

**LOS ANGELES
EQUINE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

1st District: Julian Sandoval
 2nd District: Nick Pool
 3rd District: Jill Haber
 4th District: Lynn Brown
 5th District: Melanie Coto
 6th District: Mary Benson
 7th District: Dale Gibson
 8th District: Todd LaVergne

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Eric Garcetti
MAYOR

Chair: Joe Salaices,
Department of Recreation and Parks

9th District: Brady Westwater
 10th District: Kevin Atkins
 11th District: Larry Watts
 12th District: Mary Kaufman
 13th District: Gene Gilbert
 14th District: Vacant
 15th District: Vacant

City of Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday June 4 2018 6:30 p.m.

Los Angeles Equestrian Center, 480 Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91506

	Present	Absent
Joe Salaices Chair	X	
District 1 Vacant		
District 2 Jeffrey Rewald	X	
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lynn Brown	X	
District 5 Melanie Coto		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 Office Scott Perez	X	

- 1) Dale Gibson acted as Chair and welcomed those attending.
- 2) The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m. and asked Member Crane to lead the pledge of allegiance. The Chair next welcomed attending public officials, including Chief Guy Tomlinson LAFD and Karen Knipscheer Cox LA Dept. of Animal Services. Chief Tomlinson gave an update on emergency preparedness planning and efforts by the City to develop large animal evacuation procedures.
- 3) Public Comment. The Chair recognized Mr. George Chatigny of LAEC who welcomed LAEAC again and urged us to promulgate information on the upcoming Equine Film Festival sponsored by the LAEC.

- 4)The Chair next asked for comments on the LAEAC Bylaws which were adopted shortly following the formation of the LAEAC. There was a brief discussion, but no action was taken.
- 5)The Chair next opened the floor for nomination of officers. The following were nominated and duly elected: Dale Gibson President, Lynn Brown Vice President and Larry Watts Secretary.
- 6)The Chair next recognized Member Brown and asked her to report on the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the North Atwater Multimodal Bridge. Member Brown explained that this project has been 25 years in the making and was finally made possible in part by a donation by Morton La Kretz. The new bridge will include two separate decks — one for pedestrians and cyclists and the other for equestrians. The bridge will connect the horse community of Atwater Village to 56 miles of horse trails in Griffith Park.
- 7)The Chair next recognized Member Benson who explained that the City Controller has discovered the City is holding millions of special funds monies that have not been spent for their intended purposes, including monies that have been set aside for trail maintenance. These particular funds were generated by horse licensing fees and currently exceed \$850,000. There followed a discussion of the criteria that will be used to determine which projects qualify for this funding. No action was taken other than to request Member Benson and Member Salaices to obtain more information on the applicable guidelines for approving grants of funds for trail maintenance so that the LAEAC can take the lead in identifying eligible projects.
- 8)The Chair asked Member Benson to report concerning the recent national Trails Day event at Hanson Dam Recreation Area. She noted that this was the first such event in 50 years and that it was a great success.
- 9)A) There was discussion of a pending application by Ahead With Horses for a CUP and variance in connection with their new facility to be built on approximately two acres located at 9955 Foothill Blvd. This site was previously being considered as the location for a solar panel installation. Judy Beem, on behalf of Ahead With Horses, explained that it is a charitable organization that provides equine therapy to handicapped children and adults. It has operated in Shadow Hills for 50 years. The new property is zoned RAE and RE. Ahead With Horses requires a CUP and variance because it does not intend to construct a residence on the property. After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that LAEAC would support this application as it was, among other things, consistent with the existing equine uses in the area and would provide an important public benefit to the community. Member Watts directed to coordinate with the Ahead With Horses representative and draft a letter of support consistent with the foregoing.

B) Special Spirit matter was tabled.
- 10)The Chair next invited a discussion of the need to form a Standing Equestrian Evacuation Committee. The Chair noted the Dept. of Animal Services has indicated it either opposes or is not allowed to evacuate animals except to public lands. This seems odd and needs further explanation. There was also discussion concerning the apparent reluctance of Animal Services to reach out to the LAEAC notwithstanding a City Council resolution directing Animal Services to include the LAEAC, as well as the LAFD and LAPD, in developing recommendations. Member Watts was asked to send Member Salaices a copy of the City Council resolution.
- 11)The Chair next discussed whether LAEAC should obtain guidance from the City Attorney on liability issues related to the evacuation of large animals by private individuals during an emergency. No action was taken at this time. Member Salaices indicated Dep. City Attorney Mike Dundas is assigned as counsel to the Dept. of Rec. & Parks and he will introduce the LAEAC to Mr. Dundas.

- 12)There next followed a discussion of the role the Executive Committee can or should perform. No action was taken at this time.
- 13)The Chair recognized Member Haber who reported on the ongoing effort to update the Encino/Tarzana Community Plan. Haber reported that Erin Lopez is leading the City Planning team working on the community plan update for Encino/Tarzana and that Lopez will be meeting with community members, including herself over the coming months. No action was taken at this time.
- 14)Member Rewald gave a brief report on status of the email notification list update and explained to the members and audience that they can sign up if they want to receive notices of LAEAC meetings, agendas and other equine related activities. There was also discussion of posting this information at local tack and feed stores as a way of introducing the equine community to the existence and role of LAEAC.
- 15)The Chair next asked for LAEAC Committees reports. 1) The Document Committee has been inactive and the Chair asked Member Rewald to chair the committee. 2) There was no report from the Trails Committee. 3) Member Haber reported for the Planning and Land Use Committee that recently many Dept. of B. & S. staff who were familiar with equine issues have recently retired, leaving a knowledge/experience gap. She stated there was a need for the PLUC to work with the new personnel at B. & S. to familiarize them with horse related zoning issues when new construction is planned in equine keeping areas. This includes set-backs, particularly in connection with auxiliary dwelling units, aka "granny flats." She suggested the need to develop a questionnaire for use when building permits are applied for in horse-keeping areas. The questionnaire would be provided to all applicants to complete before any new permit is issued. Member Haber will work with Jack Congor at Dept. of B. & S. on this.
- 16)The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2017 LAEAC meeting. The minutes were approved with one correction to reflect that Member Rewald was present, not absent as stated in the draft minutes..
- 17)The Chair next asked for announcements, suggestions for new items of discussion and possible speakers at future LAEAC meetings. Member Gilbert announced there were 100 attendees at an Atwater Village event requesting the area be designated as an Historic Equestrian Community. She also indicated the community has arranged for a veterinarian to micro-chip horses in Atwater Village this coming weekend for a fee of \$25 per horse. Member Rewald expressed identifying other equestrian communities in the city as historic neighborhoods.
- 18)The Chair announced the next LAEAC meeting will be on July 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center.
- 19)Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary