



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
 Wednesday May 24, 2023  
 6:30 pm  
 Chatsworth Park South Recreation Center  
 22360 Devonshire Street  
 Chatsworth CA 91311

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
District 1 VACANT		
District 2 VACANT		
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 6:45 p.m and then called the roll. The Chair briefly described the recent outbreak of the vesicular stomatitis in Riverside and San Diego Counties. The virus has appeared in previously in Texas and New Mexico, but this is the first outbreak in California. The virus causes great discomfort to infected horses, but is not normally deadly and typically infected animals recover within about two weeks. However, it is extremely contagious and the outbreak will result in restrictions upon the transport of horses.

The Chair recognized Stephanie Smith who indicated the Dept. of Rec. and Parks is in the process of preparing an RFP for the Stoney Point facility. The process will take from twelve to eighteen months. She also stated the Department is committed to maintain an equestrian facility at Stoney Point.

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

**Item No. 3. General Public Comment on non-agenda items.** There were several public comments, including concerning the Chatsworth Day of the Horse event that is resuming following a hiatus due to the pandemic and another concerning the impact of ADU's upon adjacent horse properties.

Emily Gabel-Lundy explained that if enacted, the pending SB 423 would exempt the streamlined, ministerial approval process created by SB 35 to applications for developments proposed on a site that is located within an equine or equestrian district and meets certain other requirements. The bill would not be retroactive and would apply to certain new applications.

**Item No. 4 Motion to Confirm Nominations of Executive Committee Members.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded the following nominees elections to the positions below were confirmed:

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

**Item No. 5 Update of Griffith Park Pony Rides.** The Chair next called a discussion on the pony ride concession. A draft Mission Statement based upon the five domains used to judge animal welfare was circulated and discussed. Several general comments were made by the public..

**Item No. 6. LAEAC By-laws Update.** The Chair recognized member Silver for a brief review of the adopted revisions and potential further options No action was taken.

**Item No. 7. Report on Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan** The Chair and member Haber reported on the initial public hearing concerning the Sepulveda Vision Plan. The Vision Plan will study existing land uses, landscape features, habitats, patterns of use, and user groups within the Sepulveda Basin and identify areas that can be enhanced. The Chair noted that the 2028 Olympic equestrian events apparently will no longer take place in Sepulveda Basin. It's important that the horse community become involved in the Sepulveda Vision Plan process.

There were several public comments and questions.

**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 Salaices 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 Majuga 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 Yarovslovsky 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