



MEETING MINUTES
LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Monday July 22, 2024
 6:30 pm
 Hansen Dam Horse Park,
 11127 Orcas Avenue
 Lake View Terrace, CA 91342

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez		X
District 1 T. Hagans	X	
District 2 Dale Gibson	X	
District 3 Brian Walsh	X	
District 4 Ben Sullivan	X	
District 5 David Ramey, DVM		X
District 6 Mary Benson	X	
District 7 Geronimo Bugarin	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	
Dept. of Recreation & Parks Joe Salaices	X	

Introduction, Member Benson acted as Chair and first introduced the color guard from Blue Shadows Mounted Drill Team who presented the colors. The Chair then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Presentations by Guest Speakers

Phase IV Los Angeles River Bikeway.

The Chair next recognized Monique Alcala, Kyle Flake, Ricardo Acosta, and Thomas Sarkisyan from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) who gave an overview of the history and current status of Phase IV Los Angeles River Bikeway. Ms. Alcala explained this project is a small part of the City's effort to revitalize the Los Angeles River with increased access, amenities, recreational opportunities, and stormwater management. LADOT is working with partner agencies towards creating a continuous, paved bikeway along the entire 51 mile length of the Los Angeles River, from the headwaters in West San Fernando Valley to the Long Beach Harbor. Phase IV represents an approximate one mile extension of the existing LA Riverway from its current terminus at Riverside Drive/Zoo Drive to Forest Lawn Drive that will incorporate an equestrian trail. She said public input and participation is encouraged and

provided the following link as part of that process. <https://ladotlivablestreets.org/projects/LA-Riverway-Phase-IV>

Ms. Acala also stated that input received during two community engagement meetings has resulted in the equestrian path being widened from about 6'+ to 10' and changes in the design of the fence separating the equestrian path from the multi-use path. The changes include replacing a proposed split rail fence with a taller reinforced finer chain link fence that will prevent horses from seeing activity on the multi-use path. She also explained that Caltrans will study all LA River path gaps intersecting with the Caltrans right-of-way and conduct feasibility studies, including the intersection at Forest Lawn Drive.

Several members of the public commented on the project. These included concerns that a 10' width was still too narrow, that a fence which obstructs a horse's ability to observing activity on the multi-purpose path was unwise because horses are more likely to shy from noises in the multi-use path arising from unseen activity. Concerns relative to the proposed lighting of the equestrian path were expressed as well as the importance of ongoing maintenance generally. Some commented that the City's outreach to the equestrian community on this project has been insufficient.

Several members of the LAEAC expressed similar concerns and urged Ms. Acala and her team to work more closely with LAEAC and to consider the Equestrian Design Guidelines already developed by the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies as this project proceeds.

Large Animal Emergency Evacuation. This item was tabled after a representative from LA Dept. of Animal Services didn't appear.

Call to Order and Roll Call. The Chair next called the formal meeting to order and asked the Secretary to call the role of members present as reflected above.

Approval of Minutes The Chair called for a discussion of the draft minutes previously circulated for the June 3, 2024 meeting. After discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes were approved.

General Public Comments. There were several comments, including the benefit of sound amplification at LAEAC meetings, the importance of public outreach to the equestrian community whenever the City proposes actions impacting horses, equestrians and/or equestrian activities.

Neighborhood Council Comments. There were none.

Item No. 1 Motion, Discussion and Possible Action to adopt Neighborhood Council Guidelines for Standing and Ad Hoc Committees and working groups

The Chair next called for a discussion of a previously circulated memorandum prepared by the City Attorney addressing the application of the Brown Act to the standing and ad hoc committees of Neighborhood Councils. Questions were raised as to whether the motion was intended to extend the applicability of the Brown Act to ad hoc committees beyond what the Act itself requires. That is not the intention of the proposed motion. Rather, the motion is simply intended to clarify how the Act's requirements apply to LAEAC standing and ad hoc committees as set forth in the memorandum prepared by the City Attorney for use by Neighborhood Councils. The Chair accepted a suggestion that rather than simply adopt the memorandum written for Neighborhood Councils, that it be adapted as guide specifically for use by the LAEAC. Thereafter, following further discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED, the LAEAC adopts the substance of the City Attorney's memorandum set forth the application of the Brown Act to standing and ad hoc committees to Neighborhood Councils and the Secretary is directed to revise the memorandum for use by the LAEAC.

Item No. 2 Reports

The Chair next provided the following information.

Trails Sub-committee-Browns Canyon Report The Chair referred members to the following link for information on this subject.

https://parks.lacounty.gov/browns_canyon_equestrian_park_refurbishment/

Trails Subcommittee 3rd Quarterly meeting will be on 8/26/24.

The Chair announced that this meeting will take place at Sepulveda Basin Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA 91436 at 6:30 p.m.

Pony Ride Open House Summary. The Chair referred members to the following links for information on this subject.

<https://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/pony-rides>

<https://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/pdf/ponyride/2024-06-04-pop-up-summary.pdf>

<https://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/pdf/ponyride/2024-03-27-open-house-summary.pdf>

Item No. 3. Motion, Discussion and Possible Action to submit comment letter to CFI24-0294 The Chair next called for a discussion of a proposed letter addressed to the Board of Public Works Commissioners concerning the need for a comprehensive maintenance plan for bridges and tunnels used by equestrians that was previously posted and circulated to members. Thereafter, following discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED that the attached letter previously posted and circulated to members concerning the need for a comprehensive maintenance plan for bridges and tunnels used by equestrians is approved.

Item No. 4. Submit letter to Council Member Parks re selection of Galway Downs as 2028 Olympic Games Equestrian Venue. the selection of Galway Downs as the venue for equestrian events for the 2028 Olympic Games. Thereafter, following discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED that the attached letter previously posted and circulated to members supporting the decision to select Galway Downs as the venue for equestrian events for the 2028 Olympic Games is approved.

Item No. 5 Motion, Discussion and Possible Action to approve creation and distribution of a Tool Kit to LAEAC Members.. The Chair next called for discussion of a LAEAC members Tool Kit. Member Hagans noted LAEAC provides expert insight and advice on equestrian and trail issues pending before the City of Los Angeles. In that regard members may benefit from training on topics such as ethics, land use and protocols governing the Brown Act. Following further discussions and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED that LAEAC create a New Member Orientation package containing, but not limited to, sections on the following:

- Committee background and founding documents
- Brown Act Training
- Land Use (Zimas, LA City Plans, Community Plans)
- Government Protocols (LA City structure)
- Outreach; and

that LAEAC contact the Ethics Commission for help in accessing the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's online tutorials addressing any of the above-referenced subjects.

Item No. 6 Next Meeting. The Chair next asked whether members favored conducting an additional LAEAC general meeting on August 26, 2024. After discussion no action was taken. The Chair next announced the next regular meeting will be held on September 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center.

Item No 7 Adjournment. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,
Secretary