

# APPROVED

AUG 5 2021

## BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

**BOARD REPORT**

NO. 21-138

DATE August 05, 2021

C.D. 4

### BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – DONATION OF EQUESTRIAN MOUNTING BLOCKS IN HONOR OF LYNN BROWN – RECOGNITION SIGNAGE – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 11(5) [INSTALLATION OF SIGNS LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY MANAGED BY A CITY DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAS A SIGN POLICY ADOPTED BY ITS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS] AND CLASS 11(6) [PLACEMENT OF MINOR STRUCTURES ACCESSORY TO EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND TO ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz	_____	M. Rudnick	_____
H. Fujita	_____	<i>for</i> *C. Santo Domingo	<u>DF</u>
J. Kim	_____	N. Williams	_____

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved   X  

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept the donation of two equestrian mounting blocks and approve the installations as described in the Summary of this Report (Project);
2. Approve of the recognition signage to be placed on the mounting blocks as described in the Summary of this Report and as set forth in Attachment 2;
3. Determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) [Installation of signs located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners] and Class 11(6) [Placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and to Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk; and,
4. Authorize Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

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### SUMMARY

Griffith Park is located at 4730 Crystal Springs Drive in the Hollywood community of the City. This 4,281.73-acre park provides a wide variety of recreational programs and activities, such as train rides, a merry-go-round, hiking trails, and golf courses, for the local community. Approximately 18,155 City residents live within a one-half (½) mile walking distance of Griffith Park.

In March 2021, the Griffith Park Advisory Board proposed the installation of concrete mounting blocks in Griffith Park to honor Lynn Brown. Mounting blocks serve the purpose of helping riders get on and off their horses before and after riding, which is a fitting tribute for an equestrian as passionate as Lynn Brown.

Lynn Brown was an active part of the Griffith Park community for decades. In 2005, she became a member of the Griffith Park Working Group and established A Vision for Griffith Park, Urban Wilderness Identity, which emphasized the value in the unstructured aesthetic. She was one of the first members of the Griffith Park Advisory Board. She rode her horses frequently in the park and was a vocal advocate for the interests of the equine community, from trail riders to jumpers and backyard ponies. She founded the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee in 2009 alongside Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Wendy Greuel, as well as Mayor Villaraigosa, representing equestrians from all Council Districts. Through the Equine Advisory Committee, she protected the equine community by championing developments that supported equine uses, kept trails in working order, and advocated for horses with city and state agencies. She served on the committee until her passing on January 1, 2021.

Each mounting block will be affixed with identical memorial plaques dedicated to Brown and placed in the Martinez Arena and Bette Davis Park areas of Griffith Park (Attachment 1). The 8" by 10" bronze plaques to be casted on one side of the concrete mounting blocks with the following language:

“Dedicated in memory of Lynn Brown and her commitment to the equestrian community.”

The City of Los Angeles and RAP logos will also appear on the plaques. A rendering of the mounting block and plaque language attached as Attachment 2. The purchase costs of the mounting blocks and plaques will be funded by private donations collected by the Griffith Park Advisory Board. RAP maintenance will fund and perform the installation.

The Project was taken to RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Task Force (Task Force) on April 1, 2021, where the Task Force voiced its support for this proposed Project. At that time, the Project proposed three installation locations. Since the Task Force presentation, the Pollywog location has been removed from the proposal, with one mounting block each proposed at Martinez Arena and Bette Davis Park.

A Letter of Support has been received from the Griffith Park Advisory Board (Attachment 3).

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### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of installation of signs located on City property managed by a City department, which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners and placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities. As such, RAP staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) determine that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11(5) and Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP staff will file an NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed Project will have no impact on RAP's General Fund. The Project will be fully funded by private donations that were collected by the Griffith Park Advisory Board. An outside vendor will manufacture the mounting blocks. RAP maintenance will be responsible for the cost of installation.

### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

**Goal No. 1:** Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

**Outcome No. 2:** All parks are safe and welcoming

**Result:** The acceptance of the donated mounting blocks will serve the equestrian community and enhance the park user's experience.

