



MEETING MINUTES
LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Monday January 30, 2023
 6:30 pm
 West Los Angeles Municipal Center
 1645 Corinth Street, CA 90025

| | 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 November 28, 2028 meeting. After discussion the motion was tabled.

Item No. 3. General Public Comment on non-agenda items.The Chair recognized Ms. Kathy Spencer explained AB 1909 amended California Vehicle Code Sections 21456 and 21456.2 She explained that existing law prohibits the operation of a motorized bicycle or a class 3 electric bicycle on a bicycle path or trail, bikeway, bicycle lane, equestrian trail, or hiking or recreational trail. AB 1909 remove the prohibition of class 3 electric bicycles on these facilities and instead authorizes a local authority and the Department of Parks and Recreation to prohibit the operation of any electric bicycle or any class of electric bicycle on an equestrian trail, or hiking or recreational trail within their respective department jurisdictions. Stefanie Smith stated the City of LA has no plans to remove its existing prohibitions.

The Chair next recognized Dean Wegeman who urged the LAEAC and the equestrian community to inform state legislators of their opposition to AB 233, which would authorize a local agency to require the rider of, or person otherwise responsible for, a horse to collect and dispose of any animal waste horse excrement deposited by that horse on a street or sidewalk..

Item No. 4. Bylaws Committee Proposed Amendments. The Chair next called for discussion of the proposed amendments to the LAEAC By-Laws. Upon a motion duly made by Member Gibson, it was resolved to address each proposed amendment separately.

1. Amendment to modify quorum requirements. After discussion the proposed amendment was modified and adopted as follows:
“Section 4.05 A quorum shall be required for the Board to conduct business. A quorum shall mean 50% plus one of the current Board members, disregarding any fractional result. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the minimum number of members present to constitute a quorum shall be five.”
2. Amendment related to requirement of simple majority to take action. After discussion the proposed amendment was adopted as follows:
“Section 4.09 The Board may take an action upon a simple majority vote by members present, excluding abstentions.
3. Amendment related to quorum when not all Board seat are filled. This amendment was withdrawn in view of action taken above on 1.
4. Amendment related to Board member attendance. After discussion the following was adopted adding Section 4.10 to the By-Laws.
“Section 4.10 Board members are expected to be present at every Board meeting. “Being present” is defined as attending at least half of any given meeting, according to time as kept by the Secretary Attendance at a portion of, but less than half of any meeting shall be considered an absence.”
5. Amendment related to excused absences. After discussion the following was adopted adding Section 4.11 to the By-Laws.
“Section 4.11 If a Board member notifies the Board president or secretary of an anticipated absence in advance of a meeting, it shall be recorded as an excused absence. If a Board member fails to notify the president or secretary in advance of an expected absence, it shall be recorded as an unexcused absence. Three excused or two unexcused absences within a 12 month period shall be constitute excessive absences.”

Item No. 5. Stony Point Stables. The Chair recognized Joe Salaices who gave a brief update on the status of Stony Point Stables. It is located on 35 acres acquired by City in 2007. There is no current contract to operate the facility, though the longtime caretaker continues to have a month to month right of entry pending a more permanent arrangement with a new concessionaire.

There were a number of public comments and questions seeking assurances the facility would remain available for horse boarding and with adequate parking. Mr. Salaices assured all that this is the current intention of the Department of Recreation & Parks and that it will solicit further public input as it considers its options.

Item No. 6. Rodeo Ordinance. The Chair noted his letter to the editor of the LA Times had been published and 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. 7. Pony Rides. The Chair recognized Stefanie Smith who briefly explained the Department 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. 8. Council District Updates.

1. CD-4 Council office wants more input from horse community.
2. CD-5 has a newly elected Councilperson: Katy Yaroslavsky. Chair Ramey encouraged us all to reach out to her.
3. CD-7 Working to get LAPD and LA County Sheriff to return to Hanson Dam.
4. CD-9, Ayesha Covin.
5. CD- 12 Has located a potential candidate to represent
6. CD-13 Met with council office concerning pony rides.

Item No. 9. Adjourn & Next Meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on March 27, 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