

City of Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee Minutes of meeting held at Friendship Hall 3201  
Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027 on November 24, 2014.

ITEM NO. (1) Dale Gibson acted as Chair for the meeting and began with a roll-call, welcome and introductions.

	Present	Absent
Joe Salicias, Chair.Rep.	<b>X</b>	
District 1 - Julian Sandoval		<b>X</b>
District 2 - Nick Pool		<b>X</b>
District 3 - Jill Haber		<b>X</b>
District 4 - Lynn Brown	<b>X</b>	
District 5 - Melanie Coto	<b>X</b>	
District 6 - Mary Benson	<b>X</b>	
District 7 - Dale Gibson	<b>X</b>	
District 8 - Kevin Atkins	<b>X</b>	
District 9 - Brady Westwater		<b>X</b>
District 10 - Todd La Vergne	<b>X</b>	
District 11 - Larry Watts	<b>X</b>	
District 12 - Mary Kaufman		<b>X</b>
District 13 - Gene Gilbert	<b>X</b>	
District 14		Vacant
District 15		Vacant
Mayor Scott Perez		<b>X</b>

ITEM NO. (2) The Chair next formally called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m.

ITEM NO. (3) The Chair next asked the LAEAC members to introduce themselves and asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

ITEM NO. (4) The Chair asked Member Brown to report on the Day of the Horse on October 22, 2014 at the City Council Chamber led by Councilman Tom LaBonge. Ms. Brown noted this year's theme focusing on youth as our riders of the future was extremely well received by the council. There were 18 separate groups represented ranging from ETI and IEL and the USC Inter-Collegiate Equestrian Team, as well as special organizations serving economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth as well groups working with emotionally and physically disadvantaged kids .

ITEM NO. (5) The Chair next recognized member Benson who presented a proposed 2015 meeting schedule for the LAEAC. After discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following 2015 meeting schedule was adopted: January 26, March 23, June 1, July 27, September 28 and November 23. At present all meetings will be held at Freedom Hal, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

In addition member Benson noted that the World Special Olympics Summer Games equestrian events will take place between July 25 and August 2 at the LAEC. She also reported that the 2015 Day of the Horse will be on October 2 and acknowledged a City Council meeting tentatively set for October 9, 2015.

ITEM NO. (6) The Chair next recognized member Atkins and asked him for an update of the recent scoping meeting for a proposed equestrian center to be constructed at the Ervin "Magic" Johnson County Park at 901 El Segundo Blvd. that conducted by the LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Member Atkins described a large outpouring public support in the community for such a facility. However, he noted that a small but local group of residents near the park who look upon it as "their" park, expressed reservations about the park. The opposition focused on "smells and flies" and questioned whether the center would be properly maintained. Member Atkins expressed optimism that despite this opposition the equestrian park would be approved and built. He suggested a letter from the LAEAC in support of the park would be helpful and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the LAEAC will write to the LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation in support of the proposed equestrian center.

ITEM NO. (7) The Chair next asked Member Benson to report concerning the accomplishments and activities of the LAEAC during 2014, which included outreach programs such as the Mayor's ride in March and the October Day of the Horse, the Planning & LU Committee's work to obtain a LADBS interpretation of "agricultural buildings" that will allow construction of standard 10X12 shelters for pipe corrals without requiring a building permit and City Council Motion 14-0389 which is designed to protect backyard horse-keeping facilities through flagging all residential lots capable of animal keeping and requiring new residential construction to be accompanied by an affidavit stating no horse-keeping properties will be affected by the new construction. She also summarized the Trails Committee's work with the National Park Service to identify NE San Fernando Valley trails and with Mike Shull, Gen. Mgr. of LA Dept. of Rec. and Parks Project Director Robert Ojilawa on a RTCA trails grant. She also reported on a meeting she and Member Lynn Brown had with representatives of LA County Dept. of Parks & Recreation to explore ways the County and the City can partner on equine related projects.

ITEM NO. (8) Member Benson was next asked to outline potential 2015 goals and objectives for the LAEAC. She observed the Day of the Horse them has recently set the tone in that regard and since this year's theme was Youth and Riders of the Future, it would be appropriate in 2015 for LAEAC to focus on youth equestrian programs such as U.S. Pony Clubs, IEL, with a specific goal of bringing these programs and their benefits to the attention of a wider audience. She explained many young people interested in a career with horses, veterinary science or simply seeking physical education credit or independent study in equestrian disciplines, may feel utterly alone seeking opportunities to pursue their passion and unaware these organizations are available and can be incorporated into their current educational situation.

Three day eventing, dressage and show jumping are internationally recognized and offer competition at the highest level nationally and internationally, including the Olympics and are the only sports where males and females can compete on the same team. Currently, IEL has sports clubs in nearly 100 schools, including the Los Angeles Unified School District. Last Year Burbank Unified School Board approved Equestrian an equestrian credit program. LAEAC should work in 2015 to expand equestrian opportunities for LAUSD students.

2015 is also the year that the World Special Olympics Summer Games will feature Equestrian competition at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center from July 25 to August 2nd. The Organizing Committee for the Games will be responsible for providing mounts for the competitors. An estimated 90 horses will be needed from local sources between now and July. LAEAC should coordinate with the Organizing Committee for the Games to assure they are a great success.

Member Benson stated that the UC Davis Center for Equine Health fall 2014 Horse Report focused on disaster preparedness for horses and other large animals. She suggested LAEAC can assist the City by preparing a report to the PAWS Committee with suggestions on how to better serve the area's estimated 20,000 horses and the stables that house them in the event of a major disaster.

It was also suggested that LAEAC must continue to monitor the on-going LA Master Plan Review process as it will have an impact on equine-keeping and recreation opportunities. LAEAC should also continue to monitor and support the plans of LA County Dept,.. of Parks & Recreation to build an equine center at Magic Johnson County Park.

- ITEM NO. (9) The minutes of the July 28, 2014 and September 22, 2014 LAEAC meeting were approved with the correction that Member Gibson was in attendance at the July meeting. These minutes will be posted on the LAEAC website.
- ITEM NO. (10) The Chair asked if there were any announcement. There were none.
- ITEM NO. (11) The Chair announced that the next LAEAC meeting will be on January 26, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Friendship Hall 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, CA 91506. There was a brief discussion of alternative sites for holding LAEAC meetings.. There was a consensus that Friendship Hall was probably the most convenient location, but that on occasion other sites could be considered. No action was take on this subject.
- ITEM NO. (12) There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary