

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

February 17, 2022

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: MICHAEL A. SHULL, General Manager



SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
1) Griffith Park Pony Ride comments	#9054qn-sk	Referred to General Manager
2) Jen Ritchkoff comments regarding westwood Park	#9056d	Referred to General Manager
3) Sarajane Schwartz comments as Safety Chair of Hollywoodland Homeowners Association regarding Hollywoodland	#9074	Referred to General Manager
4) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Park	#9075	Referred to General Manager
5) Ruth Roofless comments regarding displaced people living in parks	#9076	Note and File
6) Elida Mendez comments regarding Community Wall St Park	#9077	Referred to General Manager
7) Pae White comments regarding Debs park	#9078	Referred to General Manager
8) Levi Zollinger comments regarding Spring St Park	#9079	Referred to General Manager
9) City Council motion regarding honorary naming of Venice Pier	#9080	Note and File
10) Eric Drachman comments regarding Glen Alla Dog Park	#9081	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Jessica Martinez, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:09 PM

To: Mel >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 10:06 AM Mel < > wrote:

Commissioners,

I am a lifelong LA resident, I live right down the road from Griffith park and often go up there on walks. I'm emailing today to please ask you NOT to renew Griffith Park Pony Rides contract. Allowing people to pay for these rides teaches children that animals are objects to use for our entertainment. No matter how "well" they are treated, they cannot consent to be ridden or paraded around. Please send these ponies to sanctuaries immediately.

Thank you,
Melinda McKee

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:10 PM

To: Ava Soni >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 10:09 AM Ava Soni < > wrote:

Hi there,

There wasn't time to get to my comment in the public meeting this morning.

I'd really like for that whole pony ride area to be replaced with something like a community garden or play structure-something more inclusive to the community, because many people can't interact with animals due to medical reasons. If it's for the community, everybody's needs should be considered. I think the funds spent on potentially reforming the pony rides could be better spent elsewhere.

Would love for the ponies to be responsibly retired to a sanctuary too.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

--

Ava Soni

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: sasha moldavsky <

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:11 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 10:10 AM sasha moldavsky

> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Sasha and I'm writing to ask you to **please cancel the contract for the Griffith Park Pony Rides and move the animals to a reputable sanctuary**. The animals are overworked, suffering with various medical ailments, and are simply not adequately cared for and should not be used for human entertainment. Public opinion is quickly moving away from using animals for human entertainment and it's high time the city of LA follow suit. This attraction has been proven to be a dangerous situation for both the animals and children, and therefor a huge liability for the city and everyone involved. There are so many non-animal attractions that the pony rides can be replaced with, certainly we can do better for the animals, the children, and our community. I urge you to please make the sensible, kind, and prudent decision, to cancel the contract for the pony rides.

Thank you,
Sasha Moldavsky

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:12 PM

To: Jhan Harp

>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 10:22 AM Jhan Harp

> wrote:

Thank you so much for the meeting today on the pony rides. While I didn't get a chance to speak, I appreciate the thoughtful discourse. I watched a YouTube video of a girl falling from a pony and being dragged and trampled taken last year (one speaker mentioned it). Fundamentally, this issue wouldn't be addressed by the changes recommended by the veterinarian. Furthermore, rather basic health issues seemed to be ignored until the announced visit by the vet.

There's a pretty clear pattern of neglect and I'll-only-fix-what-I-have-to-when-I-have-to from the concessionaire while allowing risk to the public and these ponies.

I'd strongly urge the commissioners not to renew the contract and to replace this outdated and dangerous sideshow with a safer, more wholesome, and more empathetic feature. Griffith Park is a world-class park, and LA is better for it, but this pony ride gives it a black eye.

Please do the kind thing and help these ponies retire to a sanctuary.

Thanks so much,
Jhan Harp
(resident of Woodland Hills)

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony rides in Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:13 PM

To: Lisa Lange

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 10:24 AM Lisa Lange

wrote:

Dear commissioners,

I am a Los Angeles native who has long loved and enjoyed Griffith Park. It is a place Los Angeles should be proud of but the pony rides are a cruel blight. So many of my out-of-town visitors can't believe that the pony rides are still allowed, and neither can I. You have an opportunity to do what should have been done so long ago and end this depressing spectacle.

Those who make money from the rides whine that "it is for the kids" when no-one naturally abhors cruelty more than children.

Summers are getting longer and hotter. The time to end the misery of these poor horses is now.

Thank you.

Lisa Lange

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides at Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:13 PM

To: Rebecca M

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 10:44 AM Rebecca M

wrote:

Hello Commissioners,

I listened in to today's meeting about the pony rides at Griffith Park and I strongly feel that the contract for this venue should not be renewed. There is clearly a history of neglect here that has gone on for years, and while there have been adjustments made since there's been more attention brought to the issue, that is not guarantee that conditions will continue to be met. This is especially true considering the high cost of maintaining adequate conditions.

And even so, we should not be teaching the children of Los Angeles that animals exist merely for their entertainment. These are living beings who surely do not want to slave away all day, walking in circles endlessly, with children on their backs. Just because they can't speak our language to tell us they don't like it, doesn't mean we should continue to subject them to it.

There are much better ways to educate children about animals, like allowing them to respectfully interact with them in sanctuary settings (reputable sanctuaries like The Gentle Barn for an example).

Surely, a creative city such as Los Angeles can come up with a better, non-animal activity for children instead of this outdated ride.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Rebecca Maness
E-mail:

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: MICHELE WALTHER

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:14 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 11:36 AM MICHELE WALTHER <s wrote:

Please commissioners I beg that you do not renew the contract for Griffith Park and pony rides and have them sent to a sanctuary where they can live out their lives with respect and decency they deserve.

This park doesn't meet basic standards of care for equines. Please before you make your decision. Review the equine Vet findings that indicate many violations like improper dental care, saddle sores and no Medical records on these animals which is basic criteria and violation of code 25998. Many footages of their horrific conditions. These ponies ride for hours in all elements of weather without water.

LA has banned fur wild animals for entertainment and bullhooks, this isn't any different. Its animal abuse for profit.

This park doesn't align with our values and it shouldn't with you. It teaches kids that its ok to treat animals poorly and violent these sentient beings. When children are showed to be unkind to animals. they will do same with people.

Lets stop this moulding of violence to animals now and give our equine their respect and love.

So once again I am asking to dig deep in your heart and soul and see this contract should not be renewed or closed for now till this is reviewed. This is archaic in 2022 and only entertainment for profit.

A sanctuary where ponies are valued for their beauty and respect they deserve in the way our world should be

Thanks Michele

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park and Pony

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:14 PM

To: karen elger

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 11:36 AM karen elger

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners

I respectfully urge you to please not renew the Griffith Park and Pony Ride Concession.

The videos sadly show the obvious neglect of the animals.

There is also a serious concern for child safety.

Please make the humane decision not to renew and please have the animals sent to a sanctuary where they can be cared for properly.

Thankyou for your time.

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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: pony rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:15 PM

To: Peter Lecki

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 12:17 PM Peter Lecki < > wrote:

I attended the meeting today but understandably did not get a chance to speak since if everyone spoke, it would be a three hour meeting.

I'm part of one of the animal rights groups protesting onsite and I've been at Griffith every weekend over the last three months. During that time, I saw 100% of the ponies in 100% of the time with their heads down. Not a single time did I see even one of them lift their head up for anything but water. They have no interest in looking up at the world around them and look straight at the ground in front of them. They seem very depressed the entire time. They gave up on life. Los Angeles promotes life and freedom, not depression. Let's not depress animals and let's not teach our children that it's normal for those animals to be sad. That's the only thing they see at Griffith, very sad horses.

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park horses

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:15 PM

To: Donny Moss

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 12:27 PM Donny Moss

t> wrote:

Dear Commissioners:

In 2008, I made a documentary film called BLINDERS about the use of horses in an urban setting. While making the film, I interviewed equine experts who, on behalf of the ASPCA, studied and monitored the horses who pull carriages in Central Park. While pony rides and horse-drawn carriage rides are not the same, some of the conditions that make these concessions inhumane are.

Horses are grazing animals, but, in Griffith Park, they don't have access to a grassy pasture for daily turnout. That's inhumane. Also, horses are prey animals, not predators. When they spook and bolt, they become unwitting weapons. People who operate horse concessions in urban areas claim that their horses are bomb proof, but we've seen these horses get spooked by sirens and unfamiliar objects. No amount of regulation or enforcement can stop a horse from spooking.

In recent years, the mainstream public has become more and more disturbed by the use of animals for our entertainment. That's why Ringling Bros. eliminated animal acts and why Seaworld is no longer breeding killer whales in captivity. When animals are commodified, cruelty is built into the business model. The owner of the pony ride concession simply cannot make a profit if he provides the nearly 50 horses in his possession with sufficient veterinary care, farrier care and dental care. Selling a sick or injured horse to a killer buyer and buying a new one with the proceeds is far less expensive.

Making money off the backs of horses is outdated and cruel. That is why progressive lawmakers should help the owner of this concession transition to cruelty-free forms of entertainment. What about hay rides and potato sack races? The options are endless.

It's 2022, we have to do better.

Thank you.

Donny Moss
Blinders The Movie

221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640

Fax: (213) 202-2610

Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Wendy Minovitz

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:15 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 12:31 PM Wendy Minovitz

> wrote:

My name is Wendy Marcus-Minovitz and I am proud to be an animal rights activist and speak up for the voiceless ones.

I don't understand how in 2022 society still feels that it is acceptable and even advantageous to exploit animals and use them for our entertainment especially when there are so many other viable options available that do not incorporate the use of live animals.

As a mother and grandmother I know firsthand how important it is to teach children kindness, love and respect towards all animals. They are sentient beings who feel pain, sadness, fear and the loss of family and freedom. Taking children to Griffith Park to ride ponies does not accomplish these goals no matter how many times a person tries to convince themselves that it is harmless. In fact it gives the message that it doesn't matter how animals are treated because their lives are not important. I am here to say that their lives are important!

Even if Griffith Park Pony Rides passes inspection and minimum requirements are met it still doesn't make it more acceptable to exploit these animals and it does not improve the quality of their lives. The fact that their lives are reduced to making money for human profit is despicable.

Los Angeles has already been a frontrunner and champion by banning the sale of fur and wild animals in circuses. Let's show the world that we are also a leader in animal welfare by not renewing the contract for Griffith Park Pony Rides.

Sincerely,
Wendy Marcus-Minovitz

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: kimmiethekeeper <

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:15 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 12:40 PM kimmiethekeeper <

wrote:

My name is Kimberlie Valadez and I am resident of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles has already banned fur, banned wild animals for entertainment, and the bullhook. Pony Rides are no different than the circus where animals have been seen to be forced to work against their will. For the past five years the ponies at Griffith Park have languished in the heat, cold, and depression. The time to end this abuse is now.

The operator claims that he is passing all of his inspection reports, however there is evidence of animal abuse and neglect, while still allowing a pony with gait issues to perform rides.

- Teaching our children kindness towards animals does not occur at this park. We are molding our future generations that violence towards animals is okay. When children are unkind to animals they will certainly be unkind to humans.
- Griffith Park and Pony Ride does not meet basic standards of care for equines
- Equine expert has confirmed that the ponies are depressed

Please do not renew the contract for Griffith Park and Pony Ride, have the animals sent to a sanctuary, and replace this park with a non-animal model so that we can ensure that our children are safe, and that our animals are treated with the decency and respect that they deserve.

Sent from my Galaxy

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figuroa Plaza
221 North Figuroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:16 PM

To: Sara Abdelmoneim

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 2:00 PM Sara Abdelmoneim

> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of a very large and concerned population of the public, I would like to request that the contract for Griffith Park and Pony Ride not be renewed and instead, have the animals sent to a sanctuary. It would be more ethical for us to replace this park with a non-animal model so that we can ensure that our children are safe, and that our animals are treated with the decency and respect that they deserve.

Regards,

Sara Verastegui

@Herbivore.Artist

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Patty Shenker

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:17 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 2:12 PM Patty Shenker

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I was sorry that I didn't get to speak at today's meeting concerning the pony rides because I had something else to say, though I thought those who did speak made their points clearly and politely. I also thought you all were hearing us seriously and were very cordial.

Here was what I wanted to say.

I ask you to NOT renew the pony rides & petting zoos. While this may have been acceptable in 1948 when it started, we have changed our attitude and treatment towards animals & this is outdated & needs to be replaced.

There are so many other kinder activities to offer families. In Woodland Hills, there have the largest bounce park that appeals to the whole family & the many different aged children and doesn't entail animal suffering. It also gets kids to exercise which many do not get enough of these days.

It's called [FUNBOX.COM](https://www.funbox.com). The 9000 foot maze has more than 20 large art installments. More than 60,000 art pieces range from teddy bears to Fruit Loops. They have obstacle courses, dodgeball, a Ninja wall, slides and much more.

