HHWNC

POS Committee / Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2016 / 6:00 PM

Will and Ariel Durant Branch Library

7140 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90046

Before meeting started, POS Committee chair asked for volunteer minute taker to help with recording the motions, assist with voting, etc., and one stakeholder kindly complied (thank you!)

1) Call to Order, Committee Chair, Jeff Masino 6:05 PM

1. Jeff read house rules: Keep comments germane to issues being discussed. Avoid personal names, address either Chair not each other, comments limited to 2 minutes each. Reminder that any votes in meeting are just recommendations that would go to board for a vote at monthly meeting, July 20th 2016.
2. Jeff asked for people to sign up for committee – stakeholder status – Introduced Catherine Landers – Catherine is a Senior Field Deputy for Councilmember David Ryu representing Council District 4. Jeff and Catherine have discussed # 2 and #3 together already – but decided to table # 2 for later. Catherine plans to obtain a map and help us define “open space”.

2) Definition and boundaries for open space in our area

Tabled for a later date – see above

3) Runyon Canyon LADWP project update & park re-opening traffic mitigation plans  (Catherine Landers)

1. Re-paved the fire-road – not sure when Park will reopen – solicited advice about traffic issues when Park opens. Repaired Eastern Steps erosion control. Put in Water Fountains Sleeve – Eastern trail repairs. It is not clear who paid for the repairs. Traffic officers – dedicated LAPD for Park.
2. No indication about why the additional security is necessary or who requested it or how it is being paid for…
3. Runyon Canyon status of additional improvements during park closure (TBD)

To be Combined with #6 below

5) Recommendation of following of stakeholder proposal:  "The HHWNC hereby resolves that it recommends that the Department of Recreation and Parks terminate the Memorandum of Understanding which it entered into with Friends of Runyon Canyon, dated April 15, 2015."  / Possible motion, discussion, and vote.  Presented by stakeholder, Robert Mansell.

* 1. Robert spoke of saying that FORC has lost trust of the community. Fiasco of the basketball court – FORC breached the MOU by not informing the community. FORC wants to take credit for the funding that was actually initially donated to the City. The developer who bought the Frank Lloyd Wright House gave money to FORC. Applied for permit to develop 10,000 sq. foot home. Many people stated that they live near the park and were never notified by FORC as FORC claimed, creating a general feeling of a lack of transparency lack of communication. FORC money raising efforts were misleading. FORC does not representative of the community and acts like it does.
  2. There were several stakeholders who publicly commented, including the following: Letter read and submitted from Outpost Homeowners Assoc. written by HHWNC board member Michael Meyers; stakeholder presented a blow-up of letters from the yoga park-users (he also gave copies of the original to the POS committee chair); stakeholder spoke about the original Friends of Runyon Cyn and showed the original booklet, several stakeholders stated that they live near the park and were never notified by FORC as FORC claimed; several stakeholders spoke about FORC’S lack of transparency and lack of communication; two stakeholders spoke in favor of keeping the FORC MOU intact citing that events hardly seems reason to discredit a civic nonprofit, run by volunteers, who have done a lot from a time when no one else was doing anything for the park.
  3. The POS committee chair calls for a vote: 47 people vote in favor of the recommendation to terminate the MOU between FORC and Rec and Parks by the HHWNC Board, 2 people vote against any recommendation for HHWNC to terminate the MOU. The motion to terminate carries.

6) Recommendation of following of stakeholder proposal:  **“**Request for the postponement of any immediate action of terminating the MOU between the Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation (FORC) and the Department of Recreation and Parks, by FORC president, Don Andres, due to discussions between FORC and Citizens to Preserve Runyon with the purpose to develop a mutual way forward.”Presented by stakeholder Josh Myler. Possible motion, discussion, and vote.

1. Josh stressed not trying to change the mind of the committee, but asks if anyone has ever asked for forgiveness for a mistake. Josh going to Runyon 15 years – No one taking care of park except for FORC during this time. Trash cans, bike racks, poop bag dispensers – all part of past FORC successes. FORC raised $500K to save open space in park corridor. FORC is sorry for any mistakes made with basketball court. FORC could have done better job of project outreach and acknowledge that issues are now about loss of faith and transparency and asked to recommend that HHWNC postpone any vote of termination.
2. Several stakeholders filled out cards against Agenda item and/or also spoke after Item No. 6 presentation citing lack of transparency and needing to be held accountable; the issue was stressed repeatedly that postponing action, instead of moving forward, was not a viable or desirable option given the sequence of events.
3. The POS committee chair calls for a vote: 1 person votes in favor of postponement of any immediate action of terminating the MOU between the FORC and Rec and Parks, 49 people vote against the recommendation of any postponement. The motion to postpone any FORC MOU termination fails.
4. Environment Committee & Parks and Open Space joint project: A collaborative effort with Tree People to educate on plant sustainability.  Location: Runyon Canyon Park.   Date: TBD (Patty Dryden)

Tabled for next meeting.

1. Community Enrichment Committee and Parks and Open Space joint project.  Date: TBD (Emily Weithman)
   1. Emily spoke about photo contest idea as one rough idea in the works, depending on how people were feeling once Runyon opened, to bring community of HHWNC together. Social media use through hashtags (publicity - #trash #dogpoop #traffic parking #documenting ). Emily made request for community input through the HHWNC website page for Community Enrichment Committee.
   2. There were a few stakeholders who spoke about need for a more developed plan to present at a later date; reluctance around publicizing and promoting the due to increased numbers of visitors.
   3. Stakeholder raised ideas for looking for specific slogans – pick up trash, preserve as wilderness area, park conservation. Emily suggested that specific campaigns / social media endeavor– using hashtags - might be more effective than contest idea.
2. Public Comments: There were several stakeholder public comments: including the following:
3. Use volunteer greeters to meet visitors at Runyon gates and remind them about park conversation and safety (based on similar efforts in other areas/communities);
4. volunteer undercover park watchers to politely point out to visitors when they do not pick up after their dogs;
5. a tree planting concern is that there will not be water available to care for trees, which has boondoggled these efforts in Runyon in the past;
6. big picture idea that park needs long-range stewardship and conservation either through signage or social media efforts;
7. signs needed for Runyon entrances with slogans for safety, conservation, and park cleanliness;
8. concerned raised that any signage at Runyon, slogans, or polite reminders do not shame Runyon Cyn visitors and make them feel unwanted;
9. suggestion to update the original, printed Friends of Runyon Canyon brochure from the 1980s to be used as printed means of achieving Park and POS Committee objectives.
10. Adjournment 8:00 PM