

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

February 02, 2023

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager   
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
1) Various comments regarding Griffith Park Pony Ride		Referred to General Manager
2) Sarajane Schwartz comments regarding Hollywoodland and Public Safety	#9246a	Referred to General Manager
3) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park	#9247	Referred to General Manager
4) Andi McAfee comments regarding Purchase 10861 Andora Ave	#9248	Referred to General Manager
5) Phyllis Taylor comments regarding Rancho Cienega Sports Complex	#9249	Referred to General Manager
6) Gerry Hans comments as President on behalf of Friends of Griffith Park regarding Rodger Young Village	#9250	Note and File
7) Jon Deutsch comments as President on behalf of Friends of Griffith Park regarding Rodger Young Village	#9250a	Note and File
8) Lisa Baca comments regarding Hansen Dam	#9251	Referred to General Manager
9) Joanne Sala comments regarding Palisades Pickleball Courts	#9252	Referred to General Manager
10) Hollywood Sign Ad HOC Committee	#9253	Note and File

11) Marisa Schwartz comments as President on behalf of The Oaks Neighborhood Association's letter	#9253a	Note and File
12) City Council Journal item regarding George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon hours of operation	#9254	Note and File

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Hollywoodland and Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays**

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:08 AM

To:  
Cc: "emma.taylor@lacity.org" <emma.taylor@lacity.org>, "nithya.raman@lacity.org" <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, "josef.siroky@lacity.org" <josef.siroky@lacity.org>, "mehmet.berker@lacity.org" <mehmet.berker@lacity.org>, "geoff.thompson@lacity.org" <geoff.thompson@lacity.org>, "stefanie.smith@lacity.org" <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, "tracy.james@lacity.org" <tracy.james@lacity.org>,

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 6:15 PM < > wrote:

I WANT THIS EMAIL TO BE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Sunday, January 15, MLK Holiday Weekend

Dear City Officials,

I have not heard from anyone in response to my previous emails. I don't understand how an entire neighborhood association with severe public safety concerns can be ignored.

Maybe it is because it appears that there has been no planning done for the holidays including no enforcement.

I went for a brief drive around of the neighborhood around 3pm today, Sunday, the 15th. **I saw absolutely no enforcement anywhere.** We usually have some kind of enforcement on regular weekends. It is unprecedented to have nothing on a holiday weekend.

Maybe the City was falling back on its primary strategy when it comes to our neighborhood---luck. Of course this is not allowed anywhere else in the City.

Private enterprises would be immediately shut down. But here, where the City's most primary duty is public safety and is responsible for and the cause of the magnet and its dangerous impacts, it relies on luck. You were relying on the rain. It's interesting. I don't see the capacity that the fire inspector puts on buildings being dependent on circumstances or luck.

Well for the most part today, it did NOT rain. The general weather did depress numbers, but what was here was pretty bad. We needed help. The barricades were totally open at dirt Mulholland. I did not want to drive in and add to the chaos. I saw cars driving in. There were illegally parked cars on Mulholland. No parking signs were totally ignored. At the illegal view site there was a back up because one car chose to park right at the illegal the view site where there is no parking. Every car had to go around the car where you could not see the opposite traffic. This went on between 5 to 10 minutes. This same car then went further down the hill and parked in the red in front of a hydrant. The parking places at this location were all almost all filled. There were other illegally parked cars.

I also drove up Canyon Lake Drive to the "Innsdale Trail". This is a dangerous growing problem. This is an unfinished street--not a trail. On Apple maps the name is now "Innsdale Trail To The Hollywood Sign." That is what it's called. There were more cars parked there than I've ever seen. There are also the contradictory signs. Restricted Entry Trespassing prohibited, and then other signs list other restrictions. This "trail" does not lead anywhere except to another street, Mulholland Highway. Can you give me another example of a trail in the park that goes nowhere except to a street? Hundreds of people, including even tour groups, take this "trail" and end up congesting this narrow street with

no sidewalks in a residential neighborhood. They then walk in the street to the dead end of Mulholland where there is another so called "trail" that is an unfinished street. Hundreds of visitors then take this to the end of Deronda and go through another gate that says No Trespassing. The numbers are growing. The City must step in and immediately at the very least do two things. Gate off the "Innsdale Trail". If you won't do it on both sides, at least gate it off on the Mulholland side to stop the people pouring into the street. In addition this "trail" should also be removed on line. If the City will not do that, it must have them remove the misnomer "To The Hollywood Sign."

I then went to Deronda and Rockcliff. There were fewer cars, but there really wasn't much of a barricade at Rockcliff and Deronda, so cars were driving up. I drove up too. It was filled with illegally parked cars and gridlock. Cars were parked everywhere. Sometimes there was room for cars to turn around and sometimes not. The cars were not only parked illegally in "parking spaces" along the side of the road, but they were also at the very end. All of the no parking and restricted parking signs at this location were ignored. If vehicles would have to get through to Mt Lee Road, all ingress and egress was blocked.

So there were no emergencies today. The City, residents of Hollywoodland, and visitors were lucky. What are your plans for tomorrow? We still have heard nothing. Are you just depending on more luck or will we have enforcement?

We're still waiting for an answer.

Sarajane Schwartz

-----Original Message-----

From:

To: [emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org) <[emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org)>; [nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org) <[nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org)>; [josef.siroky@lacity.org](mailto:josef.siroky@lacity.org) <[josef.siroky@lacity.org](mailto:josef.siroky@lacity.org)>

Cc: [mehmet.berker@lacity.org](mailto:mehmet.berker@lacity.org) <[mehmet.berker@lacity.org](mailto:mehmet.berker@lacity.org)>; [geoff.thompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoff.thompson@lacity.org) <[geoff.thompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoff.thompson@lacity.org)>; [stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org) <[stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org)>; [tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org) <[tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org)>;

Sent: Fri, Jan 13, 2023 5:14 pm

Subject: Re: Hollywoodland and Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays

I WANT THIS EMAIL TO BE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD

Dear City Officials,

With the exception of an automatic reply of receipt from Rec and park Commission, there has been no response from anyone.

The MLK holiday weekend is here. What are your plans? What and where will the enforcement be?

Who do we contact in case of an emergency? Do we have a liaison? Is anything scheduled at all including on the Monday holiday?

Unfortunately as conditions worsen, the City appears to be tuning out. We need help.

Sarajane Schwartz

-----Original Message-----

From:

To: [emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org) <[emma.taylor@lacity.org](mailto:emma.taylor@lacity.org)>; [nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org) <[nithya.raman@lacity.org](mailto:nithya.raman@lacity.org)>; [josef.siroky@lacity.org](mailto:josef.siroky@lacity.org) <[josef.siroky@lacity.org](mailto:josef.siroky@lacity.org)>

Cc: [mehmet.berker@lacity.org](mailto:mehmet.berker@lacity.org) <[mehmet.berker@lacity.org](mailto:mehmet.berker@lacity.org)>; [geoff.thompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoff.thompson@lacity.org) <[geoff.thompson@lacity.org](mailto:geoff.thompson@lacity.org)>; [stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org) <[stefanie.smith@lacity.org](mailto:stefanie.smith@lacity.org)>; [tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org) <[tracy.james@lacity.org](mailto:tracy.james@lacity.org)>;

Sent: Thu, Jan 12, 2023 5:23 pm

Subject: Re: Hollywoodland and Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays

I WANT THIS EMAIL TO BE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD

Dear City Officials,



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

# CD1 REQUEST FOR SERVICES

1 message

**Garcia IncaREAL**

>

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 4:57 PM

To:

bertha.calderon@lacity.org, laura.island@lacity.org, art.gomez@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, valentine.brown@lacity.org, yovonte.robinson@lacity.org, CMEH01@lacity.org, jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org

JANUARY 23

Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez

The Sycamore Grove Park exercise machines need repairing.

Attach some pictures.

Thank you

Mauro Garcia

## 2 attachments



**12-21-22a.JPG**  
6162K



**12-21-22b.JPG**  
5152K



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: CD1 REQUEST FOR SERVICES**

1 message

**Yovonte Robinson** <yovonte.robinson@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 12:42 PM

To: Garcia Incareal <

>

Cc:

, rick.swanson@lacity.org,  
bertha.calderon@lacity.org, laura.island@lacity.org, art.gomez@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org,  
valentine.brown@lacity.org, CMEH01@lacity.org, jose.a.rodriguez@lacity.org

Job order submitted 23-3431.

Best Regards

On Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM Garcia Incareal <

> wrote:

JANUARY 23

Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez

The Sycamore Grove Park exercise machines need repairing.

Attach some pictures.

Thank you

Mauro Garcia

--

**Yovonte Robinson**  
**Park Maintenance Supervisor**  
Recreation and Parks  
Metro Region  
Office Phone (323) 255-0370  
[Yovonte.robinson@lacity.org](mailto:Yovonte.robinson@lacity.org)





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Client Looking To Purchase 10861 Andora Ave

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Andi McAfee <>

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 1:31 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 10:56 AM Andi McAfee <> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

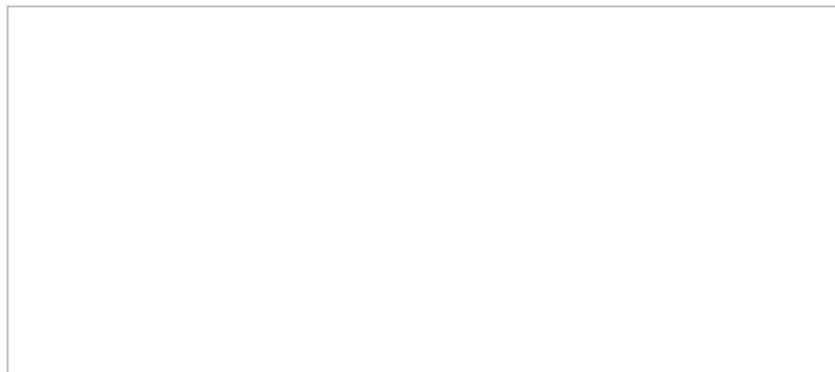
A client of ours is interested in purchasing **10861 Andora Ave**, which is currently leased under "Stoney Ranch Point Ranch".

He would be all cash and can close as quickly as needed.

Can you please help us get in touch with the appropriate person to reach out to in regards to this inquiry to purchase?

All the best,

Andi McAfee



--  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Rancho Cienega Sports Complex**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Phyllis Taylor <

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 3:10 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 2:16 PM Phyllis Taylor <

> wrote:  
Dropping a rock on the parkway is very tacky. It shows disrespect for the people in the community. If you don't want people to park in the lot, you need to put a fence around it. It's obvious that we need more parking at the Rancho Cienega Sports Complex because people keep parking there every weekend. Is this how you solve problems in other communities ? the GM has been concerned about the driveway safety which is a good concern. But to just drop a rock in front of the



park on the city parkway. Shameful.

1/24/23, 3:30 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: Rancho Cienega Sports Complex

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640  
Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Rodger Young Village Interpretive sign support**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 9:39 AM

To: Gerry Hans &lt;gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org&gt;

Cc: Stefanie Smith &lt;stefanie.smith@lacity.org&gt;, Tracy James &lt;tracy.james@lacity.org&gt;, Carolyn Ramsay &lt;carolyn@laparksfoundation.org&gt;, Marian Dodge &lt;Marian@friendsofgriffithpark.org&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 3:04 PM Gerry Hans <gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org> wrote:

RAP Commissioners,

Please see the attached letter in support of Rodger Young Village interpretive signage.

Thank you,

Gerry Hans  
President<https://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/>

--

City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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**Friends of Griffith Park**

P.O. Box 27573  
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573  
friendsofgriffithpark.org

January 21, 2023

Board of Recreation and Park Commission  
Attn: President Sylvia Patsouras  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Rodger Young Village Interpretive Sign

Dear President Patsouras and Commissioners:

Friends of Griffith Park is pleased to support the installation of an interpretive sign recognizing the history of Rodger Young Village in Griffith Park. The Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust, which is donating the sign, has recognized several other historic sites. Interpretive signs inform current visitors of the rich, but often little known history of specific sites within the park.

Indeed, it was the article “Rodger Young Village, the Local United Nations” in the Friends of Griffith Park newsletter that in part inspired the Trust to create this sign. The article was based on interviews with former residents of the village who are now senior citizens, and independent research, as well as on Mike Eberts’ definitive *Griffith Park: A Centennial History*.

Before the I-5 and the 134 chopped off the northeast corner of Griffith Park and before the new Los Angeles Zoo built a parking lot, the flat land was used as temporary housing for veterans returning from World War II. In 1946 the City quickly built housing for 3,000 families in Quonset huts. With all the vets and their brides the village was soon full of kids and fully integrated. Their own elementary school had more students than Los Feliz Elementary. Rodger Young Village was closed in 1954 to make way for the new freeway.

Friends of Griffith Park urges you to approve this interpretive sign to document the history of Rodger Young Village.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans  
President

Marian Dodge  
Chair, History Committee

*About Friends of Griffith Park: Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park's natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles' largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.*



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Letter From the Los Feliz NC - Roger Young Village Placard

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 9:50 AM

To: Jon Deutsch <

>

Cc: Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Nithya Raman <nithya.raman@lacity.org>, Emma Taylor <emma.taylor@lacity.org>

Jennifer Hull <jennifer.hull@lacity.org>, Dan McNamara <

>, Misty LeGrande

< >, Erica Vilardi-Espinosa <

>, Amanda Blide

< >, Meggan Ellingboe <

>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 8:32 PM Jon Deutsch <

> wrote:

Dear Mr. Kim,

Please find attached a letter in support of the installation of a placard at Roger Young Village.

Best Regards,

Jon Deutsch

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Jon Deutsch | President | District B Representative | Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) p.o. box 27003 | los angeles | california | | 310.564.6285

--  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
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**TREASURER**  
Erica Vilardi-Espinosa

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Misty LeGrande - Communications

**PRESIDENT**  
Jon Deutsch

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Dan McNamara - Administration

**SECRETARY**  
Amanda Blide

January 16, 2023

Attn: General Manager Jimmy Kim  
221 Figueroa Street, Suite 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
City, CA 00000

Re: Rodger Young Village Placard

Dear Mr. Kim

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council supports the Rodger Young Village informational placard proposed to be installed on the grounds of the Autry Museum of the American West, property that is leased by the Autry from the City of Los Angeles.

