



MEETING MINUTES
LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Monday March 20, 2023
 6:30 pm
 Friendship Auditorium
 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA 90027

	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 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 meeting to order at about 6:35 p.m.

Item No. 2 Introduction of New Member. The Chair next introduced Stephanie Saporito, the newly appointed representative for CD-7 on the LAEAC.

Item No. 3 Approval of Minutes The Chair called for a discussion of the draft minutes previously circulated for the November 28, 2022, December 14, 2022 and January 30, 2023 meetings. After discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes were approved.

Item No. 4. General Public Comment on non-agenda items.The Chair recognized Lisa Baca who has asked RAP Commissioners to appoint an equestrian ombudsman to oversee Stoney Point, LAEC, Hansen Dam, and GPPR when it re-opens. She also suggests that LAEAC support regarding SB224 which would require, commencing in 2024, the California Office of Emergency Services to monitor the controlling ownership of agricultural land in California held by foreign governments and imposing prohibitions upon future such acquisitions.

The Chair next recognized Ms. N. Barnes who stressed the importance of more horse people becoming involved in horse related public policy issues, including re-establishing equine water rates.

The Chair next recognized Michael Erlich who indicated that Circle K Ranch re-development is not currently on the Burbank City Council agenda. He said there has not been a determination whether the project qualifies as an SB 35 project and opponents of the project should stress the proposed project will have specific adverse public impacts or present dangers to the public.

Item No. 5 Nominations of Officers. The Chair next called for the nomination of officers. Upon motions duly made and seconded the following nominees were elected to the positions below: :

President- David Ramey, D.V.M.
Vice-President- Sabrina Silver
Secretary- Larry Watts

Item No. 6. Guest Speaker Park Ranger Gary Menjuga. The Chair explained LAPD SLO Leo Rey's schedule precluded him from attending the meeting and that Park Ranger Menjuga had kindly agreed on short notice to appear in his lieu.

Ranger Menjuga addressed generally patrolling of equestrian trails. He noted that rangers are not assigned to exclusively patrol equestrian trails. Rather, mounted units usually assigned to patrol planned events, not equestrian trails in general. Additionally he noted that park rangers are operating with a reduced staff, due largely to low retention levels for cadets. Another factor is the multiyear length of time from enrolment to completion of training program. The current prohibition against arming rangers has discouraged some applicants and rangers, though this prohibition is under review.

He was asked about homeless encampments near horse trails and whether restrictions similar to ones in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones that allow prompt removal of encampments could be adopted for areas near equestrian trails. Ranger Menjuga said this would require new legislation or regulations to be adopted by the City. He suggested use of the MyLA311 application when addressing homeless encampments. A public member commented on observing increased instances of dogs off-leash and he said Park Rangers can only cite individuals committing violations, including the leash law.

Item No. 7. Jay Geisenheimer – Burbank Rancho Trail. The matter will be addressed by the Burbank City Council on March 28. She urged people supporting the project to contact the City Council. There were several comments from the public related to funding for the project.

Item No. 8. Liz Radley- Concerns concerning repairs and maintenance. Ms. Radley suggested using the What3Words app to use three words to define a square meter space anywhere to report areas requiring repairs or maintenance. She also suggested using Google to provide coordinates of the location.

A member of the public noted that the Hanson Dam Trailriders Facebook page can be used to file reports and the Ranger Station has a map which can aid in pinpointing a location.

Member Haber stated there is a need to lower the level of the trail near Circle K from the bridge to polliwog for safety reasons. She also noted an open gate is allowing bike riders to access an equestrian only trail via tunnels 7 and 6. 4. Joe Salaiques explained that Dept. of Transportation is responsible for the bike trail and he will discuss the situation with DOT and explore re-routing the bike path.

There was a public comment that the rain caused dangerous conditions in Little Tujunga Wash. Member Smith asked that she be sent a detailed description of the situation. Ranger Menjuga

explained that the situation changes daily and his staff is discussing ways to timely advise the public concerning trouble spots in the area.

Item No. 9 By-law definition of “Special Advisor.” This item was tabled.

Item No. 10. Possible letter to City Council re expansion AB-1909. There was extensive discussion concerning the application of the statutory regulation of the respective obligation of motor vehicle operators and bicyclists to include horses. Other trail safety issues were discussed and public comment was received, but after much discussion, there was a consensus that the issues should be revisited in future meeting, but no action was taken.

Item 11. Equestrian Trails Fund Update. The Chair reported that he has determined the amount of trust funds expended on two projects: an equestrian light at Johanna and Sunland intersection and \$300,000 for a consultant on trail projects. The need for a consultant was questioned, since this is a subject about which LAEAC has expertise. There was also discussion about the City’s role in funding the activities of the LAEAC. The Chair indicated that further research on the trust fund and how funds are allocated to projects is needed.

Item 12. Rodeo Ordinance. The Chair 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. The Chair reminded all to continue to reach out to their respective Council member.

Item No. 13. Pony Rides. The Chair recognized Stefanie Smith who briefly explained the Department is seeking more community input and is looking for a more robust outreach to the equestrian community in particular.

Member Silver was appointed chair of the GPPR ad Hoc and members Ramey, Gilbert, LaVergne, and Hanwalt were appointed members.

Item No. 14. LAEAC Website. There was a brief discussion concerning ongoing work on the website, including improving ease of access.

Item 15. Council District Updates.

1. CD-3 The Animal Services Department and the Animal Services Commission are now within the jurisdiction of the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee of the City Council.
2. CD-4 There is no specific plan at present regarding pony ride concession. We all need to get more people to write to city council. Jimmy Kim and RAP are open to live animals, pony rides, so there remains the possibility for a revised pony ride concession.
3. CD-5 . Katy Yarovslovsy has replaced Paul Koretz as councilmember for CD-5. While there may not be horses boarded in CD-5, horse owners do live in the district.
4. CD-8. No updates to report.
5. CD-10 Heather Hunt in CD-0 office indicates those who seem hostile to the equestrian community and equine sports are very active in communicating their views to the City Council and City departments. She recommended encouraging horse people to become more involved in advocating their views to city officials, particularly individuals who are effective communicators and likely to get the attention of city officials.
6. CD-11 No updates to report.

7. CD-12 They're having difficulty locating a venue for Day of the Horse in Chatsworth, getting permits, etc. Hopefully Joe can streamline the process and get it moving, perhaps at Stoney Point in June.
8. CD-13 The new field deputy toured the Atwater village equestrian district and was responsive to safety concerns, downed signs, etc.
9. CD-15 No updates to report.

Item No. . Adjourn & Next Meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on May 8, 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