



MEETING MINUTES
LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Monday January 29, 2024
 6:30 pm
 Griffith Park Visitor Center (Park Ranger Auditorium)
 4730 Crystal Springs Drive
 Los Angeles CA 90027

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	X
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez	X	
District 1 T.Hagans	X	
District 2 Dale Gibson	X	
District 3 Brian Walsh	X	
District 4 Vacant		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	

Item No. 1 Call to Order. Member Ramey acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 6:30 p.m, followed by the pledge of allegiance. He then called the roll.

Item No. 2 Approval of Minutes. Approval of the minutes was tabled until next meeting.

Item No. 3. General Public Comment on non-agenda items. There were several public comments, including a request for public to attend RAP meeting on park concessions and comments by Sen. Portantino's staff on efforts to include equestrian protections in SB 423 that were included in SB 684 instead.

Item No. 4. Announcements and Oral Reports.

Chair Ramey:

The Chair welcomed new member T. Hagans as the representative for Council District 1.

The Chair announced that Lisa Hanawalt has resigned as representative for Council District 4.

The Chair announced that the Day of the Horse will be celebrated on April 7 in Chatsworth and horse owners urged to participate. Contact Member Crane for details/.

The Chair announced that members may submit nominations for officer positions for 2024 by email.

The speakers from the Board of Public Works did not attend.

The Chair recognized Joe Salaices to provide the RAP updates. Mr. Salaices explained that a final resolution for Stony Point will take 18 to 24 months, but however it is resolved, the facility will remain a boarding stable and RAP is looking for an operator. As to LAEC, a new business plan is being evaluated by RAP whereby RAP will operate facility with day to day operations managed by ASM Global under contract with RAP.

The Chair recognized Member Saporito who briefly reported on communication plans and encouraged the public to sign-up to receive notices directly.

The Chair recognized Member Crane who explained that the City has already transferred the Brown Canyon property to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. She will reach out to the Conservancy. She also explained there was a horse in the recent community parade and that a successful international polo tournament was recently held in Lakeview Terrace in CD-12.

The Chair recognized Members LaVergne and Gibson who reported many representatives of groups involved in and supportive of rodeos attended the recent city council committee meeting, including Compton Cowboys, a charro representative, the Western Justice.

Members LaVergne and Gibson also reported on the recent MLK Parade where 36 riders participated under the LAEAC banner, including themselves and Member Watts.

Council District Oral Updates

CD 5 Member Ramey reported that BOE has retained a consultant to advise on trail standards. He also noted that CD-5 and CD-12 council members want LAEAC to be involved in this process. The Benedict Canyon and Mulholland intersection upgrades are continuing as is work on Rim of the Valley Trail.

CD-6 Member Benson provided Equifest brochures and said there has been discussion of possible participation by LAEAC in the Rose Parade next year.

CD-13 Member Gilbert reported the visit to the bridge and to tunnel one by CD-13 was postponed due to rain and will be rescheduled.

Item No. 5 Establishing LAEAC calendar for regular meetings of LAEAC and standing committees for 2024 and thereafter. The Chair recognized Member Benson who recommended the committee formally adopt a meeting schedule for both regular meetings and for the meetings of standing committees. She suggested the LAEAC meet on the third Monday of even months and the Standing committees meet on the third Monday of odd months.

Thereupon a motion duly made, seconded and following discussion it was:

RESOLVED, that subject to observed holidays, the LAEAC regular meetings shall be held at a location to be determined on the fourth Monday of odd months and that the meetings of the LAEAC standing committees shall meet once quarterly on alternating fourth Mondays of even months at the LAEC. Secretary to distribute meetings calendar at November meeting.

Item No. 6. SB-423, Equine Keeping K Districts, mapping and compliance. The Chair recognized Member Silver who explained the SB-423 working group found horsekeeping is allowed within the City of Los Angeles under several provisions of the General Plan and the municipal code. However, there is insufficient mapping and other information readily available to easily determine whether a specific property allows equine keeping as an approved use by right.

Thus, there are multiple horsekeeping “K” Districts/Areas with defined specific boundaries. Also, some community or specific plans have described or mapped horsekeeping areas, while other community plans have “districts” zoned as eligible for horsekeeping that are not defined by specific boundaries. Finally, multiple building zones, including RA, RE20, RE40, A1 and A2 permit horsekeeping. and parcels in these these zones are eligible to keep horses, but one must confirm this on a parcel by parcel basis.

Zoning Information File No. 2438 outlines the required building permit process and general development guidelines for development on equine keeping lots. It also provides that no building permit shall be issued for a new habitable space on a lot located in whole or in part within an Equine Keeping “K” District or lot zoned RA, RE20, RE40, A1, or A2 until the applicant completes and submits the “Equine Keeping Checklist Form” to LADBS prior to the issuance of the building permit. However, the working group concluded these provisions require educating the public and better enforcement. It also recommends the Department of City Planning develop a readable map of parcels eligible for horsekeeping within the city.

Thereupon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED that:

1. The SB-423 working group request a meeting with Director of City Planning Vince Bertoni to discuss the above;
2. LAEAC request the Department of City Planning to provide a readable map of all horsekeeping parcels within the City;
3. Sabrina Silver, Gene Gilbert and Larry Watts are appointed to the standing Land Use and Planning Committee; and
4. The SB-423 working group of Walsh, Silver, Haber and Gable shall continue its work until further action by the LAEAC.

Item No. 7. Council File 20-0230 and 20-0231- Trail specifications and standardization, flexibility and protection.

The Chair recognized Member Benson who discussed the importance of having LAEAC involved in developing specifications for equestrian trails within the City.

After further discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED, that LAEAC send a request to Mayor Bass, the City Council, Department of City Planning, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Building and Safety, and Department of Water and Power requesting LAEAC involvement in development of equestrian trails specifications.

Item No. 8. Council File: 20-1575 (Rodeo) The Chair recognized Member Gibson who presented a letter he proposed sending to Councilmember Rodriguez regarding her amendments to the rodeo motion and thanking John Lee and Imelda Padilla for their thoughtful comments. It would also restate the position of the LAEAC on the subject of rodeo in light of new developments, and request that LAEAC be included in conversations regarding revisions to the draft ordinance and the formation of any new recommendations concerning rodeo.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded to send the letter and following discussion, the motion failed.

The Chair then recognized Member Silver who moved to form a working group to draft a revised letter on the rodeo ordinance to be presented to a special meeting of the LAEAC.

Silver’s motion was duly seconded and following a brief discussion was duly adopted.

Members Raney, Silver, Saporito and Watts agreed to participate in the working group. Member Walsh said he would consider joining the working group.

Item No. 9 Creation of Video Publicizing LAEAC. The Chair recognized Member Hagans who presented her thoughts on the benefits of producing a video.

Thereafter, following further discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was,

RESOLVED, that a working group be formed of volunteers to formulate a proposal for producing an LAEAC video.

Item No. 10. Adjourn & Next Meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on March 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at a TBD location. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,
Secretary