PLUS All Funbox locations support a small, localized community that advocates and supports children in foster care.

I urge you to look into this possibility. Please end this & make sure these animals are sent to a sanctuary.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Patty Shenker

--
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Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith's Park Contract

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Jessica R. Booher (Alumni)"

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:17 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 3:07 PM Jessica R. Booher (Alumni)

wrote:

Hello,

My name is Jessica Booher. I am urging you to (1) not renew the contract with Griffiths Park and (2) outrightly ban all pony rides in LA.

In addition to what others have commented today, I also wanted to note that most of the ponies' halters are ill-fitted, putting pressure on the delicate nasal bone. This is especially concerning given that so many of the ponies are seniors, who should have been retired long ago regardless of how much they allegedly "love" their work. This is also unsafe for children, as the lack of a helmet requirement poses a serious risk to riders. Even people with minimal equine experience are aware of this, and even some of the most experienced equestrians in the world such as Olympic riders wear helmets every time they sit atop a horse.

Publicly, on Griffiths website, there are multiple pictures of ponies with pinned ears, indicating anger, discomfort, or both. Additionally, you can quickly and easily find many photos and videos of workers clapping and running behind the ponies, with the intent of scaring them into work they obviously do not want to perform. This strongly undermines Griffiths Park's claims about how much their ponies "love" their work.

Any person who loves and/or is familiar with horses is appalled by the existence of such pony rides, regardless of how well Griffith Park claims to treat the animals under their care. Seeing ponies being treated as objects forced to do labor does NOT foster respect or a love for animals. I hope these ponies are all put out to pasture as soon as possible. Please do not renew the contract.

Sincerely,
Jessica

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Inquiry into the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:17 PM

To: John Smith

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 5:11 PM John Smith

wrote:

To the honored committee,

I had called into the meeting this morning pertaining to the concession renewal for the Griffith Park Pony Rides with the hope of expressing my vehement disapproval of the act. Though I was not selected to voice my concerns, I was pleased to hear the massive support in favor of NOT renewing this concessionaire's contract.

As an individual who is extremely concerned with the safety of both our city's children and our fellow animals, the Griffith Park Pony Rides are a high-stakes risk to the first group and an existential danger to the second. I have personally witnessed horses being driven to run in heat exceeding ninety degrees fahrenheit for hours on end, and have seen a disturbing video of a child being dragged and trampled under a startled horse's hooves.

No amount of children having "fun" is worth a single other child being trampled into the dirt, and all of the "fun" in the world is not worth the burden that these horses are forced to bear in their lives of intense servitude.

The children have no real say. The horses have no say whatsoever. You have a say. Use your voice to advocate for what is right, to protect our youth and protect the other animals with whom we share this planet.

Do not renew the concession of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, and ban live animal entertainment in the city of Los Angeles.

Thank you for your consideration.

- John Smith

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: I support the Griffith Park pony rides!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Denise Crew von Held

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:17 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 5:15 PM Denise Crew von Held

> wrote:

Hello. I'm a mom of two small children and a horse mom, too. I want my children to explore all animals and teach them kindness so I've always looked at the Pony Rides with a keen eye as a lifelong equestrian. I SEE NOTHING HARMFUL WITH THE TREATMENT OF PONIES. Their paddock has an adequate space to roam with socializing and shade. It's clean and well-maintained. You can get a sneak peek of this from the train and I'm always looking. The ponies themselves while working all show signs of happiness and contentment. Heads low and ears splayed to the side might look miserable to a non-horse person but it's actually a sign of feeling happy, safe and secure. The people who work there treat the ponies with kindness in a respectable way. They say no to requests and put the horses first if a child isn't acting in a safe manner. They know the ponies well, their characteristics and their behavior. They give ponies breaks and time off. The ponies are always well groomed. I take both of my kids there and tell others that it's a safe activity. I love that it's a long time local business in our community! I'm an animal lover and activist but I do not agree with the naysayers in this case.

Thanks for listening,
Denise von Held

axel, rocco & teddy's mama

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

**Re:**

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:18 PM

To: Mars Green

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 5:32 PM Mars Green < > wrote:

Dear Honorable Council members,

Stephen Weeks, comparing wild horses to ponies, shows limited knowledge or concern for these ponies ! There is no comparison. Wild Horses know how to care for themselves in the wild. These ponies are caged and rely on humans to care for them !

Some of the ponies are fat, most likely due to once a day feeding, causing them to over eat at feeding time or he doesn't feed enough and some ponies eat more than others. Laminitis, an extremely painful condition, affecting the laminae tissue connecting the hoof wall to the pedal bone, can be the result of this overweight condition!

Walking a pony w laminitis will cause more damage to the hoof and is clearly evident in several of these ponies. He treats them as if they were in a slaughterhouse, sucking every bit of life out of them knowing he can get another one.

They show signs of depression!
The level-neck "withdrawn" stance, dull stare, immobile head and ears, and reduced reactions to humans yet increased reactiveness to new stimuli,such as when that guy was forcing them to run.

A daily minimum of 45 minutes should be spent grooming and assessing/documenting each pony's health initialized by another caregiver, accountable for their approval. Feed and drinking water should be available twice daily including adequate fodder and concentrates with a high content of nutritional substances. These ponies spend day after day working in the hot sun w/ no available water.

Reasonable Provisions for ponies:

1. Provide a pasture while mucking out the pony enclosure !Ammonia from urine and manure is harmful to horses, causing problems like thrush, a fungal yeast infection that can grow in the mouth, throat and other parts of the body and damage to their hooves !
2. Provide clean comfortable bedding.
They prefer to be strongly rubbed and stroked on the neck, shoulders, hip and chest.
Some ponies enjoy having their heads and ears rubbed.
Their muscles get tight and sore just like ours do.
3. Do a visual check for any scrapes, cuts, bruises and puncture wounds on the ponies legs, head, and body. Treat any injuries promptly and have a horse first aid kit on hand.
4. Daily care and bonding
Do a visual check, while grooming to rid them of the dirt/dust/lose hair and for signs of illness and injury Daily hoof cleaning, ck for any problems w their feet for any bruising, cracks, or loose shoes.

Ponies like to be spoken to in a calm, generally low-pitched, and natural voice while being cared for.

These ponies are barely alive due to the excruciating poor care.
Please don't support this animal abuse and neglect ?

I would appreciate a return email with your thoughts.

Respectfully,
M Green

--

--
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Re:

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Mars Green <

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:19 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 11:51 AM Mars Green < wrote:
Ponies

Dear Commissioner,

We aren't trying to take anyone's business from them.
There needs to be proper care when animals are involved !

As you can clearly see, this pony is depressed and missing fur on its face. A clear sign of neglect and improper care.

PLEASE don't allow this cruelty to continue !



Respectfully,
M Green

--
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Re: Ponies

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Mars Green <

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:19 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 12:00 PM Mars Green

> wrote:

Notice the depression in this pony compared to a healthy pony.



221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re:

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Mars Green >

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:19 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 12:07 PM Mars Green < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

This is what healthy ponies should look like.
Griffith Park ponies are depressed, in pain and neglected.





--
Respectfully,
M Green

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Horse and Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:18 PM

To: Emily

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 7:53 PM Emily

wrote:

Dear Recreation and Parks Commission,

Good evening and thank you for listening to the complaints of the concerned citizens of Los Angeles regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides during the meeting this morning.

I want to begin by stating the obvious fact that legality does not constitute morality. Please consider this when going forward. Ask yourself whether it is more important to follow the norms of the day or to set the tone for tomorrow based on what you know to be right and wrong.

As we are all aware, the lives of these horses consist of being either tied to a turnstile to push in circles for hour after hour, or being scared and harrassed into running around a track. If you've ever gone to see the horses there, you know that they are absolutely miserable. Who wouldn't be if they were forced into a life like that? This should be of utmost concern to anyone with an interest in defending those who cannot speak up for or defend themselves as well as those with an interest in teaching their children to be compassionate and intelligent decision makers.

Please do not renew the contract for the Griffith Park Pony Rides, and consider supporting a larger ban to prevent this from happening in the future.

Thank you for hearing us.

- Emily

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re:  Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:18 PM

To: inger

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 9:53 AM inger

> wrote:

The Commissioners for Park and Recreation

Unfortunately I was unable to be on the Zoom meeting yesterday morning in regards to the pony rides at Griffith Park.

I'm reaching out to you to demand a ban on the cruel pony rides. Please do not renew any contract for such animal cruelty.

It has been documented that the ponies has soars, sadle soars, gait walk and worse... They are sad and depressed, please let them go to a good Sanctuary approved by the activists fighting for them. It's heart breaking and infuriating to know that this cruelty has not been banned by now.

Please, help us teach our children kindness, love and respect for other individuals, especially defenseless animals and beings.

We know that violence breeds more violence.

Thank you so much for looking into this, we count on you.

Sincerely,
Inger E.

--
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Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides - Letter of Support

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Carolyn Elliott

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:18 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 11:31 AM Carolyn Elliott <

> wrote:

Hello and THANK YOU for your fair and balanced inquiry into the activists' concerns at the Griffith Park Pony rides.

As a horse owner myself, I listened to the council meeting with keen interest. I was relieved to hear you ask fair questions, and that you worked to help all understand that the findings of the independent auditors were not egregious, in fact were largely in the realm of record keeping and that many of their concerns have already been addressed.

I was not called upon to comment, but it was with absolute shock then during public comment that I listened to the well intentioned, but unhinged comments, from very organized activists who clearly have had no personal experience with horses.

As you come to making a decision, I urge you to take into consideration that the optics of animal keeping of all kinds will feel foreign to those who do not have access to animals. Without access there is no understanding. We absolutely need to work together as an equine community to keep this vital resource for the purposes of access and education. We need to work together to improve the optics by increasing understanding/educating the public.

There are very real places of concern for me with horse keeping, primarily with hoarders masquerading as sanctuaries that don't have the resources to care for the animals they have. THAT is where you see gross neglect. The ponies in Griffith Park are clearly well fed, are relaxed and happy, and enjoy their job. Trust me, if they didn't they would be behaving very differently!

As I'm sure equestrians have shared, a happy horse is one that has a relaxed head carriage, is breathing normally, and is calm. The only distress I encountered when visiting was that of parents of small children struggling to wait in the long line.

It is with distinct fondness that I recall bringing friends to the pony rides for my daughter's birthday party. It was before we had horses of our own, and it was the moment that made my daughter fall in love with horses and set us on the road to finding an area where horsekeeping is possible (the amazing Lake View Terrace!)

Please consider taking actions to preserve this incredible resource for access for those who do not have a lot of money. If you consider changes, please work to increase the public's understanding of horses and add an education element to the experience. It's only really the optics that need to change.

I cannot fathom how Mr. Weeks has carried on with the visceral, relentless and sustained campaign against his business. I hope that you continue to provide fair, balanced and supportive feedback so that he can continue creating beautiful memories for children and families who live and visit Los Angeles.

Thank you for reading my email - I know you are getting SO many right now. I just wanted you to know that while the activists are organized, there are many people who genuinely love visiting the pony rides and do not have any idea that this battle for the future of the concession is going on. I hope that activists are not the only voices that you hear at this time.

You're doing a great job during a crazy time - thank you!

--

Warmly,

Carolyn Elliott

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please Ban Pony and Horse rides.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: GLORIA CARBAJAL

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:19 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 11:48 AM GLORIA CARBAJAL <
Greetings Commissioners,

> wrote:

I live in Texas near Dallas, part of and one of nearly 3,900 followers of Facebook Page, Texas Animal Freedom Fighters. We stand in solitude with every single individual who spoke yesterday morning.

We are part of a growing society of people who are against the use of ponies and horses for entertainment and /or personal financial gain.

As the veterinarian stated so clearly these animals are lacking in care. And as the the local residents and/ or visitors so emotional cried out these places do not belong in modern society. These animals do not want humans on their backs.

It is clear in their eyes that they are very sad.

California is seen to many of as the progressive state please follow suit and ban this sad industry.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Gloria Raquel Carbajal

cL Texas Animal Freedom Fighters

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: In Defense of Animals Comment for 2.3.22 Meeting to Review Griffith Park and Pony Ride

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Lisa Levinson >

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:20 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 12:52 PM Lisa Levinson > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for holding the meeting to review veterinary findings from a report on conditions for ponies working for Griffith Park and Pony Ride. Since I wasn't called on to speak during the meeting yesterday, please see my comments below for your consideration.

As Campaigns Director for In Defense of Animals, a California-based international animal protection nonprofit organization with 250,000 supporters, I'd like to share our concerns that Griffith Park and Pony Ride does not meet the basic standards of care for equines.

