



MEETING MINUTES
LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Monday April 1, 2024
 6:30 pm
 Brand Park Community Center
 15121 Brand Boulevard
 Mission Hills, CA 91345

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez	X	
District 1 T. Hagans	X	
District 2 Dale Gibson	X	
District 3 Brian Walsh		X
District 4 Vacant		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	
Dept. of Recreation & Parks Joe Salaices	X	

Item No. 1 Call to Order. Member Ramey acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 6:40 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 November 27, 2023 and January 29, 2024 meetings. After discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the draft minutes were approved.

Item No. 3. City Department/ Staff Reports. There were no city representatives in attendance.

Item No. 4. General Public Comment on non-agenda items. There were several public comments. Gina Cruz from the Foothills Trails District Neighborhood Council described a recent situation in her area involving what her NC thought was an agreement by DOT to improve trail safety for riders on Foothill Boulevard. Her NC had been told DOT would expand and improve the shoulder of Foothill Boulevard until a permanent bridle path on the north side of the boulevard could be constructed. Instead DOT created a new bike path, Ms. Cruz stressed the importance of both reaching out to one's NC and CD office when a new project that will potentially have an impact upon equestrian activities.

There also were comments concerning unsafe conditions arising from unauthorized camping particularly adjacent to the LA River. There was a comment that the River Rangers program involves providing outreach and connecting the unhoused with services and housing, not enforcement of ordinances, including those prohibiting camping. Member Silver suggested using MyLA 311 as a viable option for obtaining an official response for enforcement of ordinances or for removal of safety hazards.

Item No. 5 Reports.

- a. There was a discussion concerning unfilled seats on the LAEAC, The Chair indicated his impression that CD-7 Councilmember Rodriguez was preparing to appoint a successor to Stephanie Saporito. There was also discussion that CD-4 would select a replacement for Lisa Hannawalt. There was a comment that CD-9 does not currently have a councilmember and that CD-14 has expressed no interest in appointing anyone to the LAEAC.
- b. Trails Standing Committee. Member Benson announced that the Trails Committee recently held an organizing meeting on March 18, 2024. She also said there is an urgent need to reach out to members of Congress concerning the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act (HR 5881). The Act was introduced in the Senate by the late Senator Feinstein and Senator Padilla in 2023. However, it needs to be brought to the House Floor and is currently held up in the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands. Explaining this bill to friends or family and encouraging them to write and support this bill can help, particularly if they live in a district where their Member of Congress sits on the House Natural Resources Committee or its Federal Lands Subcommittee.
- c. Atwater Bridge/LAEAC perimeter site walks. The chair recognized Member Silver who described generally a recent visit the Atwater Bridge area, the roll of the River Rangers, the need for safety improvement to the bridge access. She reiterated the benefit of using MyLA 311 for reporting safety issues and ordinance violations.
- d. Review and discussion of LAEAC formation documents, including ways to better implement the original City Council motion crating the LAEAC. The Chair recognized Member Silver who expressed her views on the subject, including the need liaise with various City Departments. The Chair recognized Member Benson who stated concerning working backward and the importance of following up on numerous recent LAEAC action items that are before the Committee. There was further discussion and though no action was taken, it appeared there I consensus that LAEAC needs to now focus on current issues.

Item No. 6. Equine Advisory Committee Business Items.

- a. EAC Nominations and Elections of Officers.
 - a. President. David Ramey and Mary Benson were nominated and Mary Benson was duly elected as President.
 - b. Vice President. Sabrina Silver and T. Hagans were nominated and T. Hagans was duly elected as Vice President.
 - c. Secretary. Larry Watts was nominated and duly elected
- b. Fill Land Use Standing Committee Chair. This item was tabled.
- c. District Updates;
 - a. CD-1. A horse crossing signage/lighting system at the intersection of Ave 57 and Via Marisol is needed.. Member Hagans has contacted CD-1 staff and the Bureau of Engineering. The BOE is drafting a proposal that will determine the next steps.
 - b. CD-2. It appears no immediate action will be taken on the proposed Rodeo Ordinance while the Council reconsiders the matter.
 - c. .CD-5 The Chair announced the Bureau of Engineering has agreed to include the LAEAC in participating in the adoption of trail standards for the City of LA.

- d. CD-12. Member Crane explained that the City the Dept. of Building & Safety had approved, without notice to the Porter Ranch NC or to the public generally, a new housing development in the Porter Ranch area zoned for horse keeping. Building & Safety approved 5' side yard setbacks, instead on the required minimum 10' side yard setback. The NC and community were told the approval was in error, but that having approved the 5' side yard setback, the City could not rescind its approval. There was a general discussion about regularly inviting representatives from B & S to LAEAC meetings to discuss the special rules applicable to horse keeping properties to reduce the likelihood of such errors in the future. She also reminded all of the upcoming Day of the Horse on April 7.
- e. CD-15. Kathy Kusner's charity Horses in the Hood remains active in introducing inner city youngsters from South Los Angeles and Compton to horses.
- f. Dept. RAP. Joe Salaces reported that henceforth RAP will undertake direct responsibility for maintenance at LAEC with funding from the annual operating budget of RAP. Member Benson expressed appreciation of this action by RAP and requested the minutes reflect LAEAC welcomes this decision.

Item No. 7. Meeting Calendar for 2024 EAC General and Standing Committee Meetings.

After discussion and upon and upon a motion duly made and seconded the following meeting schedule was adopted for 2024: April 22-Trails Subcommittee; June 3- General meeting; July 22-General meeting; August 26- Trails Subcommittee; September 23- General meeting; October 28- Trails Subcommittee; November 18- General meeting.

Item No. 8. CF 20-1575 Rodeo Letter. Following a brief discussion, the matter was tabled.

Item No. 9 Discussion and Possible Motion on Equestrian Bill of Rights. Following a brief discussion, the matter was tabled.

Item No. 10. SB 423. No action was taken on this item following a brief discussion.

Item 11. Southern California Association of Governments Connect SoCal 2024 Following a brief discussion, the matter was tabled.

Item 12. New Business. Following a brief discussion, the matter was tabled.

Item No. 13. Adjourn & Next Meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on June 3, 2024, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at a TBD location. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,
Secretary