We enjoyed the [presentation](#) from the LA Parks Foundation explaining the history of the Rodger Young Village and its role in housing veterans after World War II. We wish even more history could be shared on the placard and would even recommend an addition of a QR code that could lead a reader to more information. We also find the history relevant given that we continue to face a housing crisis.

We further understand the placard is supported by the Autry and the LA Parks Foundation and the Griffith J Griffith Charitable Trust and understand it'll be properly maintained. Thus, we believe this will be a wonderful and inspirational piece of history to share with all who visit Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Deutsch, President  
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council

By:

Meggan Ellingboe  
Recreation Representative  
Cc: LARAP Comm., CD 4



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Hansen Dam equestrians and mountain bikets**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 9:42 AM

To: Lisa Baca < >

Cc: Lisa Baca < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 1:47 PM Lisa Baca < > wrote:

Good Afternoon

Enclosed please find a Facebook Equestrian incident with bike riders on the horse trails in the mountains by Hansen Dam today posted by Sheri Thompson in the Hansen Dam Trail Riders FB Page.

**REQUEST**

We need more Park Rangers patrolling horse trails in Hansen Dam to keep bike riders off the trails.

"I wanted to put out a warning for those that ride in the mountains. Some of the mountain bikers compete in a virtual fastest time event. I almost had one run in to me just a few minutes ago and he was cussing because I threw off his time. I found this out about this event from a hiker shortly after our near collision. The guy must have slid 10 ft trying to stop. In all my years of riding out in our mountains I have never had a bad experience with a mountain biker. I wanted others to be aware."

Thank you,  
Lisa Baca  
Cell

--  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Another Sunday morning ruined by 40 Pickeball Players on ONE COURT

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 9:49 AM

To: Joanne Sala &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:20 PM Joanne Sala &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioner:

I invite you to come to the Palisades public tennis courts on any given weekend morning and see what your lax rules and terrible decision-making has wrought on our tennis-playing community. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE OUTDOOR PLAYING SPACE with 35 to 40 people playing pickle ball on ONE TENNIS COURT next to you? Would you?

The tennis court reservation guidelines specifically state that the tennis courts are to be used for "TENNIS ONLY," in addition to other various rules we agree to about how many balls can be used on the court, and that no private lessons are to be given, etc.. How is it that the most basic rule that the courts are to be used for "tennis only" is being willfully ignored by the department? How is it that you're turning a blind eye and sanctioning the use of a public tennis court for something other than tennis?

Would you allow skateboarding on a tennis court? Rollerblading? Bike riding? Bocce Ball? How about if I wheel in my ping pong table on court 8 and play ping pong there all day? Would that be allowed? According to you, it would. How about if I wheel in FOUR ping pong tables, book the court all day, start a ping pong club, charge people money for admission, and have 35 to 40 people stand around waiting to play ping pong on court 8 all day on weekends? Would that be allowed--because that is exactly what's going on with pickle ball players.

### **THIS MUST STOP.**

This pickle ball fad should not become a burden to the recreational tennis player who, in my instance, has been playing on the LA City courts for more than 30 years. As evidenced by the pickle ball community who show up on site with their own nets, tape, paddles and plastic balls, **they can literally take their game and equipment ANYWHERE** where this is flat hard surface. Perhaps they should play on the Palisades basketball court? How would that go over with those players? Not well I imagine. Right? So why is it okay for a tennis court to be used other than its intended purpose?

### **YOUR CONDONING THIS GROUP MUST STOP.**

Joanne Sala

( )



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re:  **RAP Commissioners, Correction to the Hollywood Sign Ad Hoc Committee Report**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: hha@hollywoodland.org

Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 8:29 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 12:09 PM Official Hollywoodland Homeowners Association eMail <hha@hollywoodland.org> wrote:

22 January 2023

Dear Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC) and interested parties,

Hollywoodland Homeowners Association also known as tract 6450 represents 580 single family homes, on substandard, narrow streets (without sidewalks), a small commercial village, private horse ranch, all immersed inside 440 plus acres of open space given to the city.

**We have taken a consistent position to protect and preserve our tract rather than promote and market it.**

Hollywoodland Homeowners Association representatives and neighbors attended the HUNC meeting where the "Icons" report was shared ( 1/9/2023). **We made it quite clear we did not have anyone representing the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association in the HUNC report and that our name should not to be included in its publication. You released the report without that correction. We continue to ask for a retraction.** You have lost credibility and trust by not following through on this.

We are also puzzled by the Hollywood Chamber and Sign Trust's press release about a visitor center that included false information about the sign's age. This happened just a few days after the release of the "Icon" report . This seems particularly odd. Was there some sort of an association with the Chamber/ Trust with this report or the people serving on the "Icon" committee?

We kindly ask again for a correction and redistribution to honestly reflect the facts on the HUNC "Icon " report.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine Mills O'Brien, President  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association



Share This Email



Share This Email

Hollywoodland Homeowners Association | 2700 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068  
[hha@hollywoodland.org](mailto:hha@hollywoodland.org)

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Fax: (213) 202-2610  
Mail Stop: 625/15  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Letter in response to the Report of the Ad Hoc Hollywood Sign Committee**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 11:44 AM

To: Marisa Schwartz &lt;

&gt;

Cc:

andrea.conant@lacity.org, josef.siroky@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org, Gerry Hans &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 11:16 AM Marisa Schwartz &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Members of the HUNC Board,

Attached please find The Oaks Neighborhood Association's letter of response to the recently released Report of the Ad Hoc Hollywood Sign Committee. Please add this letter to the public record on this issue and forward it to Members of the Ad Hoc Hollywood Sign Committee who do not sit on the HUNC board.

Thank you,

Marisa Schwartz, President

Robert Young, Vice President

Linda Othenin-Girard, Boardmember

Caroline Schweich, Boardmember

The Oaks Neighborhood Association

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City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640

Fax: (213) 202-2610

Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Dear Members of the HUNC Board and the Ad Hoc Hollywood Sign Committee,

We would like to thank all of you for undertaking the task of detailing the numerous problems of tourism, traffic congestion, safety and fire danger created by public viewing of the Hollywood Sign. We agree with your premise that for too long the city has failed to provide adequate resources to deal with these problems. We wholeheartedly support your efforts to insist that the city create workable solutions and we support many of the suggestions you have made to remedy the situation.

That said, we are troubled by certain aspects of your process and the final statement in the report related to the closure of the Beachwood Gate.

First, a bit of background on our involvement with the Ad Hoc committee. A member of our board was asked to attend an initial exploratory meeting regarding the Ad Hoc committee during which its purpose and goals were discussed. At this meeting our board member stated that any conversation or discussion about the Hollywood Sign's impact on the community needed to include an examination of the 2017 Beachwood Gate closure and how that closure has resulted in an increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the Oaks, on Canyon Drive, and in Bronson Park.

The response by the committee organizer and others at that early meeting to this suggestion was an adamant No: the committee was not going to review or re-examine the gate closure. "It was a non-starter." So we chose not to sit on the committee but our boardmember did attend a few of the meetings to observe the progress of the discussions. This same Oaks boardmember attended the final committee meeting where the draft report was being finalized and again brought up the issue of the Beachwood Gate closure asking that the committee recommend that the city review the decision to close the gate. As a result of that meeting a statement to this effect was included in the final draft. Here is the original text of that statement in the report:

*"The Beachwood Gate closure in 2017 into Griffith Park is recognized to have driven more traffic and visitors into the Lake Hollywood and The Oaks area. The Committee recommends the City to review the reason behind the decision to close this gate."*

When that draft was presented to the full board and after public comment was closed, that particular statement was changed to the following statement:

*"The Beachwood Gate closure in 2017 into Griffith Park is recognized to have driven more traffic and visitors into Lake Hollywood and The Oaks area. At this time there are no problems to resolve at the Beachwood gate due to the gate's closure and any discussion of potential problems that would occur if the gates were reopened would be speculative at this time. If any actions were to be taken to reopen the gates, then all issues would need to be reviewed at that time including preparation of an Environmental Impact Report."*

There are several things wrong with this updated statement.

- It's not at all clear what the statement means. It acknowledges that the closure has driven traffic to other areas but concludes there's no problem at the gate due to the closure.

Well, yes, a closed gate in and of itself does not have a problem; the problem is the impacts the closed gate has wrought on all the other access points to the Park and the neighborhoods around them.

- It states that any problems that would occur if the gates were reopened would be speculative. What exactly does that mean? Is it referring to problems in Beachwood Canyon? Is it implying that the reopening of the gates would increase problems or decrease them? Or is it simply concluding that we don't want to reopen the gates because we don't know what would happen and we dare not think about it?
- It's not true that "*there are no problems to resolve at the Beachwood gate due to the gate's closure.*" The problems with the gate closure have been documented and discussed by HUNC, CD4, the Oaks Neighborhood Association, the Friends of Griffith, members of BCNA and residents in the adjacent neighborhoods for several years now. These problems have to do with reduced public access to Griffith Park and increased traffic in the adjacent neighborhoods. To ignore this issue in a report about the Hollywood Sign and its impact on the surrounding communities is simple denialism.
- There is also a thinly veiled threat in this statement that any discussion of reopening the gate would automatically trigger an EIR. Who is it who has said this? This scare tactic is unproductive and inappropriate.