Many of our local supporters have reported that these ponies haven't received proper dental care and have been working with saddle sores. We received reports of animal abuse and neglect, including a pony with gait issues who was allowed to perform rides. The ponies at Griffith Park appear to be languishing in the heat and cold, and suffering from depression.

We urge you NOT to renew the contract for Griffith Park and Pony Ride, to send these ponies to a sanctuary, and to offer non-animal entertainment at this park to demonstrate compassion for animals.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Lisa Levinson
Campaigns Director
Sustainable Activism & Wild Animals Campaigns



In Defense of Animals

Animal charities will struggle to stay afloat during this economic downturn. If you're able, please consider making a monthly donation to In Defense of Animals. You can become an Animal Advocate here:

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Help the horses!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:20 PM

To: Kyle Luzynski

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 1:06 PM Kyle Luzynski

> wrote:

Please ban horse carriages!

Until *every* animal is free,

Kyle Luzynski
Executive Director
Project Animal Freedom

"Together, we can change the world, one heart, one mind, one stomach at a time!"

<https://www.projectanimalfreedom.org/>

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re:

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:20 PM

To: Laurie

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 1:52 PM Laurie < | > wrote:

As a former horse owner myself, I join those who have said the treatment of the ponies at the Griffith Park pony rides is concerning. It is upsetting to see these ponies tethered to a live carousel made to walk in circles, or to spend hours each day no matter the weather going around and around the pony rides ring. There's also a private party area in which one pony is forced to give rides to the children attending the party. This is a difficult thing to witness and no life for these animals. This is not the way to teach children to interact with or enjoy animals.

There is a considerable smell in this area. The ponies are kept outside in the heat. Are they getting watered frequently enough? What about rest periods? I have seen disturbing videos which have shown potentially dangerous situations for the children riding these ponies. I've also heard there are third party equine veterinarian findings that indicate the ponies haven't received proper dental care and are suffering saddle sores, meaning they are made to work in discomfort of pain. Why the necessity for observers to report these situations before change is made rather than the concession owners doing right by these living beings who are forced to work for a living?

Los Angeles has moved in the direction of becoming a more animal friendly, kind city which has banned the declawing of cats, banned fur sales, banned the usage of wild animals for entertainment. It is devastating to see the sad ponies who are forced to give countless rides. It is no different from an animal having to work in a circus.

I hope Los Angeles remains a forward thinking city with regard to animal welfare and encourages compassion and kindness towards animals. Banning the pony rides would be a huge step forward in teaching children empathy toward all living beings. Please do not renew the contract for these pony rides at Griffith Park. We urge you to replace these pony rides with non-animal, fun attractions such as trains to ensure that parents can take their children to Griffith Park for safe, fun

rides that do not exploit any animals. These animals deserve to be sent to a sanctuary to live of the remainder of their lives of service in peace.

Sincerely,

Laurie Paladino

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Council Meeting

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Leslie Randall >

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 1:56 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 6:06 PM

wrote:

Good Evening to All,

My name is Leslie Randall and I am writing to you in regard to the Griffith Park Ponies and Petting Zoo animals. Today I signed on to participate in the council meeting at 8:30am in hopes that I would be able to speak to all of you. Fortunately, there were many others with the same idea, and I loved that!

Several weeks ago, I spent over three hours observing the ponies and the other animals at the Griffith Park venue and I was very alarmed, disappointed and to be quite honest....disgusted by what I saw. Ponies and horses looked like the walking dead. Water troughs filthy with scummy water and high enough for the larger horses but too high for the small ponies which left them with no water that I could find in place. The shade structure provided no shade due to the angle of the sun and the misters sent out a mist of water that carried up and over the shade structure and nowhere near the horses. Waste of water.

Today, as I listened to the reports and supposed changes made to this venue by the owner, the point is not to make changes to the venue but to eliminate it altogether! This is no life for these animals. All one has to do is ask themselves...."would I like to live a life like they have to?" And I guarantee the answer would be a resounding "NO". So then why is this behavior being allowed for them?

To offer pony rides and petting animals reaches a select few people. My suggestion is.... offer families from all surrounding areas (and tourists) a more family fun environment. Let the ponies and animals live their lives in peace without humans on their backs and put in a rock climbing wall or a go-kart track, or electric rides (trains, cars, etc.), a bike track, a photo booth, a rock painting area....the ideas are endless! Los Angeles has banned the bull hook, fur, and wild animal entertainment....what is the difference for banning those and not pony rides?

They say animals don't have a voice.... I happen to believe they have a voice, it is up to us to LISTEN to them better.

Please do not renew the contract for the ponies and petting animals and show everyone how progressively humane, kind and compassionate Los Angeles is!

Thank you for your time.

Leslie Randall

--
City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610

2/7/22, 3:06 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: Council Meeting

Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please take action.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 1:57 PM

To: Lisa >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 6:33 PM Lisa < > wrote:

Dear Honorable Council members,

Stephen Weeks, comparing wild horses to ponies, shows limited knowledge or concern for these ponies ! There is no comparison.

Some of the ponies are fat, most likely due to once a day feeding, causing them to over eat at feeding time or he doesn't feed enough and some ponies eat more than others. Laminitis, an extremely painful condition, affecting the laminae tissue connecting the hoof wall to the pedal bone, can be the result of this overweight condition!

Walking a pony w laminitis will cause more damage to the hoof and is clearly evident in several of these ponies. He treats them as if they were in a slaughterhouse, sucking every bit of life out of them knowing he can get another one.

They show signs of depression!

The level-neck "withdrawn" stance, dull stare, immobile head and ears, and reduced reactions to humans yet increased reactivity to new stimuli,such as when that guy was forcing them to run.

A daily minimum of 45 minutes should be spent grooming and assessing/documenting each pony's health initialized by another caregiver, accountable for their approval. Feed and drinking water should be available twice daily including adequate fodder and concentrates with a high content of nutritional substances. These ponies spend day after day working in the hot sun w/ no available water.

Reasonable Provisions for ponies:

1. Provide a pasture while mucking out the pony enclosure !Ammonia from urine and manure is harmful to horses, causing problems like thrush, a fungal yeast infection that can grow in the mouth, throat and other parts of the body and damage to their hooves !
2. Provide clean comfortable bedding.
They prefer to be strongly rubbed and stroked on the neck, shoulders, hip and chest.
Some ponies enjoy having their heads and ears rubbed.
Their muscles get tight and sore just like ours do.
3. Do a visual check for any scrapes, cuts, bruises and puncture wounds on the ponies legs, head, and body. Treat any injuries promptly and have a horse first aid kit on hand.
4. Daily care and bonding
Do a visual check, while grooming to rid them of the dirt/dust/lose hair and for signs of illness and injury.
Daily hoof cleaning, ck for any problems w their feet for any bruising, cracks, or loose shoes.

Ponies like to be spoken to in a calm, generally low-pitched, and natural voice while being cared for.

These ponies are barely alive due to the excruciating poor care.
Please don't support this animal abuse and neglect ?

I would appreciate a return email with your thoughts.

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re:

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Mars Green

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 1:58 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 8:32 AM Mars Green

> wrote:

Dear Honorable Council members,

Stephen Weeks comparing wild horses to ponies, shows limited knowledge or concern for these ponies ! There is no comparison.

Wild Horses have what they need and know how to care for themselves in the wild.

These ponies are caged and rely on humans to care for them !

Some of the ponies are fat, most likely due to once a day feeding, causing them to over eat at feeding time or he doesn't feed enough and some ponies eat more than others.

Laminitis, an extremely painful condition, affecting the laminae tissue connecting the hoof wall to the pedal bone, can be the result of this overweight condition!

Walking a pony w laminitis will cause more damage to the hoof and is clearly evident in several of these ponies.

He treats them as if they were in a slaughterhouse, sucking every bit of life out of them knowing he can get another one.

They show signs of depression!

The level-neck "withdrawn" stance, dull stare, immobile head and ears, and reduced reactions to humans yet increased reactivity to new stimuli, such as when they are forced to run.

A daily minimum of 45 minutes should be spent grooming and assessing/documenting each pony's health initiated by another caregiver, accountable for their approval.

Feed and drinking water should be available at least, twice daily including adequate fodder and concentrates with a high content of nutritional substances.

They spend day after day working in the hot sun w/ no available water.

Provisions for ponies:

1. Provide a pasture while mucking out the pony enclosure !

Ammonia from urine and manure is harmful to equine, causing problems like thrush, a fungal yeast infection that can grow in the mouth, throat and other parts of the body and damage to their hooves !

2. Provide clean comfortable bedding.

They prefer to be strongly rubbed and stroked on the neck, shoulders, hip and chest.

Some ponies enjoy having their heads and ears rubbed.

Their muscles get tight and sore just like ours do.

3. Do a visual check for any scrapes, cuts, bruises and puncture wounds on the ponies legs, head, and body. Treat any injuries promptly and have a horse first aid kit on hand.

4. Daily visual ck and bonding

Daily hoof cleaning, ck for any problems with their feet, like bruising, cracks, or loose shoes.

Ponies like to be spoken to in a calm, generally low-pitch and natural voice while being groomed to rid them of dirt/dust/loose hair, signs of illness or injury !

5. A dental exam every 6 months ! Not every equine needs to have teeth floated every year but their mouth should be checked for any sores or abscesses !

These ponies are barely alive due to excruciating poor care.

I would appreciate a response to my query !

Respectfully,

M Green

--

--

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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:10 PM

To: Jane Shaw <

>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 6:52 PM Jane Shaw

wrote:

I have been a horse professional in the area for 60 years. During that time, I have known some of the people servicing and running the pony rides at Griffith park. I frequently pass by and see the ponies out in their herd.

They are living like horses should— in a herd, outside with shelter available, with regular and adequate feeding, with regular hoof care and trimming, and knowledgeable horsemen overseeing everything. The ponies are trained with kindness. They are not overworked, and the vet is called when necessary.

They are much loved by the area children and much appreciated by LA parents who get to introduce their children to a horsey experience in our beautiful Griffith Park right here in the middle of the city.

They are pretty darned lucky critters. Let's keep it that way.

Jane Shaw

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Courtney V

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:11 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 9:37 PM Courtney V
To Whom it may concern,

wrote:

I have consistently ridden horses since I was ten years old (I am now in my mid-40's). The first picture of me riding was from when I was about 2, and it was on a pony ride similar to the Griffith Park Pony Rides setup. Since my first introduction to horses, I was that "horse-crazy kid" that would do anything to ride.

Horses (and ponies) helped me through depression and anxiety as a child and through my teens. I was so painfully shy that I couldn't look at people, let alone speak to strangers. Being around horses, taking on responsibilities for their care, exercise, and working with other people at the barn - kids and adults - helped me become more confident and allowed me to overcome the anxiety I felt on a daily basis.

Neither of my parents were "horse people." Without pony rides, there's a very good chance that I would have never been introduced to horses. Organizations like Griffith Park Pony Rides and other horse rental stables in Los Angeles provide access to city kids who wouldn't be introduced to horses every day.

Working with these amazing animals, both as an owner/rider and as a vet assistant for an equine veterinarian, has given my life stability when everything else seemed to fall apart. Riding kept a lot of us sane throughout the pandemic because we were able to keep riding since its an outdoor activity. The people I know in the horse world will do anything to provide for their equine companions. We give up vacations, and spend countless hours happily caring for and working with our 1,000 pound kids.

Steve Weeks is a good man, a good business owner, and cares for the horses (ponies) in his program. He has gone beyond what is required to care for them when they become sick, even sending them to the hospital on more than one occasion. I know this because I have been called out a few times to trailer a pony to West Coast Equine Hospital in Somis. The staff that I interacted with was always knowledgeable, friendly, and genuinely concerned about the health of the pony I was picking up. They had already called their local vet for care, and when the pony didn't improve with routine medication they didn't hesitate to take the next step of hospitalization.

While there is always room to improve in any situation, the ponies in question are not being over worked or suffering from poor care. The people making these claims appear to have little to no knowledge of livestock care requirements, and have a blanket thought process when it comes to animals in general being used by humans. They think it's cruel. There seems to be no thought on their part of the amount of work we put in as guardians of the animal in question, and no effort on their part to learn about the animal or it's abilities. If they would spend time with the actual animals in question, rather than make judgments from afar, maybe they would realize how much horses and humans improve each others lives.

Please don't shut down the Griffith Park Pony Rides. Ask for the concerns brought up by Dr. Sacher to be addressed, that's reasonable. But the pony rides should remain - for the good of the ponies as much as the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Courtney Van Ess
Horse lover and owner in Los Angeles--
City of Los Angeles

2/7/22, 3:13 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides support

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:13 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 7:01 AM < > wrote:

For many years I have driven past those pony rides on my way to the barn where I keep my horse. I have wondered about them getting enough rest and water on hot days, and I have walked down there to see for myself.

