

Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee
Monday, March 21, 2011
6:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 6:40PM by President Dale Gibson. Role was taken.

Item #1, Rim of the Valley. Presentation by Cathie Santo Domingo from Parks and Recreation, gave the background of Rim of the Valley Prop K. Prop K bond measure passed in 1996. Ms. Santo Domingo told us there were 183 projects for the Prop K bond measure. The city has 30 years to work on them. Rim of the Valley (ROTV) is one of the 183 projects.

In November, the Regional Oversight Committee prioritizes the projects. ROTV trails must accommodate both equestrians and pedestrians. The project is in need of design and construction as well as a designated and specific location. As the project moves forward an LVNOC, (Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee) will be formed. Kevin Regan mentioned that ROTV gets pushed back because no one knows what it is. Mr. Regan asked Ms. Domingo to work with the LAEAC and approach engineering for guidance. LAEAC is an Advisory Committee with vital trail connections. \$200,000 is allocated for ROTV project. By October or November they will open project again.

Melanie Coto asked if segments of the trail can be done one at a time. Ms. Santo Domingo replied in the affirmative as the preferred way to proceed. Ms. Coto also asked if an LVNOC can be established for each district. Ms. Santo Domingo said, "No." Mary Benson stated there are 17 community plans that do not show in Zimas. If allotment was on Zimas, the problem would be solved. Ms. Santo Domingo mentioned that the competition projects are from non-profit groups.

Andrew, from Shadow Hills, asked if the project included easements. Ms. Santo Domingo affirmed that easements would be included, but that B&S would have jurisdiction over easements, which is a Planning issue. Ms. Santo Domingo concluded her presentation.

Item #2, Morrie Goldman introduced himself from Council District 2. Mr. Goldman is the Chief of Staff for Council District 2 and the Legislative Consultant for the Coalition for Safe Trails. He discussed Effective Equestrian Public Relations. Bike Trail issues affect everyone. Equestrians need to be proactive, formalize a coalition, and agree on a mission statement and website. Public Safety and Environmental issues need to be stated. Council offices are relying on committees and coalitions, they need to educate and communicate with council members, which will also get them access to City Hall. A database needs to be developed, with a monthly e-mail "blast" (action alerts), as well as sharing short and long term goals. Using the press is important, such as sending letters to the editors of newspapers. Flood the council offices with phone calls. Lynn Brown asked for specific ways to keep the council offices informed. Mr. Goldman responded

that short term goals would need to be developed and for LEAC members to work with council members. Ms. Brown asked for advice on how to proceed when a motion is "stuck." Mr. Goldman recommended that LEAC members go to their council member and sit with them in a meeting (as was done with the bike issue). Dale Gibson praised the bike issue at City Hall.

Item #3, Dale Gibson asked for a motion to form an Adhoc Committee regarding the LA Horse Council Equestrian Bill of Rights. A motion was made by Mary Benson, and seconded by Melanie Coto. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #4, Kevin Regan opened discussion regarding Martinez Arena, whether or not it should be left open for the general public. There is currently very limited parking of horse trailers in Griffith Park. Mr. Regan mentioned there were some calls in opposition to having the gates opened. Dale Gison opened the discussion. Scott Perez asked about the policing of trailers, loose horses and riders. Lynn Brown stated that if the gates were left open, there would be no control as who comes, who stays; the arena would then be available to trainers with no payment going to parks and rec for use of the facility. Mary Benson stated that here are already two arenas with locked parking. Ms. Brown stated that the lot needs to be restored so that ample parking becomes available for horse trailers. Melanie Coto stated the public asked for the gates to be opened two months ago. ETI Corral 38 has a security deposit for this arena. There would be issues regarding trash and loose horses among other things. They are not in favor of opening the arena. There were 5 ETI Corral 38 members who stated they were against opening the arena.

Item #5, Mary Benson will investigate the issues on assessment for trails.

The next LAEAC meeting will be held Monday May 23, 2011, at 6:30 PM at Friendship Hall, 3201 Riverside Drive Los Angeles, CA.

On motion of President Dale Gibson, seconded by Mary Benson, the meeting adjourned at 8:25PM