

**GGPNC PROS MARCH 16, 2010 COMMITTEE REPORT  
POSITION STATEMENT for a letter to the Zoo and Recreation and Parks  
Departments, and the DOT; the City Council and Mayor  
Submitted to the GGPNC Board March 16, 2010  
By Bernadette Soter, Chair Parks, River and Open Space Committee**

The GGPNC recognizes that the City is experiencing a fiscal crisis and is exploring new sources for revenue. We have learned that a proposal to initiate fees for parking in the Zoo Parking Lot in Griffith Park is being studied by the DOT and will be released soon.

We believe this would be a potentially illegal and certainly regressive move. It would violate one of the two key conditions made by Colonel Griffith in bequeathing the Park to Los Angeles, i.e., that access to Griffith Park be free, and it would establish a precedent that could lead to the introduction of parking fees in other Griffith Park lots,\* and in many if not most of the 400-plus parks, museums and other properties administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation. It would be a hardship for lower income families, seniors and singles, and would decrease recreational opportunities for these groups.

In the immediate case of the Zoo, we believe a cost-benefit will show: 1) That the institution of a parking fee—which we understand is being discussed variously at 50¢ up to \$5 -- will depress Zoo attendance, and 2) The mechanical and administrative costs associated with collecting parking fees will offset any revenue gain.\*\*

It should also be understood that since its inception, the Zoo lot in Griffith Park has not been restricted to Zoo visitors and is used daily by Griffith Park recreationists such as runners, hikers and road cyclists to access the Park's trails and bikeways.

Initiating paid parking anywhere in Griffith Park should not be undertaken without consulting the terms of Colonel Griffith's gift, discussing the proposal with Griffith Park users, and preparing an Environment Impact Report. We ask the City to do this in concert with the Griffith Park community.

\*In addition to the Zoo, parking lots within the boundaries of Griffith Park are located at Griffith Observatory, Western Canyon, Vermont Canyon, Griffith Park Recreation Center, Friendship Auditorium, Travel Town Museum, Autry National Center, Griffith Park Equestrian Center, Wilson-Harding Golf Course, Roosevelt Golf Course, Los Feliz Golf Course, Pony Rides & Griffith Park Railroad, Live Steamers and Bronson Canyon.

\*\*The projected \$750,00 to \$1 million annual projected gross take would net the Zoo approximately \$500,000. The desired net could be obtained without conflicting with the terms of the Colonel Griffith's gift and without mechanical or administrative costs by raising the price for Zoo admission by fifty cents.