

PROPOSITION K - L.A. FOR KIDS PROGRAM

# **GRIFFITH PARK HORTICULTURAL LEARNING CENTER**

## **LVNOC Meeting No. 2**

Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee

**Thursday, January 28, 2016**

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

**Visitor Center Auditorium**

**(Griffith Park)**

**4730 Crystal Springs Dr. Los Angeles, 90027**

**Join us and participate  
in developing the design**

City of Los Angeles  
Council District #4 – David Ryu, Council Member  
*Cd4.lacity.org*

Department of Recreation and Parks



Department of Public Works/Bureau of Engineering  
Project Managers

PROPOSITION K - L.A. FOR KIDS PROGRAM  
**GRIFFITH PARK HORTICULTURAL LEARNING CENTER**

Project: C216-8 WO #E170160A

**LVNOC Meeting No. 2**  
**Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee (LVNOC)**

Visitor Center Auditorium (Griffith Park)  
4730 Crystal Springs Dr. Los Angeles, 90027  
Thursday, January 28, 2016  
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Tom McGovern  
Chris Laib  
Michael Flemning  
Melissa Chalsma  
Jennifer Lao  
Janell Mullen

**AGENDA**

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| <b>1. Welcome and Introduction</b>                            | 5 min  |
| ♦ Council District #4   |        |
| ♦ City Staff (RAP & BOE)                                      |        |
| ♦ LVNOC Members   |        |
| <b>2. Recap of LVNOC Meeting #1</b>                           | 5 min  |
| ♦ LVNOC #1 Meeting Minutes – ACTION ITEM                      |        |
| <b>3. Project Updates</b>                                     | 15 min |
| ♦ Project Overview  |        |
| ♦ Conceptual Plan   |        |
| <b>4. LVNOC &amp; Community Discussion and Related Action</b> | 30 min |
| ♦ Feedback from LVNOC   |        |
| ♦ Public Comments   |        |
| ♦ LVNOC direction on project – ACTION ITEM                    |        |
| <b>5. Next Steps</b>  | 5 min  |

Written Material supporting agenda items can be reviewed by request at the Bureau of Engineering, Recreational and Cultural Facilities Division, 1149 S. Broadway Suite 860 Los Angeles, CA 90015 between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. Upon request, the Department of Recreation and Parks staff will provide reasonable accommodations to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in its meetings, including access to agenda materials in alternate formats. If you have a request for accommodations, please contact Joe Salices at (323) 661-9465 at least two business days in advance to the LVNOC meeting.



**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. 2**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Date: January 28, 2016  
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Griffith Park  
Visitor Center Auditorium  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Rebecca Abano	Bureau of Engineering / RCF	(213) 847-4711	<a href="mailto:Rebecca.abano@lacity.org">Rebecca.abano@lacity.org</a>
Meghan Aldrich	Bureau of Engineering / RCF – Project Manager	(213) 847-4713	<a href="mailto:Meghan.aldrich@lacity.org">Meghan.aldrich@lacity.org</a>
Joe Salices	Recreation and Parks	(323) 661-9465	<a href="mailto:Joe.Salices@lacity.org">Joe.Salices@lacity.org</a>
Thomas Gibson	Recreation and Parks	(213) 202-2666	<a href="mailto:tom.gibson@lacity.org">tom.gibson@lacity.org</a>
Craig Raines	Recreation and Parks	(213) 202-2652	<a href="mailto:craig.raines@lacity.org">craig.raines@lacity.org</a>
Kevin Reagan	Recreation and Parks	(213) 978-3156	<a href="mailto:Kevin.reagan@lacity.org">Kevin.reagan@lacity.org</a>
Catherine Landers	CD 4	(323) 957-6415	<a href="mailto:Catherine.landiers@lacity.org">Catherine.landiers@lacity.org</a>
Mia Lehrer	Mia Lehrer and Associates	(213) 384-3844	<a href="mailto:Mia@mlagreen.com">Mia@mlagreen.com</a>
Michelle Sullivan	Mia Lehrer and Associates	(213) 807-8826	<a href="mailto:MichelleS@mlagreen.com">MichelleS@mlagreen.com</a>
Kat Superfisky	Mia Lehrer and Associates	(213) 384-3844	<a href="mailto:Kat@mlagreen.com">Kat@mlagreen.com</a>
Amy Kalpin	Mia Lehrer and Associates	(213)384-3844	<a href="mailto:Amy@mlagreen.com">Amy@mlagreen.com</a>
Melissa Chalsma	LVNOC Chair	(818)389-6352	<a href="mailto:chalsma@iscla.org">chalsma@iscla.org</a>
Jennifer Lao	LVNOC member - Los Feliz Neighborhood Council	(323) 669-7651	<a href="mailto:jlao@lofeliznc.org">jlao@lofeliznc.org</a>
Judith Kieffer	Los Angeles Parks Foundation	(310) 472-1990	<a href="mailto:Judith@laparksfoundation.org">Judith@laparksfoundation.org</a>
Jo Powe	Los Angeles Parks Foundation	(310) 745-3642	<a href="mailto:jopowe@gmail.com">jopowe@gmail.com</a>
Jill Sourial	The Nature Conservancy		<a href="mailto:Jill.sourial@tnc.org">Jill.sourial@tnc.org</a>
Mary Button	Friends of Griffith Park	(323) 465-3757	<a href="mailto:Marybutton59@gmail.com">Marybutton59@gmail.com</a>
Gerry Hans	Friends of Griffith Park	(323) 456-3757	<a href="mailto:GerryHans51@gmail.com">GerryHans51@gmail.com</a>
Marian Dodge	Friends of Griffith Park		<a href="mailto:marian@friendsofgriffithpark.org">marian@friendsofgriffithpark.org</a>
Justin and Lauren Young	Neighbor	(949) 357-6181	<a href="mailto:Lauren.m.horowitz@gmail.com">Lauren.m.horowitz@gmail.com</a>
Jerry Han	Neighbor		

**Minutes:**

**1. Introduction**

Meghan Aldrich introduced City staff. LVNOC members were invited to introduce themselves, two of which were present, therefore was no quorum and no action items could be voted on. Meghan Aldrich distributed the agenda and reminded attendees to hold comments and questions until the end of the presentation, during the public comment portion of the meeting.

