



**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. 3**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Date: November 15, 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 (BOE)	(213) 847-4711	<a href="mailto:Rebecca.abano@lacity.org">Rebecca.abano@lacity.org</a>
Meghan Aldrich	Bureau of Engineering – Project Manager	(213) 847-4713	<a href="mailto:Meghan.aldrich@lacity.org">Meghan.aldrich@lacity.org</a>
Joe Salices	Recreation and Parks (RAP)	(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>
Catherine Landers	CD 4	(323) 957-6415	<a href="mailto:Catherine.landiers@lacity.org">Catherine.landiers@lacity.org</a>
Michelle Sullivan	Mia Lehrer and Associates (MLA)	(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>
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Melissa Chalsma	LVNOC Chair	(818)389-6352	<a href="mailto:chalsma@iscla.org">chalsma@iscla.org</a>
Mica Campbell	LVNOC Member		<a href="mailto:mica@fourwallsla.com">mica@fourwallsla.com</a>
Michael Fleming	LVNOC Member		<a href="mailto:Michael@bohnett.com">Michael@bohnett.com</a>
Chris Laib	LVNOC Member	323-854-1820	<a href="mailto:chris@chrislaib.com">chris@chrislaib.com</a>
Judith Kieffer	Los Angeles Parks Foundation	(310) 472-1990	<a href="mailto:Judith@laparksfoundation.org">Judith@laparksfoundation.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>
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S. Folinsly/ Gloria Sheppard	Public	323-665-0580	<a href="mailto:Gloria.sheppard@ymail.com">Gloria.sheppard@ymail.com</a>

**Minutes:**

**1. Introduction**

Rebecca Abano introduced City staff. LVNOC members introduced themselves. Four members were present. 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 & 2 Minutes**

Meghan Aldrich recapped the scope of work of the project and gave a brief overview of the meeting minutes from the first and second LVNOC meetings.

- Melissa Chalsma motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the first and second LVNOC meeting.
- Chris Laib seconded the motion
- All LVNOC members approved without changes.

3. **Project Updates**

Michelle Sullivan, Landscape Architect from MLA, presented the history of the site and discussed the design vision for the project. She explained the analysis that was done of the existing retaining and garden walls throughout the site. She also presented the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility at the top of the site with mid-level access and the EPIC which is the innovative irrigation and storm water capture system. She continued with discussing the features of the design including the 3-D modeling and the interpretive graphics. The Interpretive graphics story throughout the site will include five sections:

- People, city and plants
- Today's challenges regarding climate change
- Research
- Plant basics
- Initiatives for healthy urban systems

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

Various comments, questions and suggestions were brought forward by the LVNOC members and the Community. These comments are as follows:

- Did the budget increase up to \$1.8M?  
Answer: No. The construction budget is \$1.15M. The error in the Prop K Progress Report will be corrected in the next quarterly progress report.
- Are shade areas open or enclosed?  
Answer: The site is open air with tree shading.
- What is the capacity for student groups?  
Answer: The capacity is about 30+ students per gathering area (typical class size).
- What is the Fire capacity and LAUSD program capacity?  
Answer: According to RAP, LAUSD student groups are not planned at this time – only RAP camp children.
- How many busses and classes will use the site?  
Answer: It is expected to be about 3-4 classes, or about 100 students.
- Is there restoration work involved in the project?  
Answer: Yes. Existing walls will be used as much as possible and some new but similar walls will also be added to fill-in as well as to be used for ramps to provide ADA accessibility.
- Are there planned utility upgrades?  
Answer: Yes, the electrical panel/service on site is antiquated and will be upgraded. Also, the existing above-ground power lines will be placed underground.

- Will drainage water be captured?  
Answer: Yes, a system called EPIC will be utilized to capture and re-use water for irrigation.
- The neighborhood is sensitive to traffic since the Greek Theatre brings in busses and disturbance. Is the planned vehicular access to be up Commonwealth?  
Answer: Vehicular Access is part of the larger site CEQA study, but is proposed to be through Vermont Ave. MLA staff indicated the project is not a heavy/intense construction project.
- What about trash pickup, bicyclists, and safety interaction? Will access definitely be up Vermont or Hillhurst?  
Answer: This is part of the CEQA study of the larger site.
- Could a bus actually make the turn from Los Feliz onto Commonwealth?  
Answer: Yes, there are currently larger vehicles that make this turn.
- Will there be night use? Would lights be added over time? Also, the project does not provide lighting the site and is planned to be for day-use.
- What about a playground? It will be good to add a playground.  
Answer: A playground is not part of the Prop K scope of work but RAP and CD #4 may look into it in the future.
- Are there plans to restore one or two of the greenhouses?  
Answer: This is not part of the current Prop K project and would have to be further evaluated by the Department of Recreation and Parks.
- To clarify; is the scope only the terraces and utilities? Other pressures in the area bring up the safety and traffic questions.  
Answer: Yes, the scope is limited to the terraces and utilities. There is no planned stubbing for future night lighting.
- Comment – The CEQA process will provide more in depth information that will be accessible to the public.
- Comment – The interpretive program is nice.
- What about the future \$25M Urban Environmental Center Building?  
Answer: According to RAP, there will be separate community meetings in the future for the Prop A funded projects.
- Comment – Things are changing constantly and the community wants to be made aware of the changes.
- Comment – Future CEQA including ingress/egress will be discussed separately.
- Will actual propagation of plants take place on site?  
Answer: Yes, there will be plant propagation occurring on site.
- The site use will begin with the summer camp program but how will the site be used during the school year? How does this work with no indoor classroom? Are there time parameters?  
Answer: Students would stay for 2-3 hours to visit, learn, see the interpretive elements, and maybe do a planting field trip. The hours would likely be similar to the Griffith Observatory hours for school groups. With summer camps, it is pretty minimal use that is expected.

- Comment – There is a real science aspect to the project, to be managed by Rec and Parks with partner researchers. This is a science site with community engagement, not a museum.
- Where is the restroom located?  
Answer: The restroom is in the existing building above the site.
- Comment – With an educational facility, the programming and bringing the kids in to visit is a full-time job.
- Comment - The initial focus is on the camps and there is potential to expand the program to school groups. The project partners can also bring students in. Hopefully there is also potential to work with partners like the Friend of Griffith Park group, who might have a horticulturalist lead a tour.

The LVNOC and the community members expressed support for the Proposition K project.

- Michael Fleming motioned to approve the design as presented without caveats
- Melissa Chalsma seconded the motion
- All LVNOC members approved without changes.

## 5. **Next Steps**

This meeting was the last LVNOC meeting for the project and BOE anticipates Bid and Award Process in Spring 2017 with Construction Phase starting in Fall 2017.

*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 December 12, 2016 to the preparer.*

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Distribution: All attendees plus LVNOC members, Cathie Santo Domingo, RAP and Neil Drucker, BOE