

Los Angeles Equine Advisory committee

Monday, January 25, 2010

6:30PM

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:35Pm by Chair Kevin Regan. Members present: Dale Gibson, Jill Haber*, Lynn Brown, Melanie Coto*, Mary Benson, Natalie Blancardi, Kevin Atkins*, Todd LaVergne*, Randall Young, and Gene Gilbert.

The meeting minutes of December 1, 2009, were approved.

A presentation was made by Mr. Dennis Dolinar (maintenance supervisor for the Angeles District) and Mr. Dale Skinner (acting trails coordinator for the Angeles District) from the California State Parks. An overview of the State Parks and how they interface with City parks was provided. The goal is to develop parks closer to urban areas. The following State Parks that are in close proximity to the City: Santa Susanna State Historic Park, Topanga State Park, and the Verdugo Mountains. Brief descriptions of each State Park including trails as well as trail standards, were provided.

A discussion regarding the role of Pierce College in the equine community followed. The school's historical agricultural importance and current decline in agricultural and equine matters were discussed. However, it was noted that the school is available as an evacuation center during emergencies. It was decided that no intervention was needed at this time.

The next item for discussion was the Trails Master Plan, which was last updated in 1968. A motion was unanimously approved to form a standing committee to begin updating this plan. Committee members are: Lynn Brown, Natalie Blancardi, Kevin Atkins, and Randy Young.

Public comments included development of an Equestrian Bill of Rights to present to the City Council and the Department of Animal Services provided information regarding animal evacuations during emergencies.

Mary Benson stated that she would be stepping down from the committee as a member, but still be involved with equine matters, as she currently works for Councilmember Krekorian, Council District 2.

It was suggested that an amendment be made to the Council File which established the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee to include the committee being staffed by representatives from the City Planning Department and the Bureau of Engineering. This would assist the Committee with making changes to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to revise codes and standards such as barn size and legal non-conforming issues.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 22, 2010, subject to the availability of the meeting room at the Equestrian Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08PM.

*Members arrived during discussion of Item No. 4 (presentation of the California State Parks System).