The other problem with the "updated statement" is that because it was made after the public comment was closed, members of the community had no ability to respond to its veracity during the HUNC meeting. The public had input on every other aspect of the report but not this revised statement. Why is that?

We hope you will reconsider your position and reinstate the original text which makes no unproven claims; it simply proposes that the city review the decision to close the gate.

We also fully endorse and support the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 letter from Hollyridge Drive resident Ben Sheffner in which he details needed revisions and corrections to the Sign Committee's report.

While we appreciate the work you've done to address the numerous problems associated with the Hollywood Sign, the report ought to be honest about the trailhead closure. The City's surprising decision in 2017 to close the Beachwood Gate was controversial then and it is deeply problematic now. The issue needs to be reopened.

Yours,

Marisa Schwartz, President  
Robert Young, Vice President  
Linda Othenin-Girard, Boardmember  
Caroline Schweich, Boardmember  
The Oaks Neighborhood Association

relative to the Fifth Amendment to a contract with FSY Architects, Inc. for various public buildings and open space projects.

Recommendation for Council action:

AUTHORIZE the Board of Public Works, on behalf of the Bureau of Engineering, to execute the proposed Amendment No. 5 to Contract No. 106420 with FSY Architects, Inc. for various public buildings and open space projects.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The CAO reports that there is no additional impact on the General Fund as a result of this action. There is an anticipated General Fund impact in an amount not yet determinable for operations and maintenance costs since the facility is currently not in operation. These costs will be addressed through the City Budget process at the time the facility is scheduled for completion.

Financial Policies Statement: The CAO reports that the above action complies with the City's Financial Policies.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

**TIME LIMIT FILE - JANUARY 17, 2023**

**(LAST DAY FOR COUNCIL ACTION - JANUARY 17, 2023)**

**[Scheduled pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.5(a)]**

**Adopted Item**

**Ayes: Blumenfield, Harris-Dawson, Hernandez, Hutt, Krekorian, Lee, McOsker, Park, Price Jr., Raman, Soto-Martínez, Yaroslavsky (12); Nays: (0); Absent: de León, Rodriguez (2)**

(8) **22-1472  
CD 11**

CONSIDERATION OF MOTION (BONIN - BUSCAINO) relative to the operating hours for the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon in Council District 11 to open at sunrise and close at sunset.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. INSTRUCT the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to set the operating hours for George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon in Council District 11 to open at sunrise and close at sunset.
2. INSTRUCT RAP to prominently post the hours of operation at all entrances of the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon.
3. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance to add the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon to the list of parks closed from sunset to sunrise to the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.44 B.14(c).
4. REQUEST the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners to concur with the above recommendations and to instruct the Park Rangers to enforce the park hours seven days a week.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

**(Arts, Parks, Health, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee waived consideration of the above matter)**

**Adopted Item**

**Ayes: Blumenfield, Harris-Dawson, Hernandez, Hutt, Krekorian, Lee, McOsker, Park, Price Jr., Raman, Soto-Martínez, Yaroslavsky (12); Nays: (0); Absent: de León, Rodriguez (2)**

(9) **23-2000**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT and RESOLUTION relative to City Council Committees and Committee structure.

Recommendation for Council action:

ADOPT the accompanying RESOLUTION, to resolve, that:



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**NEW: Griffith Park Pony Experience - First Look Submission**

1 message

Liz Radley < >  
To: Rap Commissioners <RAP.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 11:19 AM

**LOS ANGELES EQUESTRIAN COALITION**

January 17, 2023

Ms. Nicole Chase, Chair  
Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department  
Commission Task Force on Concessions  
SENT VIA EMAIL: [RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG](mailto:RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG)

**RE: January 19, 2023 Agenda Item III. D. Griffith Park Pony Rides**

Dear Chairperson Chase:

The LA Historic-Cultural Monument #942 designates the Griffith Park Pony Rides, (GPPR), as a contributing element for its city designation. Mapping shows the GPPR as item #4, Historically Sensitive Resource and Area. Both the spirit and the entitlement established in the Historic-Cultural Monument would be violated by both a change in use for this area or altering any structures like the fenced path for the pony rides, ticket kiosk and waiting area.

Enclosed for consideration is the Los Angeles Equestrian Coalition proposal for the NEW Griffith Park Pony Experience, (Pony Experience). The Pony Experience is a reimagined gold standard model other cities could follow, similar to upgrading from the Old Zoo to the New Zoo.

Complementing the Autry Western Heritage Museum in Griffith Park, the new Pony Experience facility would incorporate a western heritage theme and include upgraded secure perimeter fencing for the safety of both children and ponies. The Pony Experience elements suggested include but are not limited to:

1. Pony Ambassador Zone;
2. Pony Ride with gentle rides, with all riders in helmets;
3. Mechanical Pony Carousel/Pony Barrel Ride;
4. Pony Parties booked in advance as special events;
5. Educational Exhibits in multi-languages with video monitors;
6. Educational Seminars;
7. Pony Sanctuary Zone;
8. Griffith Park Pony Ranger Program; and
9. Walking tour of Pony Paddocks/Stables

As part of the new model, upgrades would also be made to the current paddock system of barns, pens, sun/rain shelters and include a new public protective covering with spray misters over the entire pony ride area to protect both ponies and general public from rain and sun.

Riding a pony offers physical, mental, and social developmental experiences. Animal exposure during early childhood development has many positive effects, including teaching confidence, compassion, and empathy, and can inspire a lifelong love of animals and nature. A pony ride and Pony experience may even inspire future equestrian career choices. The low cost of the pony rides makes it affordable for low-income parents and a diversity of families to offer their children such a richly memorable and valuable experience. Lastly, riding and hands-on interaction with a living pony provides a valuable opportunity to instill a love of living animals in children and encourages children to treat animals well.

The city now has an opportunity to enhance the public's' experience of the GPPR with the new Pony Experience. This important and iconic respite from technology and fast-paced, asphalt-covered, city life in Griffith Park is a rare treasure! Please preserve and enhance the Griffith Park Pony Rides. **We are asking the members of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks Commission Task Force on Concessions to SUPPORT the new Pony Experience model as the gold standard for the future.**

We look forward to discussing the Griffith Park Pony Experience with you in greater detail. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Liz Radley, Chair**  
Griffith Park Pony Experience Task Force  
Los Angeles Equestrian Coalition

(enclosure)



**Griffith Park Pony Experience.pdf**  
3335K

## GRIFFITH PARK PONY EXPERIENCE

**An Educational Adventure to serve the Young Children of Los Angeles  
with Gold Star Care for the Ponies.**

**This Pony Experience could be a model program for other cities, widely seen by  
Olympic & Paralympic visitors & their children in 2028, to show what Los Angeles  
can do to transform Pony Rides to a new standard.**

Submitted by the Los Angeles Equestrian Coalition.

Written by

January 18th, 2023

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**Mission Statement: To provide fun opportunities for young children to interact  
with ponies, including riding, and demonstrate a gold standard of care for those  
ponies.**

**The goals with 'fun while you learn' include enhancing children's familiarity with  
compassionate handling for ponies, and to encourage the same for all animals.**

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### **WESTERN HERITAGE THEMED THROUGHOUT, WITH A COMPLETE PERIMETER FENCE FOR ENHANCED SAFETY OF BOTH CHILDREN & PONIES.**

Encourage Griffith Park-based Western Heritage hand-painted murals to enhance the  
visual experience.

ADA and similar requirements need to be considered throughout.

#### **Sequence:**

1) At the **Historic Ticket Booth**, purchase ticket that can be used for any single  
experience: Pony Ambassadors, Pony Ride, mechanical Pony Carousel or Pony Barrel  
Ride.

Pony Parties need to be booked in advance and are handled separately.

2) **Educational Exhibits** surround the expanded **Historic Waiting Area/Line**.

Posters in *multiple languages* show ponies and describe their basic care.

Example: ponies drinking water, eating grass or hay, being brushed. Pony poop  
cleaning & how pony poop fertilizes our soil. What do ponies teeth look like? Different  
pony breeds and colors.

Monitors show video on a loop of some of the same things, with natural sound playing.

Show the gentle handling of ponies to demonstrate nothing is done unkindly or by force.

Example: the sight and natural sound of ponies eating is surprisingly soothing and may  
help calm the agitated.

Separate lines can have different exhibits to enhance age-appropriate education  
opportunities.

Each child is offered a choice of Griffith Park Pony coloring pages, should they wish to  
complete it or take it with them.

### **3) Pony Ambassador Zone.**

Pony interaction: meet a pony, touch a pony, brush a pony. Parents to accompany. One handler per 2 ponies.

### **4) Pony Ride Zone.**

Using the **Historic Tracks**, ponies give gentle pony rides to the children.

The historic tracks and other areas are currently exposed to the weather, and for the ponies they would be best covered, ideally by a solid roof, or at least by quality shade cloth.

Misters and water for the ponies to be in place in the mounting/dismounting area.

Ponies to work in shifts with adequate rest periods, individually monitored.

Additional option: using the outside track area, offer an extended hand-led pony ride at certain times/days only.

### **5) Pony Sanctuary Zone.**

After the ride, a quiet area where adults and children can watch ponies who are in a paddock interacting naturally. There would be no touching of ponies here, it is a place to be in their company. Benches for adults to rest!

