



MINUTES
LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Monday, November 23, 2020
 6:30 pm
 Zoom Meeting

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
District 1 VACANT		
District 2 Jeffrey Rewald	X	
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lynn Brown	X	
District 5 David Ramey, DVM	X	
District 6 Mary Benson		X
District 7 Dale Gibson	X	
District 8 Kevin Atkins	X	
District 9 Vacant		
District 10 Todd La Vergne	X	
District 11 Larry Watts	X	
District 12 Stacia Crane		X
District 13 Gene Gilbert	X	
District 14 Vacant		
District 15 Vacant		
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez		X

Item No. 1 Call to Order. Member Gibson acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 6:35 p.m. The Chair then asked Member Rewald to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Thereafter the Chair welcomed the public in attendance and called a roll of the Members present.

Item No. 2 Welcome to Public Officials. No public officials were in attendance.

Item No. 3.. Public Comment. The Chair next asked if any members of the public requested an opportunity to address the LAEAC. There were no comments at that time but several persons asked to reserve time to comment on Item 5.

Item No. 4. Get Out the Vote Ride. The Chair recognized Member LaVergne who reported on his and Member Atkins participation in a Get Out the Vote Ride organized by the Compton Cowboys. The purpose of the ride was to spread the word and encourage people to vote in the recent election. Todd was particularly pleased that the event generated so much support from young people, even those not yet old enough to vote.

Item 5. Proposal for New Equestrian Turn-Out and Round Pen at Bette Davis Park or Easter Field. The Chair next recognized Michael Elric.. Mr. Elric gave a short explanation accompanied by a Power Point of his desire to have a narrow turn-out pen and a round pen built at either Bette Davis Park or at Easter Field. He said many local riders support this plan at that

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he believes this would provide a beneficial and needed equestrian amenity to the area. He explained that he is not requesting the LAEAC to approve a specific plan, but simply would like a letter from LAEAC to the Dept. of Recreation & Parks endorsing the concept of installing pens in the area.

Following Mr. Elric's presentation the Chair recognized several members of the public and the LAEAC Board for comments on the proposal. Karin Costa stated she would like to see a pen, but expressed concern that at this location it will be difficult to install and maintain pens due to the amount of concrete over which the proposed pens would be installed. Other members of the public thanked Mr. Elric for his innovative thinking, while expressing concern because the area is currently used by so many non-equestrians. This means there are many activities in the area that are likely to spook a horse. This was of special concern to one speaker because so many riders in the area ride only on week-ends and would have difficulty riding in the midst of such other activities. Others were concerned that people would simply leave horses unattended for long periods in the pens and others were concerned of potential negative impacts a new equestrian facility adjacent to homes arising from noise and dust. Yet other public speakers were concerned that the proposed pens might encourage those who advocate converting Martinez Arena into an aerial tramway station.

Member Brown expressed concerns that Easter Field is a multi-use facility and that adding these pens would require managing all these activities. She was concerned whether Rec. & Parks has the resources to maintain and provide the necessary management. Member Watts asked Mr. Elric where he expected the funds to install, maintain and manage the proposed facilities would come from and how he anticipated dealing with the City's potential liability exposure his proposed facility presented. Member Rewald expressed his appreciation for Mr. Elric's efforts and ideas for improving equestrian uses in the park, but also reiterated several of the above concerns. Member Ramey expressed concerns that based on comments about the physical condition of the proposed pens and Mr. Elric's the description of them, there is a potential for serious horse injuries that should be considered before proceeding.

THEREAFTER, upon a motion duly made and seconded it was resolved as follows:

RESOLVED, the LAEAC declines Mr. Elric's requested letter at this time given the many uncertainties that became apparent during Board and public comment, particularly related to the future of Martinez Arena. Accordingly, further action on this shall be deferred until a final decision has been made concerning Martinez Arena.

Item No. 6.. Funds for Trail Maintenance. Tabled.

Item No. 7. Equine Financial Disaster Assistance. The Chair next recognized Member Rewald who gave a brief report on organizations and resources available to equestrians who experience economic losses during disasters such as fires and earthquakes. He suggested providing a list of these organizations and resources to those persons who have signed-up for the LAEAC mailing list. Member Watts expressed concern that the LAEAC should not be seen as endorsing or recommending any of these alternatives.

THERAFTER, upon a motion duly made and seconded it was resolved as follows:

RESOLVED, the LAEAC shall make available to those who have signed-up for the LAEAC mailing list, a list organizations and resources available to equestrians who experience

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November 23, 2020 Minutes
Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

economic losses during disasters such as fires and earthquakes; provided the list makes clear that LAEAC does not endorse or recommend any organization or resource listed and disclaims any and all liability arising from any action taken using information provided on the list..

Item No. 8. West Valley Animal Shelter. The Chair recognized. Member Crane who gave an update on the status of the West Valley Animal Shelter, which is the only facility operated by the Dept. of Animal Services in the West Valley that has the facilities to shelter large animals. The Department has been considering leasing the facility to a private operator who would continue to operate it as a small, but not large animal shelter. She noted a recent event in the east valey , where the nearest animal shelter lacked facilities for large animals, a rescued horse was placed in a dog run. She has had difficulty obtaining clear information concerning the current status of the situation and recommends that given the large animal population in the West alley and the unfortunate frequency of emergency situations, the LAEAC should ask the City to continue to operate the West Valley Animal Shelter, including its ability to provide emergency shetor for large animals.

THERAFTER, upon a motion duly made and seconded it was resolved as follows:

RESOLVED, that LAEAC communicate its concerns to the City Council, Mayor's office and the Department of Animal Services and urge the retention and continued operation of the West Valley Animal Shelter, including its capacity to provide shelter for large animals during emergencies.

Item 9. Committees: Tabled.

Item No. 10. Approval of minutes. The Chair next asked if there were any comments or additions to the draft January 25, 2020 minutes. One typographical error was noted and corrected.

THERAFTER, upon a motion duly made and seconded the draft minutes of the January 27, 2020 minutes were approved as corrected.

Item No. 11. Announcements, new items and suggestions for future speakers. There were none.

Item No. 12. Next meeting. The Chair next announced that the next LAEAC meeting is tentatively set for January 25, 2021.

Item No. 13 Adjourn. Upon a motion a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,
Secretary