



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
 Monday September 19, 2022  
 6:30 pm  
 Griffith Park Visitor's Center  
 4730 Crystal Springs Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90027

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
District 1 VACANT		
District 2 Jeffrey Rewald	X	
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lisa Hanawalt	X	
District 5 David Ramey, DVM	X	
District 6 Mary Benson	X	
District 7 Dale Gibson		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 special meeting to order at about 6:35 p.m.

**Item No. 2 Approval of Minutes** The Chair called for a discussion of the draft minutes previously circulated for the July 25, 2022 meetings. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the draft minutes of the July 25, 2022 meetings were approved.

**Item No. 3. General Public Comment on non-agenda items.**The Chair recognized an individual from Burbank City Planning Board who supports Ms. Jay Geisenheimer to be an LAEAC advisory board member.

The Chair next recognized Philip Marx who spoke in opposition to a proposed 82 room hotel Project in the Burbank rancho area. Another speaker warned of seven panhandlers living under a LA River bridge and one requested an LAPD mounted unit patrol the area. Ms. Jay Geisenheimer next described how recent dragging of the Pollywog arena had improved the footing and of plans by Mayor's office and Corps of Engineers to landscape and make other improvements to the riding arena.

Konstantine Anthony, City of Burbank Vice-Mayor expressed gratitude for LAEAC letter of support Circle K Stable. He also described the need for support services for the unhoused population and urged public officials to continue focusing on long term solutions to the crisis. The Chair

next recognized Lisa Baca requested that LAEAC conduct a meeting at the Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center.

The Chair next recognized Joe Salaices who described recent action by the Board of Commissioners of the Department of Recreation and Parks ("RAP") concerning the future of the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. This included sending a 90 termination notice to LAEC Inc. and appointing ASM Global as the interim facility manager of LAEC. That notice triggered a lawsuit by LAEC, Inc. challenging the authority of RAP to terminate its agreement with LAEC, Inc. The case is currently set for trial in April 2023. In the meantime, RAP encourages all boarders, trainers, businesses and others who use LAEC to continue to do so pending a resolution of the lawsuit. Mr. Salaices assured that RAP is fully supportive of the equestrian community and the future of LAEC.

**Item No. 4. Xanthe Scheps.** The Chair next recognized Xanthe Schepps, field deputy for Councilmember Nithya Raman of CD-4. Ms. Scheps spoke generally concerning plans to improve traffic safety in the park and on the homeless policies of CD-4. She stressed that CD-4 is not a law enforcement agency. Solving the homelessness crisis obviously requires more housing, but equally necessary is the need to provide adequate services to the homeless population. The government system for providing housing and services to the homeless is complicated and CD-4 has a policy of reaching out to the homeless population to explain the system and assist in navigating it.

Ms. Scheps announced there is now funding for increased outreach and homeless services along the river. An LAEAC member stated that what is needed is to have the LAPD mounted unit patrol the river and the outskirts of Griffith Park.

A member of the public commented upon threatening activities of homeless in the Glendale Rancho area including entering upon private property. Another noted protestors are continuing to disrupt the pony ride concession. Another member of the public commented upon the number of homeless entering the LAEC and assaulting people.

**Item No. 5. Park Ranger Representatives.** The Chair recognized two representatives of LA Park Rangers. The rangers explained that park rangers are required to possess a 4 year college degree and attend the LAPD academy. However, unlike LAPD, park rangers are unarmed, yet face similarly dangerous situations to police during their patrols in areas such as Hansen Dam. A major problem is that park rangers are leaving to work for other agencies. Park rangers are being hired, but it takes about 18 months from hiring until they are assigned to a park.

There were a number of public comments and questions. These included the need for mounted patrols as the only way to effectively patrol Hanson Dam. There are about 13 miles of trails but it is not possible to conduct a continuous patrol due to fallen trees, booby traps and other obstacles. There are meth labs and daily fires. It is currently unsafe to ride a horse on the Hansen Dam trails. There is a need for extra rangers Wednesday through Sunday.

**Item No. 6. Rodeo Ordinance and LADWP Letter.** The Chair explained that the Rodeo Ordinance has not been scheduled for a City Council agenda item.

**Item No. 7. Standing Committees.**

There was a brief discussion of the standing committees (Documents, Trails and Planning & Land Use). The Chair's appointment of Members Crane and Rewald as co-chairs of the Document was ratified and Member Haber to remain as chair of Planning & Land Use Committee. No action taken at this time on Trails Committee chair.

**Item No. 8. Ad Hoc Committee Discussion.** The Chair called for a discussion of ad hoc committees, in particular Emergency Preparedness and Procedures & Protocols. Following discussion and upon motions duly made and seconded, the selection of Member Ramey and Member Silver as chairs respectively of Emergency Preparedness and Procedures & Protocols were ratified. No further action was taken on ad hoc committees.

**Item No. 9. LAEAC Website.** The Chair recognized Stephanie Smith who explained the LAEAC is responsible for the maintenance of its website, but that the Dept. of Recreation & Parks website can provide link to LAEAC website. She will inquire with the offices of the Mayor and Council Districts about potential funding for LAEAC website support. She will also obtain ID badges for new LAEAC members.

**Item No. 10. Council District Updates.** There were none.

**Item No. 11. Rescind Special Advisor Resolution.** Following discussion of certain procedural deficiencies in connection with LAEAC July 15, 2022 resolution appointing special advisory members, that resolution was rescinded. The subject of special advisors was then tabled and will be revisited at a later date.

**Item No. 12. Next Meeting.** The next regular meeting will be held on November 28, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. PST at a TBD location.

**Item No. 13 Adjourn.** Upon a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,  
Secretary