Park. | (310) 766-2380 | TMcGOVERN@filekeepers.com |
| Sarah Napier | Friends of Griffith Park | (323) 665-1405 | Sanla96@aol.com |
| Chris Laib | Friends of Griffith Park-LVNOC member | 323-854-1820 | chris@chrislaib.com |
| Michael Flemming | LVNOC member | NA | Michael@bohnett.com |
| Melissa Chalsma | LVNOC member | NA | chalsma@iscla.org |
| Eric Grotjaha | Neighbor | (323) 240-7306 | egrotjahn@gmail.com |
| Justin Young | Neighbor | (310) 927-0881 | whyjustin@yahoo.com |
| Shan Chao | CD-4 field deputy | (213) 485-3337 | Shan.chao@lacity.org |

| | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|-------------------------|
| Joe Salaices | RAP | (213) 798-8451 | Joe.salaices@lacity.org |
| Jennifer Lao | Los Feliz Neighborhood Council-LVNOC member | (323) 669-7651 | jlao@losfeliznc.org |
| Janell Mullen | LANI, LVNOC member | NA | Janell@lani.org |

Meeting Notes:

1. Introduction

City staff and LVNOC members were introduced. All community members were also invited to introduce themselves. Tom Gibson gave an overview on the proposed project and history of the site. Tom also gave a brief overview of the project scope and touch on some of the elements that fall under the purview of the project scope and some of the elements that would not be covered under the Prop K scope. Tom mentioned that the Agenda mistakenly stated that there is a master plan for the site.

2. Distribution of the Agenda

The meeting agenda is made available to all in attendance.

3. Comments from Councilman Tom LaBonge

Councilman Tom LaBonge provided a brief statement supporting the project.

4. Selection of Chair Person

Melissa Chalsma was elected chair for the committee.

5. Project Description / Proposition K Overview

Rebecca Abano provided a brief overview of the Prop K Program. She indicated that the Proposition K: LA for Kids Program was established in Nov 1996 after the Prop K Ballot measure was approved by the LA voters. The approval of this ballot measure authorizes the City to collect up to \$25M in annual assessments for a total of \$750M over 30 years. The program is on its 18th year. The annual \$25M funds acquisition of land for parks and development of capital projects for youth recreational and cultural use along with associated administration and maintenance expenses. The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) manages the projects funded by Prop K. Prop K funds 2 types of projects know as “Specified” which were specifically listed in the ballot measure and “Competitive” which are awarded through a competitive process open the City, other government and non-profit agencies.

She continued with informing the attendees that the project is a Competitive Project. The scope of work for the park as approved through the competitive process is “Renovate portion of existing Nursery on Commonwealth Avenue” in the amount of \$1,650,000. As part of the project development process, community involvement is required by the Prop K Program. Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee (LVNOC) fulfills that requirement. The purpose of this first LVNOC meeting is to introduce the project to the community and obtain input from the LVNOC members and the community for the design of the project.

6. LVNOC Discussion/ Comments, Public Comments and Site Walk.

Various comments (positive and negative) were brought forward by the LVNOC members and the community. These comments are summarized in the following in no particular order:

- Judith talked about the “Big Picture” vision for the Nursery and the possible partnership with the Nature Conservancy. Judith touched on the importance the prop K project, and how it was the necessary first step in the process of transforming the nursery into the envisioned Horticultural Learning Center.
- Shona gave a brief talk on the Nature Conservancy core functions and that they are a science based organization.
- LVNOC member asked if there was going to be a restroom.
- Community member ask how the overall project was going to get built.
- Community member asked about the proposed project name.
- Community member asked if we, RAP, had any original plans to aid in the possible restoration of the green house(s).
- Community members asked about the existing irrigation and what type of irrigation system that would be proposed.
- It was indicated that the nursery could be used to propagate plants for the LA River Revitalization project.
- Community inquired about the status of LACC use of the site and RAP indicated that they would still have space at the nursery, just not in their current location.
- The community brought up the issue of traffic along commonwealth and RAP indicated that traffic would be routed through Vermont and down Commonwealth Canyon Drive which runs along the east side of Roosevelt Golf Course. RAP also indicated that the entrance to the site would be from Commonwealth Canyon Drive.
- The LVNOC and the community members expressed support for the project.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be scheduled by Bureau of Engineering (BOE) staff. BOE and RAP will send notices and post fliers for the meeting. LVNOC members will be notified ahead of time so that they can inform the community. The next step in the process will be the selection of the Design Consultant which is facilitated by BOE Recreation & Cultural Facilities Project manager Rebecca Abano.

Unless otherwise notified in writing, the Meeting Minutes shall be considered an accurate recording of the discussions. Please write or e-mail any corrections, omissions, or amendments within seven (7) days of this meeting (or by March 17, 2015).

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Attachments: Agenda

Distribution:

Shan Chao, CD 4
Cathie Santo Domingo, RAP
Joe Salaices, RAP

Neil Drucker, BOE
Rebecca Abano, BOE

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Tom Gibson, RAP

LVNOC Members