However I have seen a marked improvement in their welfare since Mr Weeks has taken over. There are some things which could still be attended to. But looking at the general age of the animals they would not have reached those ages if they hadn't been adequately cared for. Older animals do have more dental issues, and so that is expected to be an area of concern. However if their teeth were a bigger problem, they would not be able to eat properly and their general condition would reflect a loss of weight.

The other conditions are easily fixed and I would expect that Mr Weeks will be able to deal with the other issues quickly. I have heard that the protest group complained that the ponies didn't have their heads raised. I would note that the preferred posture of a horse or pony is with it's head down. When they raise their heads it is to deal with an alarming situation. In nature they raise their heads high to get a better look at a perceived threat. We enjoy seeing their heads up because they look so beautiful when alert. But for a horse or pony, that is not a relaxed position to maintain. If the public understood the stance, no one would want to put their child on a pony ready to flee the area.

I thank the concerned groups who have brought these conditions to your attention, but I deplore they actions in creating anxious visits to the children's recreation area. I hope that they will now go away and find a more worthy subject for their inspections. Lord knows there are many things they could be attending to. Dogs chained in yards with no water might be a suitable target.

I support the children's pony ride operation, and the joy they bring to generations of LA's children. With the additional veterinary attention and watering requirements I would expect an increase in the cost of a ride. Please know that children have very little access to the natural world, and removing this outdoor activity would further reduce the childhood experience that is in so much short supply.

Thank you
Jane Harrington

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Meredith McKenzie

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:15 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 12:58 PM Meredith McKenzie

> wrote:

Dear Mr. Rudnick and colleagues:

As a horse owner who previously boarded my ranch quarter horse at Griffith Park and who still pays for and holds two city licenses for my horses, including my rescued mustang, I must chime in on the insanity you are dealing with right now.

It is sad that we are living in the age of 'emotional instigation' and trolling, and this so-called animal rights group is among the strident people who, in fact, often actually hate horses and are on a mission to get them out of city locations. Are they a cover group for real estate developers? You decide, but as a former Adjunct Professor at Cal Poly Pomona who worked with the City's LA River Revitalization Program for many years, I saw a fabulous watershed-based urban nature program degenerate into a 'developer pay for play' scenario and I sense this is at least subtly at play here, especially in light of the City constantly seeking new revenue sources within Griffith Park a la LA Zoo expansion, often in direct conflict with the Griffith covenants in the original grant deed.

Because, in truth, why get rid of pony rides, rodeo and other western heritage events at the Equestrian Center and adjacent properties but for the goal of making \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ and destroying what's left of the Los Angeles I moved to and came to love over 40 years ago? Tom LeBonge, Walt Disney and Gene Autry must be rolling over in their graves, as is the Griffith family, to see the continued commercialization and real estate development in Griffith Park at the expense of its traditions and outdoor activities for 'the common people of Los Angeles'.

Speaking specifically to these urban terrorists known as The Los Angeles Alliance for Animals, I've learned over the years that these organizations are fully of well-meaning but traumatized individuals who bring their personal anxiety to social causes with no care about what the actual facts of the situation are. This includes the BLM Mustang Round-up and Adoption Program, too. If these people really cared about equine safety and health, they would be financially supporting and assisting in direct horse care and husbandry, not protesting about perceived harms. You are likely too young to remember the days when backyard barns with horses were common in the San Fernando Valley, but I do. Now we are two generations into urbanization where today's children are learning nothing about what horses teach us since we have decided to 'segregate' them away from humans. And to think that the horse built this city during the early years through its labor and then built the juggernaut of Hollywood through a 30 year cycle of popular movie and television Westerns, always featuring horses and often including singing cowboys. This is a tremendous loss because the horse teaches humans more about emotional and intuitive intelligence than any other animals. And the pony is usually the 'gateway' to this connection.

Instead of the City and social groups looking to return the horse to its right place as an urban partner, we now deal with misguided protestors who have chosen to terrorize already stressed out families who want to spend time with their children/grandchildren in an outdoor environment where they can love and interact with ANIMALS AND HORSES THAT CANNOT GIVE YOU COVID!!!!

In fact, in the first year of covid when my buckskin was still boarded at the Rancho, I offered free 'horse hugs' for numerous first responders, medical staff, clergy and others dealing with the first wave of the challenges of this 'plague'. Everyone needs hugs right now and horses are the best huggers! Ponies are also the best lovers/huggers for little people. :)

I also want to respond directly to the health and safety issues raised by this misguided group with the full disclosure that 1) I know no one in the LA Alliance and 2) I do not personally know any of the owners/managers/employees of the current pony ride operator.

First of all, I will state for the record that I was very critical of the previous pony ride operator and was glad to see them go since, at that time, I observed clear animal neglect on their part.

Secondly, when this current 'blow-up' started to get traction, I made my own private, unannounced walk-around to the Griffith Park Pony Rides and here is what I saw:

1. Ponies who appeared to be older - 10 to 20 years old - well groomed and healthy but obviously shaggy looking because of their heavy winter coats. Shaggy winter coats have nothing to do with bad health or neglect.
2. Clean repaired, albeit older, tack on all the equines.
3. A very clean and well-organized concession entry/safety waiting area with friendly staff.
4. A 'calm energy' and adults and children of all ages petting (see covid note above) and enjoying the pony rides, including the little tractor pull ride.

I've read both the veterinarian's report and your task force's recommendation and, while, I think you are trying to 'be Solomon' here, you are placing an added and, in my opinion, unnecessary burden on the current pony ride operator to take on additional expense to do these 'enhancement' corrections with 60-90 days. How about the City paying for these 'recommendations' since the neutral veterinarian clearly indicated that the ponies were clearly fine and in good health? That way you can appease both the animal rights people yet support a ride operator who has done the City and Griffith Park a great service by returning a quality pony ride operation to the City.

A couple side notes:

A. 'The Ponies were outside in the rain' complaint. Really? That's what they do! They live in nature!!! Yes, we had unusual rainfall for a couple weeks and EVERY horse area in Los Angeles, including the ranch where I currently have my two horses, was flooded and sloppy. But the horses and ponies were fine. I fail to see why trying to create 'human' conditions, as opposed to 'humane' conditions for animals who have lived outside in nature for over 63 million years, achieves anything.

B. 'The pony with the weepy eye photo'. Haha. I am wiping my horses' eyes just about every day! If it is dusty or windy, they blink to keep moisture in their eyes and sometimes create too much, which leads to the 'weeping' look.

In sum, while I deeply appreciate the challenges you face, I implore you to use some common sense and stop harassing a small business owner who is working hard to bring love, recreation, and the spirit of the equine to suffering Angeleno families during these interesting times, and I encourage you to explore enacting a City regulation on equine liability and related liability insurance rules similar to the one that the State of Hawaii has long used to protect equine recreational organizations from crazy liability insurance premiums and nuisance suits that have bankrupted at least 3 very fine trail riding operations I know of in Los Angeles County within the past 7 years. I carry my own equine liability insurance since I use my horses in equine assisted experiential learning coaching, so I personally know what a burden this element of equine business requirements is.

Thank you for your patience in reading this rather long note to you. I am available for any private conversations/consultations at no cost if it would be helpful to your efforts to find a positive, productive balanced solution to this challenging situation.

And...my horses remain available for private no-cost 'hugs' as long as you are willing to trek out to Los Angeles' Hansen Dam area to visit them.

Sincerely,

Meredith McKenzie, JD

Past Secretary, Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council (elected)
Past President, President, Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce (elected)
Past President, Altadena Library District (elected)
Past Board Member, Equestrian Trails International (appointed)



MEREDITH MCKENZIE

California Broker BRE#01142186

Office: 800-213-7538

Cell/Text: 805-455-3955

meredith@urbanrancho.com

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City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: I support the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:15 PM

To: Colleen Stratton

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 1:53 PM Colleen Stratton

> wrote:

Dear Rachel, Matthew and RAP commissioners,

I support the Griffith Park Pony Rides. Pony Rides are good for the community and good for the ponies.

When I was a little girl, **my dad took me to a pony ride and it changed my life!** I fell in love with horses. I started drawing horses and eventually went on to become a professional artist. Despite the fact that my parents didn't have a lot of money, they gave me a pony for my 11th birthday. My pony was my best friend well into adulthood. Being around horses, caring for them, loving them, has given my life profound meaning and joy -- all because my dad took me to a pony ride!

The Los Angeles Alliance for Animals is a small group of activists, with radical viewpoints, who know nothing about horses. They only have 108 followers on Twitter. Their bio reads: **LAAA is an all volunteer, grassroots group formed to end exploitative pony and horse rides in the LA area.**

There is nothing exploitive about pony rides. Pony rides are a wonderful way for people of all backgrounds to spend time with horses.

On the RAP zoom call on 2/4/22, many callers insisted that the ponies should go to a sanctuary. The activists are delusional. There isn't a sanctuary in CA that could take all those ponies. Sanctuaries are funded by donations. They're all struggling to stay afloat and are filled to capacity.

Ponies are expensive to keep. My small horse cost around \$1,300.00 a month at LAEC, plus vet care. It's a little less expensive to feed a Shetland pony, but the cost of renting a stall is the same.

According to the ASPCA, "In the year 2020, approximately 36,000 American horses were trucked over our borders to be slaughtered for human consumption. Until this practice is banned and Congress passes a law against slaughter here in the U.S., no horse is safe."

Steve Weeks has been in the horse industry for 28 years. He owned and ran the Traditional Equitation School (TES) at the LA Equestrian Center for years. During that period of time, I boarded my horse (in E-barn) near the TES horses. The TES horses looked healthy and TES was well run.

If you put any person or business under a microscope, you will find a flaw. Please keep the complaints by these misguided activists in perspective and do what is best for the people of Los Angeles, the equestrian community and Steve Week's ponies. Please renew the Griffith Park Pony Rides contract.

Sincerely,
Colleen Stratton

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza

2/7/22, 3:15 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: I support the Griffith Park Pony Rides

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: PONY RIDES, like stealing candy from babies

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Star Fire Sky Walker <

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:23 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 2:39 PM Star Fire Sky Walker <

> wrote:

Hi Mr. Rudnick, CD4, and Commissioners,

In my forty minutes to tracking down who LA Animal Alliance today, I came across two revoked 501c3's, a family of THREE INDIVIDUALS are the officers of this LA Animal Alliance. They filed ONE tax return and according to the income and expenses they have 200,000\$ unaccounted for, or money that has disappeared. Their stated activity on their website is to get dogs and cats out of kill shelters and into forever homes, which we all can agree is a wonderful activity.

So when did their ALLIANCE come into HORSES/PONIES, and why do they know NOTHING about HORSES/PONIES. Could it be they are using Jenna Jameson, the World Famous PORN STAR to scare and scar the kids at the PONY RIDES?

Ashlynn Lawrence who trained my own HORSE, is widely regarded very highly, is training these ponies at the rides for the kids. My own horses veterinarian, Dr. Wanner, who again is very highly regarded is the general practitioner for these ponies.

As a person who was raised with horses and is now 52 years old, nothing about what the Lachtman family hiding behind the name of LA Animal Alliance name, makes any sense to the horse world people.

This is a **MONEY GRAB** by a family that has been successful at getting funding by exploiting the tax payers 501c3, and is so **egregious** that an investigation should be formed and the money needs to be accounted for! Where is the 200,000\$ from their tax return, which there were no listed expenses for? Are the Lachtman's funding outrageous homes and travel on the taxpayers back? Why do I see World Wide trips of Shane Aaron Lachtman on his FLICKR account, from beaches snorkeling with women who may well be porn stars themselves?

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/109836982@N02/>

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Los Angeles Alliance for Animals

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Rose Osman

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:26 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 4:31 PM Rose Osman

> wrote:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the LAAA and their issues with the Griffith Park Pony Rides. As a business, the people who operate the pony rides are subject to oversight and have the animals' best interests at heart. The ponies receive regular shoeing, nutrition and vet care and most importantly love from all their carers and the children who visit. The LAAA may think they are well intentioned but most of them don't know anything about horses and are misguided, and they don't realize what a valuable service the pony rides provide to small children.

My first equine experience at eight years old was a donkey ride at the beach, followed by pony rides at the zoo, then on to working part time at a riding stable in exchange for a lesson or a trail ride. I eventually bought my first horse at the age of 20 and have enjoyed being a horse owner ever since. In addition to being a safe and healthy lifestyle, horse ownership has a trickle down effect on the local economy in Sunland: Because I work full time, I keep my horse at a boarding facility 18 miles from where I live where staff are employed to take care of the horses, I pay a trainer to work with my horse, I buy feed & shavings from the local feed store, I buy tack & clothing from other stores, and I pay a shoer, a vet, and an equine chiropractor to keep my horse in the best health and condition possible. I say this not to impress you but to drive home the point that it all started with a donkey ride. Take away the pony rides and you take away the dreams of a pony mad child whose parents may not be able to afford riding lessons.

