



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
 Monday July 24, 2023  
 6:30 pm  
**GRIFFITH PARK VISITOR'S CENTER**  
 4730 Crystal Springs Drive. Los Angeles, CA 90027

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
District 1 VACANT		
District 2 VACANT		X
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lisa Hanawalt	X	
District 5 David Ramey, DVM	X	
District 6 Mary Benson		X
District 7 Stephanie Saporito	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 Sabrina Silver	X	
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez		X

**Item No. 1 Call to Order.** Member Ramey acted as Chair and called the special meeting to order at about 6:35 p.m., called to roll and asked Member Saporito to lead the pledge of allegiance.

**Item No. 2 Approval of Minutes** The Chair called for a discussion of the draft minutes previously circulated for the May 24, 2023 meeting. After discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved..

**Item No. 3. General Public Comment on non-agenda items.**There were none.

**Item No. 4. Update On Griffith Park Pony Rides.** The Chair next called upon member Silver who gave a status report. She explained that efforts to obtain broad community input from various constituencies and organizations are continuing and there will be future opportunities for general public comment. The final decision will be made by the Board of Parks & Recreation Commissioners in about nine to ten months.

A member of the public commented on the bad behaviors of opponents of pony rides that she had observed.

**Item No. 5. Update on Circle-K Project.** The Chair called for discussion of a draft letter previously circulated be sent to the Burbank City Council prior to its May 25, 2023 meeting on the proposed townhouse project on the former Circle=K Stables property. There followed extensive

discussion with members generally supporting the draft letter and expressing concerns about the safety of horses, riders and others that building a project of this size in this location presents.

There were a number of public comments and questions. No member of the public supported the proposed project.

Several amendments were suggested and the letter as amended and read was approved upon a motion duly made and seconded.

**Item No. 6. Rodeo Ordinance.** The Chair described efforts by many individual and organizations who are critical of the draft ordinance. He explained that the Rodeo Ordinance has still not been scheduled for a City Council agenda item. There were a number of comments concerning the proposed revision submitted by the LAEAC. There were several comments concerning the difficulty some have experienced engaging the ordinance's sponsor, Councilmember Blumenfeld. Some observed that he has conveyed the impression of being disinterested in devoting time visiting demonstration of some of the devices that would be barred by the ordinance or otherwise becoming more informed concerning why opponents of the ordinance believed it to be an unwise law that would have many unintended consequences beyond rodeo. The Chair reminded all to continue to reach out to their respective Councilmember.

**Item No. 7. LADOT Bike Path Phase 4 project.** The Chair called for a discussion of this project. It appears that DOT has not been available, in part apparently because it is in the processing revising the trail plan. Concerns were expressed that the City lacks adopted standards for horse trails, that trail maintenance and safety need to be addressed, what vehicles will be allowed on the trail. A member of the public presented information, including a map and some detailed information on a circa 1950 permit (Permit 5049) granted by L.A. County Flood Control District to the City of LA, Dept. of Recreation & Parks for a bridle Trail in Griffith Park adjacent to the LA River.. No action was taken.

**Item No. 9 (there was no Item 8 on agenda] Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan.** The Chair recognized member Haber who gave a general report. She indicated that here was little news and that she's waiting for the next meeting Bureau of Engineering meeting on the plan. The chair also indicated he has reached out to the LA28 Committee that is planning for the 2028 Olympic Games to learn whether any event venues may be located within the basin,

**Item No. 10. Hanson Dam Issues.** The Chair called upon Joe Salaces who described the number of recent horse accidents in the Hansen Dam area requiring LAFD rescue crews. The heavy rains contributed to this situation and he circulated a map showing particularly dangerous areas for horses that should be avoided. He also said warning signs are being posted.

**Item No. 8. Council District Updates.**

1. CD-12 Member Crane described the unfortunate decline in the horse population in Chatsworth. She urged members and the public to support the ETI activities and events as one way to hopefully revive interest and participation in equestrian activities. .
2. CD-15. Member Silver has been reaching to City Council on the rodeo ordinance and reminded members to attend Neighborhood Council meetings in their districts as good way to reach a broader audience to present information on equestrian related topics and concerns.

**Item No. 9. Adjourn & Next Meeting.** The next regular meeting will be held on September 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at a TBD location Upon a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,  
Secretary