



**MINUTES**  
**LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
 Monday, January 27, 2020  
 6:30 pm  
 Los Angeles Equestrian Center  
 480 West Riverside Dr. Los Angeles CA 91506

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
District 1 VACANT		
District 2 Jeffrey Rewald	X	
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lynn Brown	X	
District 5 David Ramey, DVM	X	
District 6 Mary Benson	X	
District 7 Dale Gibson	X	
District 8 Kevin Atkins	X	
District 9 Vacant		
District 10 Todd La Vergne	X	
District 11 Larry Watts	X	
District 12 Stacia Crane		X
District 13 Gene Gilbert	X	
District 14 Vacant		
District 15 Vacant		
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez	X	

**Item No. 1 Call to Order.** Member Gibson acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 6:35 p.m. The Chair then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thereafter the Chair welcomed the public in attendance and asked the Members present to introduce themselves.

**Item No. 2 Welcome to Public Officials.** No public officials were in attendance.

**Item No. 3. Recognition of Joe Saliaices.** The chair next expressed the thanks of the entire LAEAC to Joe Saliaices for his years of service on behalf of the LAEAC and the entire Los Angeles area equestrian community. The Chair next presented Joe with a crystal plaque as a token of the LAEAC's appreciation of his service.

The Chair next introduced and welcomed Stephanie Smith who has been appointed by the Department of Recreation & Parks to replace Joe Saliaices as its representative on the LAEAC.

The Chair next introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Chief Ranger for the Dept. of Rec.& Parks, Joe Losorelli, a 35-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) who retired from the LAPD in 2017. Chief Losorelli spoke briefly and assured all that his and his fellow Park Rangers goal is to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation facilities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate,

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build a sense of community, and be good stewards of our environment. Park Rangers, through careful efforts, protect those who are using parks and protect park resources so that future generations may enjoy them.

**Item No. 4 Public Comment.** The Chair next recognized several members of the public who had requested an opportunity to address the LAEAC.

The first individual to speak described the risk presented by the many new squirrel holes on trails throughout Griffith Park.

The next speaker showed the committee a spike with a tassel that can be found at numerous points in the park, including on trails. to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation facilities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate, build a sense of community, and be good stewards of our environment. Park Rangers, through careful efforts, protect those who are using parks and protect park resources so that future generations may enjoy them. Here was discussion that these are used to designate the location of underground utilities. She explained these items represent a source of serious injury to horses because they become dislodged during rainy weather and can puncture a horse's hoof. She suggested possibly replacing them with markers using wooden pegs.

The next speaker reported a similar risk is present at the approaches to the new Kretz bridge n connecting North Atwater to Griffith Park. She said the bridge construction crew discarded many nails, spikes and other debris at both approaches to the bridge and though covered with decomposed granite, they still present a risk of injury to gorse, hikers and cyclists.

**Item No. 5. Proposed Rodeo Ban in City of Los Angeles.** The Chair next called upon Brenda Barnette, General Manager, of the Dept. of Animal Services. Ms. Barnette first apologized for not informing the LAEAC when a potential ban of rodeo events within the City of Los Angeles was discussed in March 2019. Ms. Barnette said the Commissioners and the Department receives proposals from a wide variety of sources. There was some lack of clarity concerning exactly how the proposal was initiated and resolved at the time. However, she assured all that there is no such proposal currently being considered by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners or the Dept. of Animal Services. She also committed that henceforth she will promptly inform the Committee should her Department or the Board decide in the future to consider any proposal effecting equestrian sports, including Rodeo events.

Several members of the Committee pointed out that much of the criticism that has been directed at rodeo not only ignores the sport's long historic roots, but is based upon misinformation concerning rodeo practices and the impact they have on horses and other livestock.

**Item No. 6. Aerial Tramway.** Asked Member Lynn Brown if there is anything new to report in connection with the proposed aerial tramway project that is under consideration and she had nothing new to report.

**Item No. 7. King Day Parade.** The Chair asked Member La Verne to report on LAEAC's participation in the recent King Day Parade. Member La Verne said 4 LAEAC members and about 9 others road in the parade this year. He thanked Member Perez for supplying horses.

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# AGENDA

## Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

**Item No. 8. Fencing for Tunnel .** The Chair asked for an update for the fencing for the tunnel near the eastbound off-ramp from the 134 at Forest Lawn Drive. Joe Salaices said obtaining a P.O. has taken a long time to be processed but it should be issued shortly and the R & P department can then proceed with the purchase. This will be funded initially by R & P, but it will be reimbursed from the Equestrian Fund.

**Item No. 9.** The Chair recognized Member Gilbert to give an update on the new the new La Kretz bridge n connecting North Atwater to Griffith Park. Member Gilbert first noted that the bridge has not yet been officially opened, though the public had been using it until a recent horse accident occurred, which has resulted in the bridge being closed until the situation can be evaluated. The accident involved two women who were hand walk two horses across the bridge. About midway over the bridge something spooked the horses and both bolted from their handlers and galloped eastward towards Atwater Village. It is unclear whether the handlers were using stud shanks to better control the horses. One horse made its way off the bridge, but the other apparently jumped or fell over the embankment wall and fell onto the trail below. Its injuries were sufficiently severe that the horse had to be put down.

There was an extensive discussion that focused primarily on the concrete pavement where bridge meets the path running parallel to the river. One possible amelioration would be to modify the foot at that point so that it is not so slippery for a shod horse. Another suggestion was widen the angle from the bridge to the path, which at present is a right angel. The DPW is in the process of evaluating the situation and the LAEAC will participate.

### **Item No. 10. Committee Reports.-**

- (A) Document Committee Member Rewald stated website is being updated and stressed it is important for interested members of the public to sign-up for LAEAC mailing list.
- (B) Trails Committee - Member Benson reviewed the process for trail maintenance suggestions. Several have been received and will be considered. She also briefly discussed applications for the discretionary funds.
- (C) Planning and Land Use Committee- Member Haber pointed out the deadline for passing SB—50 is this Friday. If it becomes law, it will place all equestrian communities within the City at risk.
- (D) Equestrian Evacuation Committee- Member Watts briefly commented on the effective evacuation of horses from Sullivan Canyon to Hanson Dam during the recent Getty Fire.

**Item No. 12. Approval of Minutes.** The Chair asked if there were any comments on past minutes and there were none. Thereupon a motion duly made and seconded , the LAEAC regular meeting minutes for June 3, 2019, July 22, 2019 and September 30, 2019 were approved.

**Item No. 13 Deleting of Personal Information of Members of the Public.** The Chair noted that we have to date retained the sign-in sheets for members of the public who wish to address the LAEAC. This includes personal information such as email addresses. Some members prefer not to have their personal information shared in this fashion. Thereupon a motion duly made and seconded the following was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the sign-in sheets for members of the public wishing to address the LAEAC containing personal non-public information shall be discarded at the conclusion of each meeting.

**Item No.14. Announcements, new items for discussion, suggestions for future speakers.**

The chair announced the LAEAC meeting schedule for the balance of 2020.

**Item No.15. Next meeting.** The Chair announced the date, time and location of the next meeting will be March 23, 2020, 6:30 pm at Los Angeles Equestrian Center.

**Item No.16. Adjourn.** Upon a motion a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,  
Secretary

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