Most horse owners are like me and don't want to see our way of life being outlawed by a group of woke people because it's the latest trendy bandwagon to jump on. Their time and efforts would be best directed to other areas of animal welfare, e.g. the illegal slaughter and export of horses, dog and rooster fighting, horse tripping, etc.

By all means take a closer look at the welfare of the ponies and make any corrections as needed, but don't take away this amenity which has been enjoyed by many generations of kids. Thank you for your time,

Kind regards,

Rose Osman

--



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony rides at Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Jageck(Toni)"

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:27 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 9:23 PM Jageck(Toni)

> wrote:

Hello--

I would like to express my concern for a supposed group that is making a problem for the Pony ride Operator in Griffith Park. The pony rides have, and always will be a stepping stone to having children gain an interest in pony-horses that many may not have access to otherwise. Along with the cheap rate it accomplishes for lower income families that can not afford to maintain the actual cost of a pony-horse, especially here in LA. Or lessons either.

It has peaked the interest of many children to then have a true interest in learning about the ownership of a horse-pony. Myself included.....a bazillion years ago started by being put on a pony ride pony. There is nothing inhumane about this, especially if the pony are being maintained in there health and care. I have seen the ponies at this Park many times. They always appear very well maintained and in great shape. Everyone looks to be enjoying the service that is being maintained for all families to be able to access.

It is despicable that this group is proceeding with anything that signifies anything negative period happening at this Pony Ride in Griffith park.

Please do not appease them by giving them any voice period that they have not proven anything negative. This would be a dis service to families who take their children to enjoy.

They need to put their time and efforts to animals that truly need their help, and there are a lot. But this is not one.....go find a cause that truly would be a savior to the animals life, or quality of life.....they are wasting efforts that could really help.....Griffith Pony Rides do not need help, they do a great job, and their ponies are very well looked after.

live/and own in Burbank--(AND actually own a horse)
Toni Osseck

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Ban

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Pete Peterson

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:44 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 11:36 PM Pete Peterson < > wrote:

Dear LA County Professionals,

My name is Karla Peterson, I have been a stable hand, horse trainer and rider for almost 20 years now. Additionally I studied horses (and behavior) in college from veterinarians. It is in my opinion that banning the pony rides is a poor decision based on "do-gooders" lack of education and experience. I have not heard a single claim from them that is true and all in all, they seem hopelessly incompetent when it comes to educating anyone on horse (and pony) behavior. Please ignore them and their ridiculous claims.

Have a wonderful day,

Best,

Karla

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Ban

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Pete Peterson

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Have a wonderful day,

Best,

Karla

--

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2/7/22, 3:16 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: Los Angeles Alliance for Animals

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: LA Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "lr.clancy" >

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:45 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 4:17 AM lr.clancy

> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

Hello, I'm Lucas, an equine professional who has been caring for, managing, and teaching humans and horses for 15 years. I am writing today in response to backlash I've seen toward the Griffiths Park pony rides. As a professional in my field I find it very important to keep up with the latest research in animal behavior and ensuring the comfort of my animals. Based on what I have seen of the pony ride program, they are doing a good job of providing for the mental and physical wellbeing of the animals. Many of the arguments I see in opposition are labeling animal behaviors as if they were human behaviors. This however is both factually incorrect and potentially harmful to the wellbeing of the animals. Naturally horses are nomadic grazing animals who live in open grasslands and are prey to carnivores like big cats or bears. Horses who may appear "sad" to those who don't understand horse behavior are actually relaxed, which is a positive expression for a prey animal as high alertness indicates stress and expectancy of danger. As for the horses not at work seen standing in the rain, even with free shelter access, many horses choose to stand in the elements. As I stated before horses are adapted to live in open grasslands where shelter from rain is not frequently available, therefore it's natural that the horses wouldn't mind the rain. In fact study after study has indicated that horses benefit exceptionally from living outside rather than in a barn. Horses stuck inside for extended periods of time can suffer from a long list of health issues such as gastric ulcers, colic, and upper airway irritation as well as adopt vices in response to the mental stress of not being able to move freely.

In addition to not seeing any merit in the critique of the care of the animals, I believe that keeping the program is important to the wellbeing of youth in LA as well. In my years of experience I've been able to work with many different types of programs from large show facilities housing valuable horses for use in the show ring to small suburban facilities to provide riding lessons to kids and adults with disabilities. In this I have seen what a positive impact contact with horses has had with people. Horses are heavily social creatures and are very receptive to our emotions. For so many people the horses become their safety and getaway from the stressors in their life. That first pony ride for a child may very well be what keeps them out of gangs and off of drugs, as crazy as that may sound. For many horsemen, that first pony ride is what inspired them to start. I can attest from my own life experiences that horses draw people in like nothing else. As a direct result of being drawn to horses myself and many other youths found a sense of belonging and a place to learn responsibility, and emotional stability. This is not me talking about my experiences in a vacuum either, there is research which confirms the benefits of human-equine interaction. This is why therapeutic riding centers have popped up all around the world. This is why groups like the Compton Cowboys are able to make positive impacts in their communities. Furthermore, if there is any concern that therapeutic interactions between horses and humans are less than therapeutic for the animals, I can confirm as someone who assisted in a study conducted by Tufts looking into this very question that the animals are experiencing no stress from interacting with humans.

I really hope you consider all of this in regards to the pony ride program.

Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,
Lucas Clancy

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300

2/7/22, 3:19 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: LA Pony Rides

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640

Fax: (213) 202-2610

Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Steph Jabri

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:57 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 11:59 AM Steph Jabri

> wrote:

Hi there,

I'm writing in regards to the Griffith Park Pony Rides. As a horse owner, I care a lot about the well-being of horses and know the basic signs of what a distressed horse looks like. Every time I've visited the Griffith Park Pony Ride, the animals have never appeared to be in distress or show any signs of mistreatment or illness.

Horses and ponies have a long domesticated history and are bred and built to perform jobs. The attraction is not cruel to the animals. Children are very light and ponies are incredibly sturdy (in other scenarios, many full sized adults will ride ponies). The weather in LA is incredibly mild. These animals are not working under strenuous conditions, despite what "animal activists" may say.

I hope that the Griffith Park Pony Rides can remain in operation because it provides a really valuable opportunity for young children to have exposure to the equestrian world. My love for horses was first sparked by a pony ride when I was four years old, and I've had a passion ever since. I also feel very strongly that it may provide an opportunity for children of all backgrounds to experience the joy and magic of being on top of a horse/pony, as it is often an expensive and hard-to-access sport.

Please consider keeping this historical attraction open. Thank you.

Stephanie Jabri

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Stephanie Jabri

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Keep the Griffith Park Ponies

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Rene Gaudet

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:57 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 6:17 PM Rene Gaudet

> wrote:

I was born in Glendale in 1973. I now live in the San Fernando Valley. I grew up visiting Griffith Park as a child, and I know because I have pictures of me and my brother riding the train and then going over to ride the ponies. I have a 14 year old daughter and a 16 year old son now. When they were little, my husband and I spent every weekend for 7 years going to ride the train and then going over to ride the ponies. My daughter has been riding horses since she was 5, and I have no doubt that her riding the ponies every weekend with her brother contributed to her love of horses and everything equestrian related. She now competes on behalf of her high school in IEL. Please keep this open.

Thank you.

Rene Gaudet

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Alana Silvani

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:58 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 7:59 PM Alana Silvani

wrote:

Hello,

I'm sending this email in support of keeping the pony rides open. I don't take this decision lightly being an equestrian, animal activist and a native Angeleno. My first pony ride was in Griffith Park in the late 60's. It was one of my favorite places to go. I loved animals. It was much more exciting for me than the zoo. I was able to touch and ride these amazing ponies.

These pony rides started me on my journey of being a horse owner and my love affair with Griffith Park. I still ride in the park to this day. I ride or drive past the pony rides a few times a week. I see healthy ponies bringing urban children a lot of joy. It's an affordable and accessible outing that children and parents can enjoy.

I am saddened that a group of people believing they are doing the right thing could put an end to a 70 year old institution. Steven Weeks has done a stellar job making improvements for the ponies. They have good veterinary care, farrier care, food, water, shade, their herd and the only pony rides that have misters to keep the ponies cooler. I think this is a very important decision for the city. I think if the pony rides are shut down the rental stables will be next. These activists really don't believe horses should be ridden. They have an idea that isn't realistic. They think sanctuaries are waiting to take these ponies/horses in to live out their years. This is a pipe dream. The US sends tons of horsemeat to foreign countries daily. This would be the fate of these animals.

When I'm riding my horse on the trail will I be targeted next for riding? Are these people going to block access to the trails with signs and chanting and tell me I'm not a good person because I'm riding a horse. Will horse shows be picketed at LAEC? I think this is a slippery slope.

Thank you, Alana Silvani

--
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Mail Stop: 625/15



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Your support please

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 2:59 PM

To: Krystal Rains <k

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 9:06 PM Krystal Rains

wrote:

To our Los Angeles City officials,

I am writing to you today to address an issue of concern for me. It has come to my attention that there are a small group of activists that have focused their attention on the local pony rides at Griffith Park. Over the weekend, I took a trip over to look at the operations in the park myself. I have been around equines since childhood and the facility and the behaviors of the ponies and staff at the concession looked clean, responsible and cared for. I even took a ride on the little train so I could view the backstage areas of the pony rides, where the animals are housed.

I have reviewed the reports and the responses from Mr. Weeks regarding the implementation of all the recommendations by the inspecting veterinarians. I feel that Mr. Weeks is conscientious and responsible in his care of these animals and the facility at which they are housed and exercised. As someone with a background in equine care, this is the most important thing to consider, the physical well being of the animals. Someone who is not actively involved with equine care, is not a responsible party to determine these animals' well being. Those who have heightened emotions about domesticated animals, may not have the important experience to adequately evaluate the operation and the well being of the animals.

During my visit I also noticed the families that were at the facility, the diversity of our local community was reflected in those waiting to participate in this healthy outdoor activity with their children. In this era of restrictions, these healthy activities are even more important for the well being of the children of our community. Many will only have this opportunity to experience the joy of riding a pony and these memories will last a lifetime. In some cases, it will inspire a lifetime of healthy and positive interactions with equines in many different ways. The financial accessibility of the pony rides is an important aspect of the concession remaining open for our community members at all financial levels.

In closing I respectfully request that you maintain this concession at the park, with continued inspections by the appropriate departments for the well being of our community and these animals.

Sincerely,

Krystal Rains
Los Angeles City resident

--
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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Allow the ponies at Griffith Park to continue

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: KIMBERLY DWIGHT

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 3:00 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 10:30 AM KIMBERLY DWIGHT

wrote:

Almost 70 years ago I rode my first pony at Griffith Park. (I'm the blond in the black and white photo. My daughter, Courtney, currently an RN after ten years in the Army is leading in the second picture about 1988) It took me decades of whining, wishing, waiting and wanting one before I actually could afford to own and take care of my own horse. For over 30 years now I have enjoyed them on my property. My children have grown up to appreciate putting something else ahead of themselves. The responsibility of taking care of a horse is enormous and they are better for it.

The ponies at Griffith Park are well taken care of as the owner loves them beside them being his lively hood. They have vet checks and are rotated so they don't work "too hard". People who are ignorant of horses should not interfere and try to make choices for others.

Kimberly Dwight - ETI Corral 138 Barrel Springs Riders - Antelope Valley charter member

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 3:01 PM

To: Karin Costa <

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 11:19 AM Karin Costa < > wrote:

To All, Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I want to let you know that I am in full support of Steve Weeks and his pony rides. I have a horse and I started riding as a young child at a pony ride.

The misinformed people in opposition really don't have any equine education to propose such an unfair attack on a great place for their own agenda.

I have tried having a conversation on their FB page and was immediately blocked and my post was removed. How is that not one sided?

So many children would never have the opportunity to know the joy of riding a pony/horse if not for a business such as Griffith Park Pony Rides. It teaches children love and compassion for animals.

If this were to be closed down, where would all these ponies go? Not to families. More than likely they would be put on a kill truck and sent to Mexico for slaughter.

And that would not be Steve Weeks choice to do so.

Thank you, again, for your time.

--

Karin Costa

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides - SUPPORT

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: OC Vaulting

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 3:01 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 11:24 AM OC Vaulting < > wrote:

Regardless of how you "feel" about "pony rides" if they are proven to be operating legally, and humanely (as verified by veterinarian), they are OFTEN the FIRST/ONLY way "city kids" are introduced to horses!

PLEASE PRESERVE THIS AMAZING RESOURCE for FUTURE GENERATIONS!!!

