

City of Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee Minutes of meeting held at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center Banquet Room 480 West Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 91506 on March 25, 2013.

ITEM NO. (1) Lynn Brown acted as Chair for the meeting and began with a Roll-Call, welcome and introductions.

	Present	Absent
Kevin Regan, Chair		X
District 1		Vacant
District 2 Nick Pool	X	
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lynn Brown	X	
District 5 Melanie Coto	X	
District 6 Mary Benson	V	
District 7 Dale Gibson		X
District 8 Kevin Atkins	X	
District 9 Brady Westwater		X
District 10 Todd La Vergne	X	
District 11 Larry Watts	X	
District 12 Mary Kaufman	X	
District 13 Gene Gilbert	X	
District 14		Vacant
District 15		Vacant
Mayor Scott Perez	X	

- ITEM NO. (2) Chair Lynn Brown next formally called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m.
- ITEM NO. (3) Member Watts moved and Member Benson duly seconded, that LAEAC support and recommend to the Mayor and Members of the City Council the adoption of the proposed \$3.00 Processing Fee for Equine Licensing which is the subject of City Council File 12-0307-S3. After a short discussion the question was called and the motion was unanimously passed.
- ITEM NO. (4) There next was a motion by Member Benson and duly seconded by Member Watts, that LAEAC write to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners expressing opposition to any proposal to allow bicycle riders access to certain unpaved City Park trails that were designed for use by horse riders and hikers and are now closed to bicycle traffic. There followed an extensive discussion concerning whether these trails should be opened to allow for a mixed use involving bicyclists, horses and riders and hikers. Following that discussion by the Committee Members, Acting Chair Brown invited comments from the approximately 150 members of the public who were present. The most frequently expressed concern related to the safety issues present when bicyclists ride on trails designed for horses and hikers. Some individuals expressed concerns that expanding access to such trails to bicyclists could also expose the city to increased liability and trail maintenance expenses. Others noted that bicycles usage can be very harmful to the environment when engaged in on trails that are not designed for such usage. Another person noted that in cities that have experimented with such open access the problems thereby generated so much controversy and unsafe conditions that the decision to allow bicycle access has been almost universally reversed. A volunteer with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area observed that rangers report that bicycles on trails result in 90% of reported accidents and complaints from other trail users. Another concern expressed was that a large percentage of riders on City Park trails ride rental horses and are inexperienced riders who are particularly vulnerable to unfortunate horse-bike interactions. No person present, including an officer of a leading mountain biking organization spoke in favor of allowing bicycles on the existing horse and hiking trails in City Parks. At the conclusion of the public comments, the question was called and the Committee voted unanimously to have the president send a letter to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners substantially along the lines of a letter circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.
- ITEM NO. (5) Discussion of the DART program was tabled in view of pending meeting.
- ITEM NO. (6) The Chair next asked if there were any announcements Members cared to make.
- ITEM NO. (7) The Chair next asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions that should be made to the draft minutes of the Committee's January 28, 2013 meeting. There being none, the draft minutes were approved.
- ITEM NO. (8) The Chair next asked if any members or the public present had any comments to make. Terry Kaiser and ETI Trail Coordinator and Hanson Dam Advisor commented concerning the 5 mph for bicycles recommended by the California Trail Users Association and adopted by the National Park Service.
- ITEM NO. (9) The Chair then noted that because the next regularly scheduled meeting would fall on May 27, 2013, a Federal and State Holiday, the Committee's next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 3, 2013 at Friendship Hall.
- ITEM NO. (10) There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary