

Meeting of the Planning, Zoning & Historical Preservation (PZHP) Committee

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

GGPNC - PZHP Committee members present: Ken Owen (Chairman), Frank Masi (acting Secretary), Bruce Carroll, Richard Stanley, Tom Wilson, Rosemary DeMonte, Joe Cisneros.

GGPNC Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Committee members present: Bernadette Soter, Chuck Soter, Kris Sabo, Jeff Gardner, Kathryn Louyse.

GGPNC board members present other than those on the PZHP or PROS Committees: Kurt Rademekus.

Attending Public present: Donna Kolb, Marian Dodge, Marilyn Bush, Margie Bird, Dennis Chew, George Abrahamian representing the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA); Dora Herrera representing the Los Feliz Village Business Improvement Association (also a PROS committee member); Faith Raiguel (Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), Pam Hannah, and Bill Dalvac (ANC Legal Council) representing the Autry National Center; Nicole Possert and Daniel Wright representing the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition (the Coalition); and Jeff Gardner representing the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council (AVNC); Rex Link.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Chairman Ken Owen. The approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was continued to the next meeting.
2. Public comment on non-agenda items and public announcements:
 - a. No public comment on non-agenda items.
 - i. Ken Owen announced that the following appeal **will** be heard by The Central Area Planning Commission on November 13, 2007, the day before the next PZHP Committee meeting.
 1. The LFIA and Vermont Canyon Neighbor Association appealed the Zoning Administrator's granting of a liquor license to be used by Wolfgang Puck at the Griffith Observatory.
 2. The appeal by 1700 Hillhurst Avenue (Desert Rose) of conditions imposed by the Planning Department to in its Determination allowing a specific plan under the SNAP the **may** be heard by The Central Area Planning Commission on the same day.

3. Consideration and discussion of possible comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) relating to the proposed expansion of the Griffith Park Campus (GPC) by the Autry National Center (ANC) that the PZHP Committee could make to the GGPNC Board. The Department of Recreation and Parks will accept comments to the DEIR no later than October 18, 2007.
 - a. Parking: The question was asked, "Why does the GPC need to consider building a parking structure (in Phase 2) when the terms of their lease agreement with RAP allow them to utilize the Zoo Parking Lot when necessary and available?
 - i. Faith Raiquel (ANC) thought it was a good question, provided no answer to the question, and suggested that GGPNC pose the question to RAP. Bernadette Soter stated the PROS Committee does not support GPC parking at the Zoo Parking Lot. The majority of those present supported the use of the Zoo Parking Lot based on financial and spatial economies.
 - ii. Bernadette Soter recommended that the ANC, at the GPC, follow the surface parking lot environmental guidelines developed by the Zoo for their surface parking lots in Griffith Park. Those guidelines include permeable parking surfaces that allow water to percolate into the soil below and bioswale elements that collect runoff water.
 - iii. Bernadette Soter mentioned that runners and equestrians are concerned that the running trail and the equestrian trail will not be maintained as part of the proposed GPC improvements. Faith Raiquel stated that the ANC intends to maintain viable trails in their same location, and suggested that this should not be a concern.
 - iv. The question was asked, "Does the ANC welcome casual, non-museum guests on the south lawn, or is there a policy of excluding non-museum guests from using the south lawn for picnicking, games, etc. Faith Raiquel stated that the ANC welcomes casual park users to the south lawn.
 - v. A discussion of the lack of an overall Griffith Park parking strategy based on a desirable maximum daily capacity and reliable estimates of existing parking took place.

- ii. Ken Owen requested a copy of the master plan. Bill Dalvac described the master plan as a private, internal ANC Document looking out to 2016 that includes every element of the ANC, not just GPC and southwest Museum planning information. He said it could not be made available to the public, and that it meets their obligation under the merger agreement with the Southwest Museum to have a master plan.
- iii. Bernadette Soter reported that the PROS Committee is opposed to all Phase 2 construction, because the proposed Institute for the Study of the American West (the Institute) building and the parking structure below it constitute a non-park use that does not belong on park land.
- iv. When asked if the Institute will be open to the public, Faith Raiquel (ANC) replied, "Yes": by appointment (to do research), and there will be "some" public areas.
- v. When asked why the Institute program cannot be situated in the Southwest Museum, thereby alleviating what some committee members believe is a burden on the park, Faith Raiquel replied, that there is not enough room to house all of the research activities at the Southwest Museum and there is a desire to keep the southwest Museum "more public".
- vi. When asked if there are plans for any for-profit activities in the ANC plans for the southwest Museum, Faith Raiquel replied, that there was only the possibility of a café within the existing building.
- vii. Nicole Possert, representing the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition (the Coalition), presented the following Coalition statements:
 - 1. The rehabilitation of the Southwest Museum should be the primary aim of the ANC.
 - 2. The emphasis of the ANC has shifted since the merger. The GPC is now the primary museum location and the Southwest Museum is the satellite location.
 - 3. The Coalition wants nothing less than a commitment from the ANC to make the Southwest Museum "whole".
 - 4. The coalition wants to see in the ANC plans, a base 20,000 square feet of exhibition (not storage) space, at the Southwest Museum.

- viii. Daniel Wright, also representing the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition (the Coalition), spoke to the Museum Rehabilitation Study created for the ANC by Brenda Levin and Associates.
 - 1. That study suggests that the Southwest Museum can achieve museum standards and with some additional investment provide greatly enhanced service to the community, attract more visitors, and earn more income.
 - 2. Daniel Wright suggested that some consultants believe the Southwest Museum could be as financially viable as the Autry Museum has been, if not more so.
 - ix. **It was moved that PZHP Committee recommend to the Board that the GGPNC recommend that the final EIR give substantially more study to alternatives, most specifically the restoration of the Southwest Museum as presently existing, the addition of one or more structures at that site to complement the exhibition of most of the Southwest Museum's historical collections. The seven committee members voted unanimously in support of the motion.**
 - x. **It was moved that the PZHP Committee recommend to the Board that the GGPNC recommend that the final EIR consider the use of "green" technologies, so that the built aspect of the GPC facility will integrate into the rest of the park. Additionally, the final EIR should consider the effect of the expansion on the flora and fauna of the park. The seven committee members voted unanimously in support of the motion.**
4. Discussion of:
- a. Dora Herrera presented a letter from the Los Feliz Village Business Improvement Association addressed to the PZHP Committee. The letter reported the results of Los Feliz Village Business Improvement Association meeting that took place September 12, 2007.
 - i. The Los Feliz Village Business Improvement Association seeks GGPNC support for a 7-foot clear building to curb space to allow outdoor dining.
Committee members present were unanimously in support of this concept.
 - ii. Alcohol and Hours of operation should be dealt with on a by-case basis using existing business license and variance procedures as a format.
 - iii. The Los Feliz Village Business Improvement Association recognizes that their members have a responsibility to be

good neighbors to the surrounding residents and will continue to work with the GGPNC and other community groups to that end.

5. Reports, discussion and action as appropriate on pending matters:
6. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:45 pm.

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