Thank You,

Gibran Stout

CA DRE/Broker# 00973435

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 7:45 AM

To: j

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 6:42 PM <

> wrote:

I am writing of my personal experience with the pony rides in Griffith Park. I was 5 when I first experienced the glorious feeling of being astride a horse, sure it was a pony, but to me it was like I was on top of the world. The smell of a horse flowing into your nostrils has an instant calming and balancing effect. A direction in my life was charted that first ride. A direction that led me to a wonderful organization, Blue Shadows Mounted Drill Team, in Los Angeles County. Thousands of children that do not have the means to own a horse, started at the pony rides, went on to discover Blue Shadows and learned about horsemanship, leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship. I was a part of the organization for 45 years and now serve as a state chair for the California State Horsemen's Association Inc. Many kids that have never owned a horse are able to benefit from the businesses and organizations that let kids experience the magic of horses without owning one.

Kids hanging out at the barn learn responsibility, dedication, and how to put an animals needs before their own. I cannot tell you how many have gone on to serve in noble careers such as nurses, teachers, veterinarians, even a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge. These are traits our youth desperately need in today's world, and yes it can, and has, started from a single pony ride.

We know that the activists coming after the pony rides are using it as a tool, a tool to make extinct the relationship between man and horse. They are going after our western lifestyle, a lifestyle that built Los Angeles. A lifestyle of integrity and empathy and love for our animals. It is not an outmoded lifestyle, but one that we should be turning back towards, not away from. As Churchill once said "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man".

I have taken nieces and nephews to the pony rides and I am always aware of the care and condition of the ponies. I would not support them if I noticed that they were abused in any fashion. In fact the conditions there have improved over the past several years. The Griffith Park Pony rides are an institution, an institution that we need to support and encourage not eliminate. The animal activist have a much broader agenda than the condition of this one business. Please see past them and do not be fooled by the nonsense they are trying to push on us.

Please support the Pony Rides,

Jill Kraut

--

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Fax: (213) 202-2610
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Meghan Guerin

Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 1:29 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 12:39 PM Meghan Guerin

> wrote:

Hello there!

I am a follower of some western content creators on social media, and I recently saw some distressing news regarding your consideration to ban/end pony rides at Griffith Park and other western equestrian sports in the city of L.A.

I would like to take a few moments to explain some reasons why you should reconsider that decision, and why these are acceptable and even beneficial to the community.

Firstly, the wellbeing of the animals. The ponies are monitored and regulated by multiple state and city agencies as well as by veterinarians. They are all trained using a rewards-based training system, and only verbal encouragement is allowed. The ponies are given regular breaks, always have clean, fresh water available, plenty of shade, water misters, and rubber mats to stand on. They have regular days off, and are checked and monitored daily by staff members. If for some reason the pony does not seem happy or no longer wants to willingly participate, they are rehomed to reputable, vetted homes. They are fed a variety of species-appropriate forage as well as health supplements to keep them happy and healthy. They have free choice of shelter during inclement weather, and if they're more sensitive to the weather conditions, are brought into the barn to stay dry and warm. Many of these ponies were rescued from auctions or less desirable homes, and are now being given the chance to have a happy and productive life with other ponies.

Secondly, the community benefit. If you were not raised around horses, having exposure to them at pony rides can help develop a love for them, and can lead to joining an active outdoor sport. Ponies are also used for therapeutic riding (hippotherapy) for special needs children. The movement of the pony's back during riding is similar to the movement of the human pelvis and can provide muscle relaxation for children with muscle spasms due to medical conditions.

Overall, the Griffith Park Pony Rides are a community staple, and an incredibly beneficial one at that. Closing them would be an absolute shame and a loss for both the city itself as well as the entire community, equestrian or otherwise. We are begging you to please reconsider any decisions you may have to shut them down.

Thank you for your time and your consideration,
Meghan Guerin

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood Park 1-28-22

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 10:04 AM

To: Jen Ritchkoff >

Cc: Jasmine Shamolian Deputy <Jasmine.Shamolian@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Eric Park Director <Eric.Mellem@lacity.org>, Kortley <kortley.norris@lacity.org>, Councilman Paul Koretz <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Jan 29, 2022 at 12:17 PM Jen Ritchkoff < > wrote:

There was another fire in the park today. And he just lit a second fire, causing the fire department to come back out. This is the same person that has been making a mess and screaming day and night.

I'm sure you heard about the explosion a week or 2 ago when an encampment burned down. I believe this is the 3rd or 4th fire we've had in the past year.

Thank you,
Jen

----- Original message -----

From: Jen Ritchkoff < >

Date: 1/27/22 2:10 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: Shull <Michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jasmine Shamolian Deputy <Jasmine.Shamolian@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Eric Park Director <Eric.Mellem@lacity.org>, Kortley <kortley.norris@lacity.org>, Councilman Paul Koretz <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, Brad Mayors Office <brad.fingard@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Subject: Westwood Park 1-27-22

Hi just an update for today, there is much more furniture, and this morning we had human feces in our front entrance. And that's not the first time it has happened, we even had to fence off a planter that they were using as a bathroom.

I'm very concerned that Jasmine said the issue is not going to be resolved until March, I think it is much more urgent than that, and I really hope that you're going to address it sooner rather than later.

It seems that more encampments are showing up every day with many much more furniture and bulky items that they take out of the trash in the neighborhood. There are major hoarding issues. These issues create a public health matter. Not just for the neighbors for but for the people living that way. I am told from someone in outreach that some people are moving over here because they closed the mar vista park.

The trash has to be managed every day or it gets completely out of hand. I really wish we could do some thing about the person who is continuously making a mess and screaming all day and night due to him being mentally ill.

I'm going to be meeting with an outreach team this weekend, I hope you are all doing the same.

Thanks,
Jen

On Saturday, January 15, 2022, 11:22 AM, Jen Ritchkoff

> wrote:

Thank you,
Jen

----- Original message -----

From: Jen Ritchkoff <>
Date: 1/13/22 2:13 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Shull <Michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Jasmine Shamolian Deputy <Jasmine.Shamolian@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Eric Park Director <Eric.Mellem@lacity.org>, Kortley <kortley.norris@lacity.org>, Councilman Paul Koretz <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, Brad Mayors Office <brad.fingard@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
Subject: Trash in Westwood Park

Can someone please clean up Westwood Park? This is only the section directly across from 1380 and 1370 Veteran Avenue. I'm sure there's more up-and-down the park.

How did that "assessment" go, Brenda?

----- Original message -----

From: Jennifer Ritchkoff
Date: 1/13/22 2:09 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Me <>
Subject:



City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org













Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Westwood Park 2-2-22

Jen Ritchkoff

Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 5:15 PM

To: Eric Park Director <Eric.Mellem@lacity.org>, Jasmine Shamolian <jasmine.shamolian@lacity.org>, Kortley <kortley.norris@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Shull <Michael.a.shull@lacity.org>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Veteran Ave... see attached, please clean up the park.

Thank you,
Jen

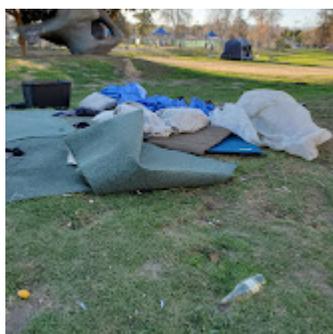
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: More Dangerous Conditions In Hollywoodland

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 9:55 AM

To: sarah jane <

Cc: "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "helene.rotolo@lacity.org" <helene.rotolo@lacity.org>, "stefanie.smith@lacity.org" <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, "tracy.james@lacity.org" <tracy.james@lacity.org>, "joe.losorelli@lacity.org" <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, "seleta.reynolds@lacity.org" <seleta.reynolds@lacity.org>, "

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 4:33 PM <

> wrote:

Dear City Officials,

I have lived in Hollywoodland for almost 45 years, and the traffic conditions I saw this past Sunday, January 23, were some of the worst I have ever seen. This was an ordinary weekend.

It is becoming clearer and clearer that the ever growing number of visitors in this very high fire severity zone is way past being unsustainable and now involves negligence by the City of Los Angeles. The regular weekdays of today are much worse than the weekends of the past, and the regular weekends of today are for worse than the busiest holidays in the past.

These are just some of the things I experienced.

I drove up Ledgeswood to the illegal view site on Lake Hollywood Drive. On winding narrow Mulholland Highway (just 19 feet wide) past Durand Drive there were at least a dozen pedestrians in five different groups that were walking IN the street and ignoring the no pedestrian signs on both ends of this section of the street. It was particularly harrowing driving because the setting sun was blinding as I tried to avoid hitting someone. Also most of the tarp is now missing from the fence, so the views are all exposed. As I proceeded to go down the hill and past Lake Hollywood Park and then turn around to go back up the hill, I had to **stop five times** waiting for cars to park. The park was filled with people and approximately a hundred cars were parked in this area. The illegal vista had approximately eighty people on it. I have never seen it so busy. I was able to count the people because my car was in a line **stopped for almost four minutes!** That is a very long time. Cars had parked everywhere--including at all of the red curbs and a road leading to a house. One car was not only in the red in front of a fire hydrant, but was sticking out into the intersection blocking one whole lane of traffic at the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Lake Hollywood Drive. There was total gridlock. Needless to say there was no enforcement anywhere. The area looked like a concert or an event had just concluded, with people and cars everywhere, but there was no event that was ending, so I imagine this was the continual state of this location. It is chaos. How many other attractions in Griffith Park have a parking lot for a hundred cars? Are they by standard size roads? I'm sure these locations passed written scrutiny, hearings and a possible EIR. None of that was done here. That is why it is not only illegal, but worse it is dangerous.

After the car which had blocked the intersection moved I was able to turn onto Mulholland Highway. I drove about 50 yards when I had to stop again. A car was stopped/parked in the middle of this very narrow street (19 feet wide) and was signally cars to go around it into a blind curve with opposing traffic. I would not do that, and he refused to move. **I waited for 3 minutes!!** Then I saw a woman sliding down the hill on the private property side of the road. I recognized her from seeing her trespassing on another part of the hill I had just passed. She got into the car which finally began to move. Again, no enforcement anywhere.

I then decided to drive to the top of Deronda. I could get to the end, but passed several illegally parked cars and there was no opposing traffic as I drove. By Mt Lee Road, I did see a City employee--finally--the first City

rep I had seen all day. When I commented about the visitors but had not yet given him any of the details I had just experienced, he volunteered **how overrun this area is, how stretched thin supervision is, how congested it is, how any kind of evacuation would be impossible, how unbelievable the chaos is, and how really dangerous conditions are. This he repeated several times.** I then got back into my car, turned around, and hoped to make it down the hill. I did not get very far. Cars were coming up in the opposite direction, and the legal and illegally parked cars had eliminated two way traffic. The uphill traffic has the right of way. One of the illegally parked cars was an Uber, but the driver would not move. **So I had to back up 5 car lengths on a very narrow street.** (I do not have a back up camera) After I did this the uphill cars were able to go. I then left, but there is a dead end about ten cars up from where they were. They would have to then turn around and deal with opposing traffic, if it came, as I did.

To drive these areas in our neighborhood would normally take just a few minutes. This took a better part of an hour.

Over 40 million tourists annually come to Los Angeles. Seeing the Hollywood Sign is unbelievably at the top of the list of a large majority. There are also local hikers and visitors added to this. They cannot helicopter to the Sign. The thousands of daily cars must use our one hundred year old substandard winding streets where each parked car prevents two way traffic. Our infrastructure just manages to safely cover the needs of residents. It is totally inadequate and inappropriate for tourism. You could not pick a worse place for tourism. A lot of traffic gridlocks Hollywoodland, but honestly so does a little. There are dead ends with no turnarounds at the end of very narrow streets. At many points, a few or even a single car can cause total gridlock.

This brings us to **CAPACITY.** This concept is used universally when it comes to interior public spaces and fire safety. I am sure it is also used in planning when it comes to open spaces, particularly in very high fire areas. The eastern side of Griffith park which has all of the institutionalized public attractions has been closed on occasion because crowds are too large. Our neighborhood with no infrastructure is never closed. **We want to know what the City feels is the proper and safe capacity for visitors at the magnets and in the rest of Hollywoodland,** and what criteria is being used to close down the eastern side of the park and why are they not being used on the western side. In addition to our having no infrastructure, and whenever the eastern side is closed more visitors then come to our neighborhood, how can you possibly ever close down the eastern side of the park without closing our side. There are no legal entrances into Griffith Park from Hollywoodland. Yet we are horribly impacted by bootlegged, and illegal tourist magnets that the City refuses to shut down. You have literally turned our limited hillside community with extremely substandard infrastructure, and very limited ingress and egress that sits as a bottleneck into Griffith park, 80% surrounded by dry brush, into an over 500 acre unsupervised amusement park. This would never be approved in the private sector, and if it did exist, it would be shut down in a matter of minutes. You are the ones charged with public safety. How do you not only allow these conditions, but you're responsible for creating and promoting them? **A minimum of one dozen officials is needed full time to supervise this mess.** This will not solve the problem, but it would help. You cannot successfully shove a square peg into a round hole.

