



Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

October 28th, 2025

Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

RE: Board of Commissioners Agendizing the Griffith Park Pony Rides to Outline Next Steps

Synopsis: Griffith Park Advisory Board respectfully requests that the status of the Griffith Park Pony Rides be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting of the Department of Recreation and Parks Commissioners before year end.

Dear Commissioners:

The multi-year saga of the Pony Rides is one that the Griffith Park Advisory Board is intimately familiar with and we implore you to agendize this item so that we can close this chapter. Our board strives to represent as many park stakeholders as possible and is blessed to frequently have members of the equestrian community serving on our board. When concerns about the prior operator were first raised in 2022—culminating in the closure of the rides as they had existed—our board quickly formed an ad hoc to both investigate and monitor the issues and this facility as a whole.

The overwhelming conclusion by our ad hoc in early 2023, after months of extensive community outreach, was that the Pony Rides should return to their historic location within Griffith Park as soon as possible. Similarly, other respected community organizations came to the same conclusions and were quite vocal in their feedback. We fully appreciate that the Department of Recreation and Parks needed to conduct their own outreach and due diligence, which was effectively handled by Placeworks from mid-2023 to early 2024.

These findings were presented to the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners in September 2024, with the recommendation that the Pony Rides return to Griffith Park.

Since late last year we have been eagerly awaiting any sort of update. With extensive community engagement completed through the “Reimagining the Pony Ride Site” process and broad interest in reactivating this historic attraction, we believe the public is owed an update from the Board regarding next steps. Griffith Park Advisory Board respectfully requests

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Alex Crow; Vice Chair – Alex Phillips; Secretary – Jane Carlson; Aaron Chung; Jason Greenwald; Billy Griffin; Amy Gustincic; T. Hagans; Cristian Hamilton; Chris Laib; Sarah Lann

that the status of the Griffith Park Pony Rides be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting of the Department of Recreation and Parks Commissioners before year end.

Upcoming Commission meetings are scheduled for November 20 (Balboa Sports Complex), December 4 (Valley Plaza Recreation Center), and December 18 (Friendship Auditorium). While any of these dates would provide a valuable opportunity for discussion, the December 18th meeting at Friendship Auditorium - given its central location - may offer the best opportunity for greater stakeholder participation. We appreciate the Commission's continued attention to this cherished Griffith Park site and look forward to renewed dialogue on its future.

Many thanks,

Alex Crow
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Crow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim, Matthew Rudnick, Brenda Aguirre, Stefanie Smith, Tracy James; CD4: Mehmet Berker, Hannah Jaeger