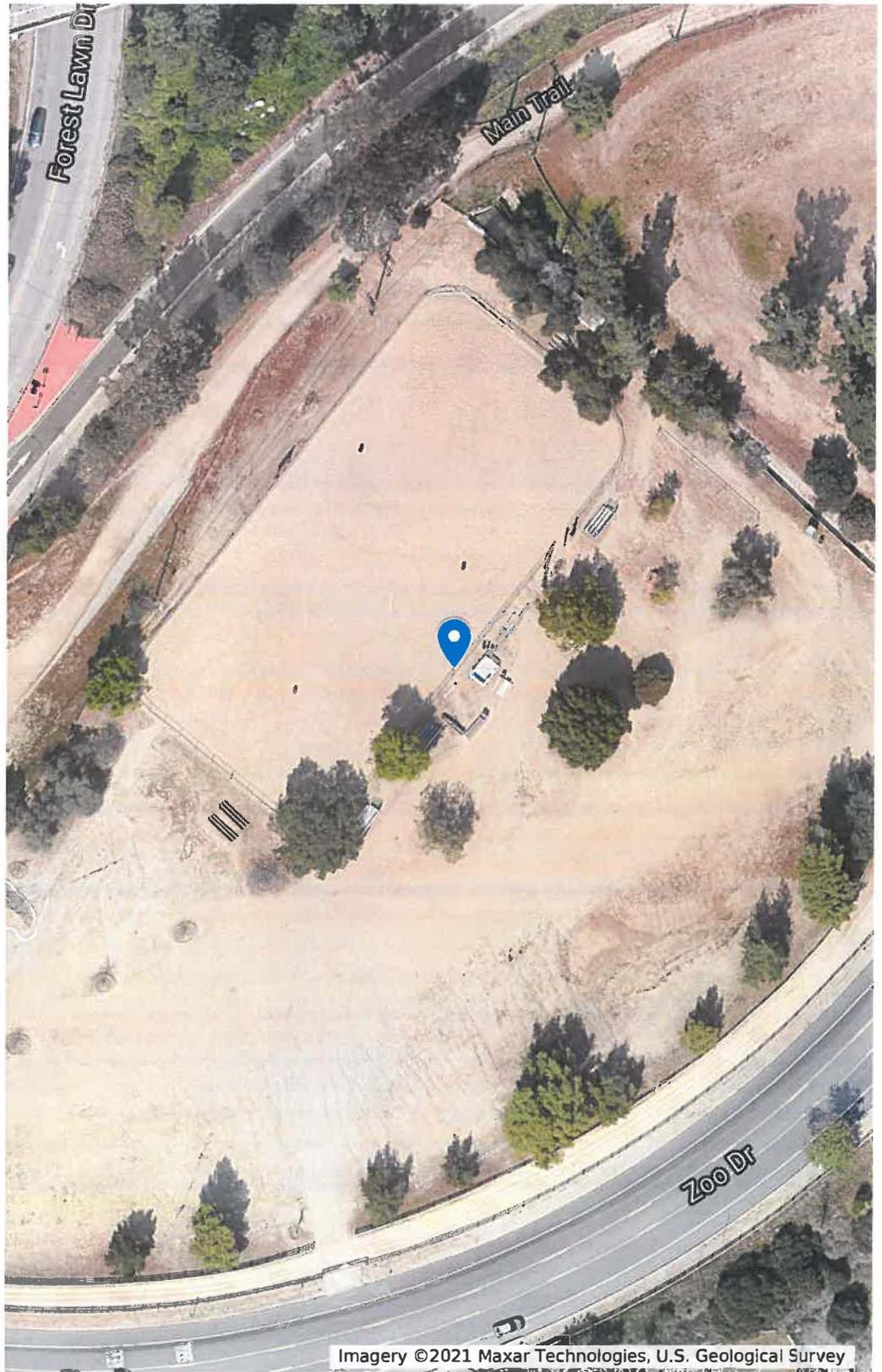
This Report was prepared by Ligaya Khennavong, Management Assistant, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Proposed Locations of Mounting Blocks
- 2) Plaque Renderings
- 3) Letter of Support

# Mounting Block - Martinez Arena

 Mounting Block



# Mounting Block - Bette Davis Park

 Mounting block



Imagery ©2021 Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey



Dedicated in memory of  
Lynn Brown and her  
commitment to the  
equestrian community.



10"x8" bronze plaque  
Plaque provided and installed by  
Outdoor Creations Inc.

Bronze plaque to have letters/artwork  
raised, brushed bronze. Background  
to be dark brown, leatherette texture

**PLEASE NOTE:**

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to carefully read over your artwork, this includes, but is not limited to, the spelling of names, dates, places, logos, etc. Outdoor Creations Inc. is not liable for replacement of product, if artwork has been approved. Replacement of product that was approved with incorrect spellings, dates, logos, etc will be the responsibility of the customer. Thank you for your understanding.

**I have read the above statement and approve the artwork:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## Griffith Park Advisory Board

*Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness*

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

[www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory](http://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory)

March 23, 2021

LA Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

The Griffith Park Advisory Board enthusiastically supports the proposal brought forward by our colleague Karen Thornton to commemorate the many achievements of longtime Griffith Park advocate Lynn Brown.

Lynn was active in Griffith Park for decades, founding the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee at the behest of Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Wendy Greuel, as well as Mayor Villaraigosa. She was a tireless advocate for the interests of the park's thriving equestrian community, and loved spending time in the park, riding her many horses there for decades. Not least for this board, she was one of the initial members of GPAB.

The proposed memorial is a fitting tribute, as it places "mounting blocks" at park trailheads used by many equestrians. For those who are unfamiliar, mounting blocks are large concrete steps that help people get on and off their horses before and after riding. Our board supports placing as many as three blocks in the park, one each at Martinez Arena, Pollywog Park and Easter Field, thus serving the most riders since there are already two blocks on the east bank at the North Atwater Crossing.

Significantly, this memorial will be undertaken using strictly private funds. Already, more than half of the cost has been raised in a short amount of time. The blocks will be made by an approved vendor that supplies concrete picnic tables and benches used throughout the park. At each mounting block location, a small 8x10" plaque would commemorate Lynn Brown and her love of the park – a fitting way for equestrians to remember one of their greatest champions each time they mount a horse.

Again, we enthusiastically support this proposal, and refer specific questions to Karen Thornton, GPAB's ad hoc equestrian chair, who has graciously brought it forward.

Sincerely,

Jason Greenwald

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: Mike Shull, AP Diaz, Darryl Ford, Stefanie Smith, Sarah Tanberg

*BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Jason Greenwald; Vice Chair – Michelle Crames; Secretary – Bryan Mercke; Past Chair – Ron Deutsch; Gene Gilbert; Mike Hain; Chris Laib; Alex Phillips; Karen Thornton*