



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
 Monday November 27, 2023  
 6:30 pm  
 Griffith Park Visitor Center (Park Ranger Auditorium)  
 4730 Crystal Springs Drive  
 Los Angeles CA 90027

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks		X
District 1 VACANT		
District 2 Dale Gibson	X	
District 3 Brian Walsh	X	
District 4 Lisa Hanawalt		X
District 5 David Ramey, DVM	X	
District 6 Mary Benson	X	
District 7 Stephanie Saporito	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 Sabrina Silver	X	
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez		X

**Item No. 1 Call to Order.** Member Ramey acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 6:45 p.m and asked Member Gibson to lead the pledge of allegiance. He then asked the Secretary to call the roll.

**Item No. 2 Approval of Minutes** The Chair called for a discussion of the draft minutes previously circulated for the July 24, 2023 meeting. After discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes were approved.

**Item No. 3. Welcome new members Brian Walsh and Dale Gibson.** The Chair next welcomed new member Brian Walsh and returning member Dale Gibson.

**Item No. 4. General Public Comment on non-agenda items.** There were several public comments, including concerning the hazardous riding condition in Griffith Park, primarily related to the many homeless encampments, numerous bicyclists and motorized vehicles. There was a suggestion to form volunteer mounted patrols.

**Item No. 5 Update of Griffith Park Pony Rides.** The Chair next recognized Member Silver to provide a status report on the ongoing Dept. of Recreation & Parks Reimagining the Pony Ride Site. Member Silver presented a lengthy proposal for accomplishing the foregoing. Member Gibson stressed the need to improve the look of the faciality. Member Saporito reminded mem-

bers of the importance of becoming advocates for the pony rides. Member Walsh noted it was important to calm the rhetoric and engage with opponents of the pony rides.

Several general comments were made by the public.

Thereupon a motion duly made and seconded, following discussion it was

RESOLVED, 1. Use MailChimp distribution of the RAP link to promote engagement in Rec and Parks survey on pony rides; 2. include the (attached) bullet point synopsis of the working group findings for distribution, and 3. Send RAP survey letter to Neighborhood Councils with supporting material concerning

**Item No. 6. Discussion, Motion and possible action on LAEAC Communication.**

The Chair recognized Member Saporito who presented various ideas for improving community outreach and obtaining community feedback.

Thereupon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED, that member Saporito is authorized to further study and make specific recommendations on improving community outreach by the LAEAC.

**Item No. 7. Discussion, motion and possible action to form working groups:**

Thereupon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED that the following working groups be established initially as follows, subject to being augmented as necessary::

1. Planning and Land Use Working Group to analyze SB-423 to determine actions that may be needed---Chair Brian Walsh and community representative Jill Haber.
2. Trails Working Group---Chair Co-Chairs Mary Benson and Lisa Hanawalt, member Sabrina Silver and community representative T. Hagans

**Item No. 8. Browns Canyon** The Chair recognized Member Crane who reported on the contemplated transfer of certain property in Brown's Canyon by the County of LA to the Santa Mountains Conservancy. The land in question has been used by equestrians. There is ample room for truck and trailer parking and is well used and popular with the North Valley horse community. Following discussion it was apparent that more information is required before LAEAC could weigh in on this issue and upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

RESOLVED, that the LAEAC write to Los Angeles County Supervisors requesting further information.

**Item No. 9 Bike Path Project Request from CD-4 for formal comments concerning design consideration;....**

A member of the public gave a lengthy presentation which included photographs depicting the impracticability of using path adjacent to the LA River for both bicyclists and equestrians

This item was tabled.

**Item No. 10. Rodeo Ordinance.** The Chair recognized Member Gibson who reported that the motion of Councilmember Blumenfield to amend the LAMC to ban certain instruments used in rodeo is set to be considered by the City Council on December 5, 2023. He urged members and

those supporting rodeo to attend and speak at the hearing. The LAEAC has heretofore set forth its objections to the proposed ordinance and submitted its proposed amendments, should the City Council decide to amend the LAMC. Member Gibson moved that LAEAC restate its objections to the proposed ordinance.

The motion of Member Gibson was duly seconded and following discussion it was

RESOLVED, that LAEAC write a letter to the City restating its objections to the proposed ordinance.

Member Walsh abstained.

**Item 11. Discussion of an Equestrian Bill of Rights.** The Chair recognized Member Gibson who described the background of a proposal that the LAEAC support and adopt an Equestrian Bill of Rights. Following a brief discussion, the matter was tabled

**Item 12. Council District Updates.**

CD-5 Chair Ramey reported on the Bureau of Engineering project to improve street crossing at the intersection of Beverly Glen Blvd. and Mulholland Drive.

CD-12 Member Crane reported on need for equestrians to participate in upcoming events in Grenada Hills and Chatsworth.

CD-13. Member Gilbert reported that DOT and representatives from CD-13 visited the North Atwater river crossing, the adjacent tunnel and nearby homeless encampment.

**Item No. 13. Adjourn & Next Meeting.** The next regular meeting will be held on January 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at a TBD location. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,  
Secretary