13-0461
CD4

ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH & AGING

MOTION

APR 17 2013

Nestled at the lower portion of Western Canyon in Griffith Park, lies a hidden jewel known as Fern Dell. For decades this location served as a haven for hikers and picnickers who recreated along its gentle creek and enjoyed the views of its lush ferns and cooling canopy. In 1973, Fern Dell was declared Historic Monument #112 by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission as it had been the site of Native American Indian villages prior to Colonel Griffith J. Griffith's gifting to the City of Los Angeles.

The Department of Recreation & Parks, prior to recent budget reductions, had assigned staff to perform various maintenance services at the Fern Dell area. Without constant attention this area fell into disrepair and required much needed improvements.

The office of Council District Four reached out to the leaders of the Tongva-Gabrielino Tribe from which the historic status of Fern Dell stems. Approaching the Tribe would better assist the City in identifying a suitable location where Fern Dell's historic and cultural significance could be recognized by the public, and restoring its natural setting within Griffith Park.

In addition, the Pacific American Volunteer Association (PAVA) stepped up to work diligently to restore and enhance the beauty of Fern Dell that Angelenos once knew. Council District Four worked with the PAVA volunteers on a weekly basis to address basic maintenance that was badly needed on its grounds and within the creek: removal of debris/dead tree, trash, and graffiti as well as watering of plants.

The immediate repairs which need to occur are the bridge structure and concrete railings along the trail. In addition, the picnic bench area is in need of replacement. Under the direction of the Department of Recreation & Parks, this gem would benefit greatly from Council District Four's portion of AB1290 funds, allowing Angelenos to once again experience an enhanced Fern Dell.

I THEREFORE MOVE that $55,000 in the AB1290 Fund No. 53P, Account No. 281204 (CD 4 Redevelopment Projects - Services) be transferred / appropriated to the Recreation & Parks Fund No. 302-88, Account No. 3040 (Contractual Services) for the purpose of repairing the bridge and railings along the trail, and installing a 3-bench picnic zone in Fern Dell.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Recreation & Parks and the Office of Historic Resources of the Planning Department, in consultation with the Tongva-Gabrielino Tribe leadership, be requested to identify and create a site within the upper eastern section of Fern Dell that would recognize the history and culture of this region and educate the public of this area in Griffith Park.

I FURTHER MOVE that Department of Recreation & Parks be authorized to make any technical corrections or clarifications to the above fund transfer instructions in order to effectuate the intent of this motion.

PRESENTED BY _____
TOM LABONGE
Councilman, 4th District

APR 17 2013

SECONDED BY _____

ORIGINAL

ERR