

**PROS Committee Report: PROS Meeting 12/1/08
Presented at GGPNC Board Meeting, December 16, 2008**

A. Griffith Park Historic Landmark Application CHC Hearing

The Committee raised a sparkling cider toast to the results of the October 30th City of Los Angeles' Cultural Heritage Commission hearing at which the commissioners voted 3 to 1 to recommend to the Planning and Land Use Committee of City Council (PLUM) that it designate Griffith Park in its entirety as an L.A. Historic Cultural Monument. The PLUM hearing on this issue, will probably take place in mid-January 2009. If passed there, the nomination will move quickly to the full L.A. City Council for a vote. More than half of the PROS Committee and several members of the Board of the GGPNC attended the hearing to speak on behalf the nomination. The Committee discussed the importance of continuing to raise public consciousness and support for the Griffith Family's initiative.

B. Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills Master Plan EIR Scoping Mtg Report

On Wednesday evening, November 19th, four members of the PROS Committee attended a City Planning Department EIR Scoping Meeting at the Junior Achievement of Southern California Building, 6250 Forest Lawn Drive. The meeting was the first step in Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills' 40-year Master Plan process intended to develop the balance of its undeveloped site abutting Griffith Park. Approximately half of this parcel is currently naturally forested. New structures and 200,000 new interment sites are proposed. Public comments on the EIR Scoping are due to the City on December 22, 2008. The PROS Committee held a preliminary discussion of the proposal's potential environmental impacts on the Park. Recreational viewsheds, natural watersheds, species, wildlife corridors, sound and light pollution and the potential to mitigate them through enlightened planning were mentioned. An ad hoc committee was selected to meet as soon as can be arranged to codify the GGPNC's comments for submission to the City before the deadline.

C. L.A. Zoo Elephants Issue

The Committee discussed the Billy elephant controversy-- sanctuary vs. exhibit-- currently at City Council and resolved to monitor it from the perspective of its potential impact on areas of Griffith Park not under the control of the Zoo.

D. Old Business

The proposal to install a SAG Plaque honoring the tragic Griffith Park Fire of 1933 and the 50th Anniversary of SAG was resolved by the Recreation and Parks Commission to the satisfaction of all parties. The Greek Theatre is continuing its outreach to the community regarding its concerns about maintaining recreational access in Vermont Canyon on concert nights.

D. LADWP Festival of Lights in Griffith Park

Thanks to the work of the PROS Committee and other community groups, this year's LADWP Light Festival will be a pedestrian only, "vehicle free" event from November 25 through December 7 (autos will return December 8-30). The Committee resolved again to advocate for a completely engine-free festival in 2009. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. so its members could take a walk through the light displays and enjoy the fruits of their environmental advocacy.

Submitted by Bernadette Soter
Chair, PROS Committee