

Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee
Tuesday, December 1, 2009
6:30PM
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:40PM by Acting Chair Mary Benson. Members present: Dale Gibson, Jill Haber, Lynn Brown, Mary Benson, Natalie Blancardi, Todd LaVergne, Randall Young, Mary Kaufman, and Gene Gilbert. Members absent: Melanie Coto, Kevin Atkins, and Brady Westwater.

After roll call was taken, the minutes from the meeting of November 3 were approved with an amendment that the attendance record for that meeting be included in the minutes.

The Committee's By Laws were accepted and unanimously approved.

A presentation was given by Ann Dove, a National Park Service employee, regarding local trail conservation programs and park planning issues. She also shared information regarding national historic trails, such as the Old Spanish Historic Trail that connects Santa Fe, New Mexico to Los Angeles. Ms. Dove also provided information of the value and importance of designating trails as National Recreation Trails, for federal funding opportunities.

The discussion segued into the subject of trails which led to a motion that was unanimously approved; for the Committee to draft a letter to the City Planning Department to establish standards and a dedicated trail system in the City for equestrian and hiking purposes.

Hugh Briefman and StacyDancy from the Department of Animal Services was introduced and thanked for their hard work and assistance in evacuating horses during the Station Fire.

The next item of discussion was regarding the elimination of the caretaker position at Pierce College in Woodland Hills. It was decided that an Ad Hoc Committee would draft a position letter requesting them to re-consider the elimination of an on-site caretaker at the school.

Public comments included the following:

- The lack of veterinary services in the San Fernando Valley
- The need for a listing of local veterinary services, boarding stables, etc.
- The possibility of revenue generating equestrian events at Pierce College

Committee business included comments regarding a livestock exemption for water rationing, the possibility of developing an equine passport system, and the need for zoning changes as it related to equestrian and dwelling units. It was also suggested that letters be sent to those council members who have not yet nominated committee representatives.

The next meeting of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee will be held Monday, January 25, 2010, at 6:30pm at the Equestrian Center. The meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.