The real solution is that dangerous tourism must be removed from Hollywoodland.

My big regret as I drove around my neighborhood was that I was not accompanied by a local news reporter. That is something I intend to remedy.

I want this letter to be part of the public record. When and not if tragedy comes to Hollywoodland, you and other City reps cannot plead ignorance.

Sarajane Schwartz
Safety Chair
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065

1 message

Garcia IncaREAL <
To:

Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 7:36 PM

JANUARY 31

Council member Gill Cedillo

The Sycamore Grove park has Graffiti

Attach pictures

The broken parking sign reported to you in July 2021 has not been repaired .

If someone gets hurt the city will have a lawsuit on its hands.

Attach picture.

Mauro Garcia

3 attachments



1-31-22a.JPG
5476K

1-31-22b.JPG
7140K



7-20PARKING SIGN.JPG
1161K



California
8TQN580
CALIFORNIA





VENUES



YAS

→



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065

1 message

Yovonte Robinson <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 1, 2022 at 7:31 AM

To: Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org>

Cc: Garcia Incareal

Good morning,

The job has been submitted. Job order #22-3050

Best.

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 7:41 PM Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org> wrote:

Received, thank you.

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022, 7:38 PM Garcia Incareal <in > wrote:

JANUARY 31

Council member Gill Cedillo

The Sycamore Grove park has Graffiti

Attach pictures

The broken parking sign reported to you in July 2021 has not been repaired .

If someone gets hurt the city will have a lawsuit on its hands.

Attach picture.

Mauro Garcia



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Internally displaced people

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Ruth Roofless >

Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 7:12 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Tue, Feb 1, 2022 at 3:13 PM Ruth Roofless < > wrote:

As an unhoused person in LA, it has come to my attention that some massive human displacements have been occurring in LA CITY PARKS and I encourage you to please consider the original purposes & grants that were made when the City obtained these lands, as well as who they were taken FROM, and at the very least consider not exempting anything requiring human DISPLACEMENT from submitting a complete EIR, when conspiring to banish unhoused people from public with nowhere to go, as you have now done or are attempting to do at Echo Park Lake, Griffith Park, Elysian Park (home of the HISTORIC PORTOLA CAMPSITE, former location of an 81-site campground for car & tent camping, & which is currently being considered for LAMC 41.18 designation in an agenda item that was delayed by City Council when it was heard last week. Please, don't let them pass it.) Westchester, Penmar, Ocean Front Walk, MacArthur Park, Alexandria Park, Valley Plaza, Mar Vista Rec Center DURING A PANDEMIC IN WHICH THE HOUSED PEOPLE REQUESTING THESE DISPLACEMENTS ARE PROTECTED BY AN EVICTION MORATORIUM.

The state of emergency (that we are still in) because of a pandemic that is still killing us (the life expectancy of an unhoused person is ~45 right now in LA) allows parks to be used as shelter, and in fact, the LA Parks Foundation list this as one of the main purposes parks serve on their website.

Please stand up for vulnerable people who have nowhere else to go, because without a place to exist, people can't become a part of their neighborhoods, and they can't move forward with their housing or lives.

I became homeless at 13 for the first time. If I weren't sleeping in parks, I probably would have been murdered by now. Allowing City Council to designate LAMC 41.18 zones in City Parks is also a legal jurisdictional issue that Sanitation refuses to clarify and yet is continuing to enforce.

If you need unhoused input (it's my opinion that you absolutely DO) I will offer my advice BUT ONLY IF it is actually heard and not merely sought to make your Commission appear more equitable. I WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY AS HOUSED PEOPLE NEGOTIATE MY RIGHT TO BE IN PUBLIC AWAY.

Thanks, Ruth "@rooflessr"

--

City of Los Angeles
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Figueroa Plaza
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Community Wall Street pocket park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 2:16 PM

To: Elida Mendez <

>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 1:54 PM Elida Mendez <

> wrote:

Hello Rap commissioners,
I hope this email finds you well.
I need to know how to get fund for the Wall Street pocket park.
Nobody is advocating for this community pocket park.
Please I need your support to make a difference.
Thank you.

Elida Mendez
President
CPAB

On Thu, Jan 27, 2022, 4:33 PM Elida Mendez <

> wrote:

Thank you for your response.
Like I said before I need to submit a renovation request for the Wall Street community pocket park location on the 8620 S. Wall Street L.A, CA 90003
Please send me information le't bring hope to this pocket park.
There is budget for park renovation Please bring some changes to Wall Street community pocket park.
Let me know if you have any questions and what el do I have to do get fund for this park.
Thanks.

On Tue, Jan 25, 2022, 3:50 PM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Jan 22, 2022 at 8:55 AM Elida Mendez <

> wrote:

Hello commissioners my name is Elida Mendez, I am park advisory board from Green Meadows Recreation Center.
I have a question regarding the future renovation that are already proposed for the community members.
I need to know what is the plan where is the link I can see the project that Rec&Parks has.
I need to know the dead line of the complete project.
There are too many questions.
I sent the same question to the CD9 office but have not answered.
Ms.Alea Douglas the park Director doesn't know either.
I appreciate your cooperation.
Thanks.

Best Regards,

Elida Mendez
President
Park Advisory Board

--

City of Los Angeles



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Recent emails and scheduling a meeting

1 message

Pae White < > Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 5:06 PM
 To: Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org>
 Cc: Cynthia Gonzalez <cynthia.gonzalez@lacity.org>, Jose Rodriguez <Jose.A.Rodriguez@lacity.org>, Ricardo Huerta <34863@lapd.online>, German Hurtado <34865@lapd.online>, Gabriel Buelna < >, Thomas F Marble < >, Sweet P Vaughn < >, FABIOLA TORRES < >, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Peter Delgadillo <peter.delgadillo@lacity.org>, Adriana Smith <adriana.smith@lacity.org>, Sandy Huse <askzeldaagain@gmail.com>, Patrick Joyce <pat.joyce@lacity.org>, Gil <emilianogil@verizon.net>, "ralph.terrazas@lacity.org" <ralph.terrazas@lacity.org>, "joe.losorelli@lacity.org" <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, Gil < >, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Kevin de Leon <kevin.deleon@lacity.org>, Nate Hayward <Nate.Hayward@lacity.org>, Sarah Flaherty <sarah.flaherty@lacity.org>, Johnny Altamirano <38828@lapd.online>, Ashgentry670@gmail.com, Roseann Gentry < >, Jose Pineda <jose.pineda@lacity.org>, andrei.deocampo@lacity.org, Jessica Silverman joseph.fuentes@lacity.org

Hi Bill

Thanks for your response and sharing the new contact info for the rangers. Just to clarify - and perhaps this is confusing, but Sweet P and I don't live together so I have no idea what the two of you discuss weekly and as far as I can tell, whatever you discuss it does not seem to be prompting any change. Also, before pointing fingers as to who chose to participate in the Debs Park meeting - I was very clear in a recent email to you that Martha, or technical difficulties, did not allow Tom in to speak. Other people have expressed a similar experience with the meeting.

That being said, we would like a meeting that is dedicated to the issues (and action items) that I previously mentioned and not mixed in with other community concerns such as a fire road being blocked, etc. Camp A continues to operate in full force (shockingly) and fire guy is still allowed to make fires (absurdly). I said nothing about bathrooms so am not sure why this as mentioned in point 5. We have people dumping sewage on our streets for months and nothing is being done as well as chop shops, I mean encampments, commandeering a community park that used to serve low income families. Sadly, I haven't seen a kid there for years because the camps are given priority. Pitiful.

This is what we want to discuss. Tell us when.

Thank you

Pae

On Feb 3, 2022, at 3:10 PM, Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Pae,

First off, I'm sorry you are disappointed. I have spoken by text several times this week to Sweet Pea, and she even texted me this morning. I would also like to mention that I responded to several of your emails last week, that several other people responded, including letting Tom know that it was a contractor that left the equipment up in Debs and had it removed, not a stolen vehicle.

As far as the request for the meeting. CD1 is definitely open to some kind of meeting down the road, however, as I mentioned in my responses last week, we just had a Debs Park meeting that included Rec and Parks Maintenance, the Park Rangers, the Audubon and CD1 and your husband Tom was there in attendance. He was asked on two occasions if he wanted to share any concerns and he did not say anything.

I have also attended recent meetings of the ASNC Local Issues meeting where Debs was discussed as well as a meeting of the new non-profit, Friends of Debs Park. So we at CD1 have been meeting regularly with the community about issues both in Debs, on Griffin, as well as other hot spots in the area.

Now let me address some issues you and the community have brought up.



Re: Recent emails and scheduling a meeting

1 message

Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org>

To: Pae White <>

Cc: Cynthia Gonzalez <cynthia.gonzalez@lacity.org>, Jose Rodriguez <Jose.A.Rodriguez@lacity.org>, Ricardo Huerta <34863@lapd.online>, German Hurtado <34865@lapd.online>, Gabriel <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, Gil , Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, Kevin de Leon <kevin.deleon@lacity.org>, Nate Hayward <Nate.Hayward@laci

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Now let me address some issues you and the community have brought up.

1. Park Rangers. When I found out that Larry and David had been transferred I, like yourself, was concerned, which is why I asked the Ranger Pineda about who the two new Rangers were.

They are

Andrei Deocampo <andrei.deocampo@lacity.org> and Joseph Fuentes <joseph.fuentes@lacity.org>

The Senior Ranger is: Jose Pineda <jose.pineda@lacity.org>

Here is his other information:

Joe Pineda
Sr. Park Ranger #1522
Wk # 323 644 6661
Cell # 323 830 7260

I'm removing Frank Barron as he did let you know about a month back that he had also been reassigned. And I added Ranger Pineda. I also removed Sgt. Fiallos as she recently retired.

2. The remaining RV's. As I told you I would be happy to talk about them over the phone. As for their continued presence I would suggest speaking with your Senior Lead Officer at Hollenbec

3. We now have clean-ups every week on Griffin, and there is daily outreach. In fact, a large number of people who were there last summer were provided housing.

4. Inside the Park there have been continuing clean-ups. Those are handled by Rec and Parks. Although we do assist if we are asked for assistance with Sanitation.

5. Park Maintenance. That is again under the purview of Rec and Parks. They know about the bathrooms and they are doing what they can to fix them.

6. Rec and Parks are looking into the possibility of a stronger fence, and we have indicated that we may be able to help fund it. There are of course several issues with a new fence and I wou

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continuing concerns. The mapping you and Tom did last summer was huge in addressing several encampments in the park.

We at CD1 get it. The Councilmember gets it. (He just called me about your email, btw.) Between the unhoused crisis and the pandemic these are difficult times. But we have been working ha

Thanks,

Bill

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 11:49 AM Pae White <> wrote:

Bill and all.

I was disappointed that no one has the courtesy to respond to the recent emails sent by me, Sweet P, Tom Marble, Sandy Huse, etc. Why is this? Do our voices not matter?

We want a meeting set up and we want it soon. A recap of our concerns:

1. Daily cooking fires in the park.
2. Lack of Patrolling in the park
3. The re-establishment of Camp A and the City's inaction about this despite the announcement of Debs as an Official Cedillo No Camping Zone (as well as being a long established VHF
4. Reviving the discussion of a new, more robust fence around Debs (RAP has more funds - we know)
5. Fire guy on Griffin. In consideration of his daily fires and obvious violations of street trash - [why is he still here?](#) He must have been offered a Tiny Home. Seems like an obvious candic

In addition to this we have several severe Sanitation violations. Let me include some images and addresses below.

WE WANT A MEETING and WE WANT ACTION. Bill, please set this up. If there is someone better able to do this than please direct us to that person.

Thank you

Pae

500 BLOCK OF MONTECITO DRIVE

Urine in bottles, motor oil, spoiled milk and constant food trash. He has been here for months and noone has done a thing. Mess grows by the day. [PLEASE DO SOMETHING.](#)





Recent emails and scheduling a meeting

1 message

Pae White < >

To: Bill Cody <bill.cody@lacity.org>, Cynthia Gonzalez <cynthia.gonzalez@lacity.org>, Jose Rodriguez <Jose.A.Rodriguez@lacity.org>, Ricardo Huerta <34863@lapd.online>, German Hurtado <ralph.terrazas@lacity.org> <ralph.terrazas@lacity.org>, "joe.losorelli@lacity.org" <joe.losorelli@lacity.org>, Gil <gilcedillo45@gmail.com>, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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GRIFFIN BY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

fires, fires and more fires plus trash and debris. Why is this allowed? [PLEASE DO SOMETHING.](#)







COMMUNITY PARK - Across the street from 200 East Avenue 43

Total mess. Why does a an illegal chop shop get to take over this community park which serves as the only outdoor space for the nearby apartment buildings full of families. It's criminal that th









Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Private person denying access at Spring St Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Levi Zollinger <

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 3:05 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 8:17 AM Levi Zollinger <

> wrote:

Hello,

Again this morning someone who lives in El Dorado building has put a chain across the seating area adjacent to sidewalk. Asked the park maintenance workers if they did it and they said no. R&P needs to speak with this person to stop acting as this is official and interfering with park operations. He acts as if he has some sort of authority over entire park.

