

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-272

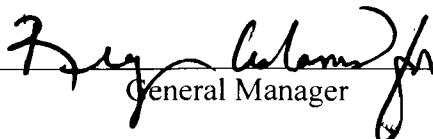
DATE October 3, 2008

CD 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – MINERAL WELLS – INSTALLATION OF A
COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AND TREE DEDICATION IN HONOR OF THE
SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SCREEN ACTOR’S GUILD

R. Adams	_____	J. Kolb	_____
H. Fujita	_____	F. Mok	_____
S. Huntley		K. Regan	_____
*V. Israel	_____	M. Shull	_____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of a commemorative plaque in the Mineral Wells area of Griffith Park;
2. Approve the wording of a commemorative plaque recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and their efforts during the 1933 fire in Griffith Park;
3. Approve the planting of one (1) 24-inch box Oak Tree in Mineral Wells, Griffith Park; and
4. Direct staff to install the foundation and plaque as indicated.

SUMMARY:

The Mineral Wells area of Griffith Park is located at 3401 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, California 90027. On October 3, 1933, Griffith Park, the largest park in the City of Los Angeles, was devastated by a catastrophic wildfire in Dam Canyon and Mineral Wells Canyon. This was the deadliest fire Los Angeles had experienced to date. Warner Brothers-First National Studios assisted in fire recovery efforts by loaning klieg lighting to assist in the search for individuals lost as a result of the fire. This action also marked an important moment in the history of SAG, which held its first meeting that same evening to restructure its board to allow for a stronger union.

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SAG has proposed the installation of a commemorative plaque and the planting of an oak tree to recognize the upcoming 75th anniversary of the SAG and its contributions to the 1933 fire recovery efforts in Griffith Park. The plaque would be approximately 16” x 18” in size, made of bronze and would be placed on a foundation in the Mineral Wells area of Griffith Park.

“In October 1933, the deadliest fire in Los Angeles history struck Griffith Park. The community banded together to fight the fire and the blaze was under control before nightfall.

That evening, rank and file members of the newly-formed Screen Actors Guild Board submitted their resignations in order to allow stars to take their places thus giving their union more "clout." This was a key moment in establishing the Screen Actors Guild as a powerful, unified voice for actors.

In the years to follow, fire fighters would extinguish many more fires in Griffith Park and actors would make additional sacrifices on behalf of the Screen Actors Guild and their fellow actors.

In commemoration of its 75th Anniversary, the Screen Actors Guild is honored to dedicate this tree to its members - past, present and future — and in tribute to those who fight selflessly for the good of others.”

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 11 (6), of the City CEQA Guidelines.

The Councilmember of the Fourth District, and Griffith Region management and staff supports this project in Griffith Park.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This action will have a negligible impact on the Department’s General Fund, as the cost of the plaque and the tree planting will be funded by the contributions from SAG. Minimal maintenance will be required for the plaque and tree planting area.

This report was prepared by Michael Harrison, Principal Recreation Supervisor, Griffith Region.