

Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee  
Thursday, October 8, 2009  
6:30PM  
Meeting Minutes

After a short welcome from the Equestrian Center, the meeting was called to order at 6:35PM by the Chair. Roll call was taken and each council district representative introduced themselves.

The establishment of the Los Angeles Horse Advisory Committee via Council File 07-4097 was provided, and included background information and a short history of the Committee's formation. The Council Motion was also read aloud.

A background to the survey of Equine Issues by the Department of Animal Services was presented. Topics included licensing, resource needs, disaster evacuation, park needs, planning, trail building, trail safety, and manure collection and disposal. It was noted that currently, there is no accurate census of equines in the City, as counting equines by the number of licenses issued would be incorrect since all equines are not properly licensed. Additional discussion regarding the \$14 license fee stated that the fee is insufficient to maintain equestrian trails and the benefits of owner's licensing their equines are not clearly stated by the Department of Animal Services. It was noted that currently, there is no penalty for not licensing your horse. The Chair informed the Committee that they could make recommendations to change the licensing fees.

The Chair provided basic committee meeting rules, including Robert's Rules of Order. As an official advisory board created by the City Council, the committee is subject to the Brown Act, a State law that governs public meetings. It was noted that the public could also attend sub-committee meetings.

A By-Law Sub-Committee was established to define operating rules. Members are: Randy Young, Mary Benson, Terry Kaiser, and Natalie Blancardi.

The next meeting date is tentatively set for Wednesday, November 4 @ 6:30PM

Public Comment included the following requests/comments:

- review of the Department of Recreation and Parks' trail plan from 1968
- enforcement of Los Angeles Municipal Code violations
- collection of the \$14 license fees must be done
- trails are not for equestrians only, but must also include hikers, that this is a total City planning issue
- mountain bike issues
- Building & Safety should not require an engineering study for barn building
- the City Council needs to eventually consider an Equestrian Bill of Rights
- this is a great chance to unify and be vocal, equestrian can provide \$900 million industry to the City
- excited to see the establishment of this Committee and the work that will be done