On Mon, Dec 6, 2021, 2:06 PM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

If you have any further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 11:55 AM Levi Zollinger <

> wrote:

Hello,

There seems to be an individual in the El Dorado building next door who thinks he can make his own rules and deny access to people by saying part of the park is actually his private property and roping it off. This is the seating crescent on north side of park outside of the park fencing. I hope you remove the chain, please.

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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MOTION

The Venice Pier is a symbol of Los Angeles, and the pier's reconstruction under the leadership of Ruth Galanter is a symbol of the area's revitalization.

Ruth Galanter's tenure on the City Council achieved progress on issues ranging from recycling to sustainable building to fighting airport expansion. While she represented every neighborhood in her district, Venice was her grassroots home and special place in her legacy.

In the mid 1970s, the Venice Pier was closed due to storm damage, and remained closed to the public for more than 13 years. When Ruth Galanter was elected in 1987, a Recreation and Parks employee told her they had located funding to tear down the Venice Pier. Ruth had recently spent years saving the Santa Monica Pier from the same fate, and told the Recreation and Parks Department unequivocally that the pier would not be demolished.

Ruth worked with the community and a grassroots organization headed by Frank Mattox. She brought in the California State Coastal Conservancy to do a feasibility study, and, in 1992, voters passed Proposition A, which included funding for the Venice Pier. At Ruth's insistence, the Proposition A initiators included funding for not only the Venice Pier, but the entire Ocean Front Walk renovation.

Recreation and Parks staff went to bid, hired a contractor, and began the process of tearing down and rebuilding a third of the pier, renovating another, and salvaging the last third. In 1997, the pier was completed and became the first fishing pier in California to be fully accessible.

If it hadn't been for Ruth's commitment, vision, and perseverance, the Venice Pier would not exist today. The honorary naming of the Venice Pier as "Ruth Galanter Pier" would be appropriate recognition for her dedication and service to the Venice community.

I THEREFORE MOVE to request that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners name the Venice Pier "Ruth Galanter Venice Pier."

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:




FEB 09 2022



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Glen Alla large dog park

1 message

Eric Drachman < >

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 3:13 PM

To: RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org>

Cc: "RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org" <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org>

Hello –

I'm checking back in about the progress of the project at our GlenAlla dog park.

Obviously, the project has been stopped partway through and I can tell you, that it would go a very long way if you could just share with us what your intentions are and when we can expect to see some progress.

I won't repeat all of my notes from below, but I will update you about the status. Right now, the south side of the park has been (I think unofficially) re-opened. The problem is that there is no water on that side and the drainage has not been repaired there. But on the north side, it is still too rough for wheelchairs and it is dangerously dark in the evenings. The dogs have been digging a deep hole next to the water fountain as it is mud and not the turf that would prevent that from happening. I'm concerned that someone will twist their ankle in that hole. It is also too dark on the path from the north side to the entrance on the south side.

You told be before that you thought the plan was to cover the north side with artificial turf. That is what we are all hoping for and then to fix the plumbing issues as well on the south side.

After that, having adequate light is important and to fix the low fences that tempt the dogs to jump over (sometimes injuring themselves) and pooping out of sight of their owners and getting dirty in poop and mud over there as well.

So many people and dogs use this park. It is a wonderful resource, but has been disappointingly in a state of disrepair for many months.

Please please update us so we know what to expect. At the end of last year, you told just hat you would know more in the beginning of the year. We are already in February.

Thanks so much. I will look forward to hearing back from you!

Best,

Eric Drachman

PS Please let me know who else I should cc on these emails to help generate some forward progress. I have a few ideas and will include them on our next exchange.

Thanks so much for your reply.

One more thought, while you're working on this park...

There is a very low fence along the perimeter that separates the landscaping from the dogs' play area. While that looks nice, it does not keep the dogs out of that area. It's fun to watch them all jump that fence, but it's also problematic. I know multiple dogs who have gotten minor injuries from the fence. My dog got a scratch on her belly from the top of the fence. Besides that, it gets muddy over there and the dogs frequently go there to poop and the owners can easily miss that, so the dogs who go over there end up in the poop and the mud. :-0

Ideally, that very low fence would be replaced with a fence that his high enough to keep the dogs out, but still looks nice. Perhaps a 4 foot fence?

Thanks so much for considering this. Besides the mess and inconvenience, it would be a shame for a dog to get more seriously injured in the park.

Best,

Eric Drachman

On Jan 20, 2022, at 7:55 AM, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you for your comments, questions, and feedback. We'll look into your inquiries and get back to you as soon as we can get an answer.

Thanks
Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

Department of Recreation and Parks
4th Floor, Suite 400
[221 N. Figueroa Street](#)
[Los Angeles, CA 90012](#)
[\(213\) 202-2682](#)

For more information about Recreation and Parks Projects, visit <http://www.laparks.org/planning/park-projects>

On Sun, Jan 16, 2022 at 9:35 AM Eric Drachman < > wrote:

Hello -

I thought I'd check in for an update. I was happy to see that there is forward progress on the park project! Thank you! However, right now, it seems that the park is less usable than it was and many of the people I know there are upset and will avoid the park until it improves. :-/ I'm sure if we knew what the plan was, we would all feel better. I guess right now, the side without the artificial turf (closer to Glencoe - I'll call this the "north side") was re-opened and the other side, closer to the paddle tennis courts (the "south side") that still needs repair, was closed. The problem now is that the north side is extremely muddy and is riddled with gopher holes which is problematic for our dogs and my friend who uses a wheelchair has no access anymore for her and her dog. Also, there are NO lights in that area, which feels unsafe.

Can you let us know what the plan is?

Here's what we are hoping is planned:

- Remove the old broken drain and water pipe from the south side quickly, then patch and replace the artificial turf in that area so we can return
- Cover the north side with artificial turf as the gopher holes are a hazard and the dirt and mud are a deterrent.
- Install several lights to illuminate the path to and from the park as well as giving us enough light at the park after dark.

Is that, in fact, the plan? Please update us and give us a sense of when we can return to enjoy our park again!

Thanks so much!!

Eric Drachman

On Dec 27, 2021, at 7:31 AM, RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Eric,

Thanks for letting us know all of this information. The latest info I have is that construction is delayed due to issues with vendors and contractors. Yes, ultimately the plan is to add turf in that area. Our teams will be meeting in the new year to deal with all these issues. We'll have a better idea of a timeframe for completion then. Sorry for the delay. Once I have an idea of the time frame, I can let you know.

Thanks
Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

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On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 4:52 PM Eric Drachman wrote:

Thanks again for the quick reply!

Yeah, there is a water fountain in the open area already that works. It's off to the side - not where that old faucet and overflowing drain are currently. I suspect that maybe they're planning to remove the old faucet and close up that overflowing drain and cover it with artificial turf? That would make sense. It seems that the information you're getting is not consistent with what is or is not happening on the site.

Yes - it would be great if the other area would get finished and opened. There were rumors that it was going to be covered with artificial turf. Right now it's dirt and actually a lot of gopher holes.

It's just that the work has been so infrequent and sporadic that it's dragged on for months. If you could assure us that it's on the schedule for the near future and we could see some activity and progress, that would be encouraging!

Please do update me with any news you might have about the progress.

Thanks!

Eric

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 15, 2021, at 4:33 PM, RAP ProjectInfo
<rap.projectinfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Eric,

Thanks for the pictures and the detailed info. In regards to the open area drain, we are in the process of installing a dog water fountain there. At the moment, there is no estimation on timeframe for that work. If that changes, I can let you know.

In regards to the closed area, the latest info I have is that the closed area will be backfilled, graded and cleaned up as soon as possible. Once that is done, the fencing will be removed and that area can be opened up. I'm looking into getting a timeframe for this part of the project.

Please let us know if you have any questions or experience more issues.

Sincerely,

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On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 1:56 PM Eric Drachman
< > wrote:

Thanks for your quick reply.

I think there must be some confusion about which project we're discussing. I'm talking about the large dog park at GlenAlla. I will attach photos below, but half of the park is still closed off, locked and inaccessible.

In the area that remains open, there is an overflowing drain that is covered with a tarp and surrounded by orange cones. It is a mess that the dogs continuously get in and try to drink from the overflowing drain.

In the side that remains closed, there is a very large open trench with a piece of furniture covering one very small section, there is the new water fountain that still sits on raised concrete and it's clearly not finished. There is caution tape and piles of dirt. In short, there can be no doubt that the project is not completed. As I explained before, part of the frustration is that there seems to be very little work completed on an ongoing basis and no communication as to when the park will reopen.

Thanks again for your help with this. I hope this more detailed email and the attached photographs are helpful in understanding its current status.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Best,

Eric Drachman

<image.jpg><image.jpg><image.jpg><image.jpg>
<image.jpg><image.jpg><image.jpg><image.jpg>

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2021, at 4:19 PM, RAP
ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org>
wrote:

Good Afternoon,

According to our project manager, the dog
park project is completed and should be
open for use. There are other improvement
projects going on at the park. Likely the
equipment you're seeing is related to those
other projects. Please let us know if you
encounter any problems or issues.

Thanks.
Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

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On Tue, Dec 14, 2021 at 10:54 AM RAP
ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org>
wrote:

Good Morning,

Thanks for contacting the project info line.
We'll let you know as soon as we have
answers to your questions about Glen Alla
Park.

Sincerely,

RAP Project Info Staff

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On Sun, Dec 12, 2021 at 12:13 PM Eric Drachman < > wrote:

Hello -

We love this Glen Alla big dog park, but half of it has been closed for so many months! :-0

I see that your sign says it is due to be completed in spring of 2020. That is about a year and eight months ago?

I see that there was some plumbing work done and there's a new water fountain on the closed off side. There is still a big mess with an overflowing faucet on the open side of the park.

It seems that this project will go weeks without any noticeable progress. Can you give me a sense of when to expect its completion and reopening?

Thanks so much for your help,

Eric Drachman

Sent from my iPhone



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Glen Alla large dog park

1 message

RAP ProjectInfo <rap.projectinfo@lacity.org>

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 3:08 PM

To: Eric Drachman <>

Cc: "RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org" <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org>

Hi Eric,

Thanks for your patience and communication in regards to the issues at the dog park. The latest information I have is that park maintenance and contractors have been notified of the issues remaining at the park, specifically the requests from the public to keep the majority of the natural turf area synthetic, and to cover exposed areas of the north side of the park with more synthetic turf. Also, our construction teams have asked maintenance to remove the sump and water fountain in its entirety and replace it, as the sump keeps clogging up, which is causing the drainage issues you mentioned. I will follow up with you when I have updates. In regards to your questions about the low fence and security lighting, I'm still waiting to hear answers about those. I'll let you know when I have info on those issues.

Thanks
Sincerely,

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On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 3:13 PM Eric Drachman <> wrote:

Hello –

I'm checking back in about the progress of the project at our GlenAlla dog park.

Obviously, the project has been stopped partway through and I can tell you, that it would go a very long way if you could just share with us what your intentions are and when we can expect to see some progress.

I won't repeat all of my notes from below, but I will update you about the status. Right now, the south side of the park has been (I think unofficially) re-opened. The problem is that there is no water on that side and the drainage has not been repaired there. But on the north side, it is still too rough for wheelchairs and it is dangerously dark in the evenings. The dogs have been digging a deep hole next to the water fountain as it is mud and not the turf that would prevent that from happening. I'm concerned that someone will twist their ankle in that hole. It is also too dark on the path from the north side to the entrance on the south side.

You told be before that you thought the plan was to cover the north side with artificial turf. That is what we are all hoping for and then to fix the plumbing issues as well on the south side.

After that, having adequate light is important and to fix the low fences that tempt the dogs to jump over (sometimes injuring themselves) and pooping out of sight of their owners and getting dirty in poop and mud over there as well.

So many people and dogs use this park. It is a wonderful resource, but has been disappointingly in a state of disrepair for many months.

Please please update us so we know what to expect. At the end of last year, you told just hat you would know more in the beginning of the year. We are already in February.

Thanks so much. I will look forward to hearing back from you!