**2. LVNOC Meeting 1 Mintues**

Craig Raines gave a brief overview of the meeting minutes from the first LVNOC meeting.

**3. Project Overview**

Tom Gibson gave a brief overview of the project scope and touched 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.

**4. Project Description and Updates**

Tom invited Mia Lehrer to speak on the overall vision for the entire site and the relationship of that vision to the Prop K portion of the site.

The Project Landscape Architect, Michelle Sullivan from the Office of Mia Lehrer and Associates (MLA), presented two schematic designs for the nursery and went into detail about how the designs evolved. She then spoke of the pros and cons for each option and how they compared against each other. She also indicated that her design team liked the option 'B' as it was more accessible and more geared for education and research. Option 'A' was more geared for plant production.

Michelle then introduced another member of the design team, Kat Superfisky. Kat presented the technical components, research and educational features of the design.

**5. LVNOC Discussion/ Comments, Public Comments**

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

- Has there been a study on the number of plants that will be required to be propagated for local restoration project, i.e. 11 mile stretch of the LA river restoration?

Response: There has been a preliminary estimate on the number of plants needed for the Los Angeles River ARBOR (Area with Restoration Benefits and Opportunities for Revitalization) and it is approximately 3 million. The demand will be quite high and the benefits of providing a local plant sources include: potential higher survival rate of plants due to locally-adapted genetic material, educational opportunities and green collar work force opportunities.

- Two layouts were presented “A” – which incorporates more area for research and propagation, and “B” which incorporates more publicly accessible areas, as well as areas for demonstration. How does Layout “A”+ “B” compare in terms of production area?  
Response: Lay-out “A” Removes 1/4 available terrace areas from propagation and Lay-out “B” removes about 1/3. Propagation could also occur on other portions of the site (outside of Prop K area)
- How much research area and how much propagation is being planned for the site?  
Response: Still in the planning phase and is to be decided. The design layout for the terraces is a framework, which will allow for the flexibility to adapt the ratio of research to production over time, based on the needs.
- How do you determine value of public access and education?  
Response: The project aspirations are to be demonstrative of sustainable and environmental practices, i.e. storm water capture made visible to benefit education and awareness.
- Horticulture process (potting, composting, etc....) is good to share with the public.
- Education/Demonstration/Research vs. active propagation area?  
Response: Flexibility is desirable, we will learn from research performed by the college groups, TNC, etc....Long term need for plant production to be further evaluated as projects get underway.
- Research/Demonstration programming ideas-water, smog/air quality, growth ability of certain plants, habitat value of certain plants...Can we merge research and demonstration?  
Response: A lot of it will overlap – explained by interpretive signage.
- Flow of Lay-out “B” – allows for accessibility at top of terraces with accessible section of the terrace at the very bottom. Education programs would likely involve bus drop-off at the top.
- Demonstration areas as “curb appeal” so it will provide some landscape framework to the site.
- Jerry Han feels that the project has 3 missions. One would be the educational component; another would be the partnership aspect; and, third would be plant production. Which would be the most important?  
Response: Most important of the mission of the Proposition K project: education and research.

- Who does the research at the site? Growing the plants – is it efficient to grow so much here?

Response: Academic institutions and non-profits will partner – still in conversations on who exactly this would be. Research could also be conducted by high school students. Prop K cannot support the entire 3 million plants needed for upcoming projects – also looking at larger local network of nurseries in or closer to LA, which will reduce reliance on far away growers – as far as Arizona / San Diego. UCLA, Cal State Northridge, other scientists have shown interest in being part of the future of the site. Potential benefits:

- Horticultural knowledge – is diminishing over time from the maintenance side – great learning experience for high school kids, recreation and parks employees...
  - Demonstration + knowledge gleaned from the actual process of propagation.
  - Tangible connection – plants started as seedlings that eventually gets planted in our local parks.
  - Focus on the plants that we need.
  - Production as a by-product of the research.
- Where can visitors actually go? Will you program an educational tour?  
Response: We will further evaluate.

Kevin Regan, RAP manager, shared his personal experience and spoke about the science and education connection. Jill Sourial from the Nature Conservancy discussed the viability and importance of the project to the city of Los Angeles. Tom Gibson indicated that EIR process is scheduled to begin soon and will cover the entire site.

The LVNOC and the community members expressed support for the project. The next step in the process will be the development of the schematic design.

## 6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled by Bureau of Engineering (BOE) staff. BOE, RAP and CD 4 will send and post notices of the meeting. LVNOC members will be notified ahead of time so that they can inform the community.

*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 by February 29, 2016 to the preparer.*

Prepared By: Meghan Aldrich, Project Manager  
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Distribution: All attendees plus LVNOC members, Cathie Santo Domingo, RAP; Joe Salaices, RAP; Neil Drucker, BOE