**Option: Two Pony Party** areas for birthdays and special events, with hand-led pony rides.

**Option: Mechanical Pony Carousel** to replace Pony Go Round/Pony Sweep. Instead of traditional carousel music, create custom audio of hoofbeats and western narrator.

**Option: Barrel Ride** - pony-themed ride pulled by small electric vehicle.

**Option: Walking Tour** of the pony paddocks/stables to see how they live, at certain days & times. Observation only: no pony interaction as this is their home.

### **Option: Griffith Park Pony Ranger program.**

For repeat customers who wish to participate, a Griffith Park Pony Ranger program to enhance childrens' sense of responsibility and progression, with special access.

This includes **Reading To Ponies**, a quiet way for children and ponies to bond as the child reads to a pony in a one-on-one situation.

## **PONY LIVING QUARTERS with WESTERN HERITAGE THEME**

1) Paddock system with high-quality shelters adequate for groups of ponies to rest out of sun/rain. Notes: herd-based care for ponies keeps them active and stimulates natural interaction, and is preferred to small individual pens or stalls.

2) Additional smaller pens with shelters for as-needed medical care/special needs.

3) Existing barn upgrade to provide additional extreme weather protection as needed.

(see photos below for examples)

SAMPLE IMAGES OF HERD-BASED LIVING WITH HIGH QUALITY SHELTERS





## **ADDITIONAL NOTES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSION**

### **FOR PONIES:**

In pursuit of Gold Standard Animal Welfare, best practices currently include:

Enact recommendations from the Association of Shelter Vets, the Five Freedoms:

Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

Freedom from Discomfort

Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease

Freedom to Express Normal Behavior

Freedom from Fear and Distress

Environment Design that incorporates Enrichment Opportunities and Applied Equine Ethology.

Exercise designed around Biomechanical Correctness for the physical benefit of the pony.

### **FOR PEOPLE**

#### **PONY RANGER EXTENDED PROGRAM**

##### **INTERACTIVE EQUINE WELLNESS LEARNING**

- a. Groom suitable ponies - learning of pony body parts, recognize signs of illness.
- b. Feed the ponies.
- c. How we clean the barn & pens.
- d. Composting in Griffith Park leads to dirt transformed by manure into productive soil.
- e. What does it cost to keep a horse or pony and why?
- f. Explanation of career opportunities, such as farrier, veterinarian, barn manager.

##### **HOW HORSES HELP HUMANS**

- a. Star Horses a 501(c)3 therapeutic riding program based at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Griffith Park.
- b. Local 501(c)3's working with children and horses such as Taking The Reins, Compton Cowboys.
- c. Mounted Police, Animal Services and Search & Rescue.
- d. Equine Assisted Psychotherapy opportunities –veterans, first responders, victims/survivors.
- e. Other Therapeutic Riding opportunities.

## 6 - HOW HUMANS HELP HORSES

- a. Understanding horse and pony psychology and how they learn.
- b. Modern styles of positive training, getting away from old myths.
- c. Horse sanctuaries – information on why they are needed and how they work.
- d. Medical mental benefits to horses – psychological/emotional bonding
- c. Exercise/Equine Physical Fitness
- d. Equine Rehab Education
- e. Equine Massage (and the ponies can get this too!)
- f. Overview of Specialized Medical Treatments/Physical Benefits to Horses, including: Chiropractic work, Acupuncture, Raif, Magnetic, Homeopathic, Herbs/Natural Remedies, PEMF, IRAP, surgeries, medicine for chronic diseases.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Pony Rides

1 message

**Sandra Munz** <> Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 11:13 AM

Reply-To: Sandra Munz <>  
 To: "rap.commissioners@lacity.org" <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>, "mayor@lacity.org" <mayor@lacity.org>, "mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org" <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>  
 Cc: Paul Krekorian <cd2.media@lacity.org>, "councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org" <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactcd4@lacity.org>, "councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org" <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.park@lacity.org" <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Lee@lacity.org" <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, "councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org" <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>

Dear Commissioners and Councilmembers

As an Angeleno, a mother, a horsewoman, and frequent user of Griffith Park, I encourage you to bring back live pony rides to Griffith Park.

We are at a time in LA where history and tradition has taken a backseat to misinformation and uneducated paid demonstrators. It hurts me to see such an enormously relevant part of the childhood of so many people in this city shut down because of the actions of so few. I have seen the demonstrators, foul mouthed, using megaphones to scream obscenities at parents and children, terrifying children with words and actions, accusing mistreatment of the ponies and getting paid to do so. I have also seen the other side, parents and children, together and enjoying a tradition that so many families have participated in for decades. I took my son there, started in 1981 at the age of two. He was immediately in love with horses, exactly like so many other children. To this day he rides horses.

To see this cherished tradition gone is heartbreaking. Griffith Park was to be kept open, natural, a space for all Angelenos to enjoy. A place to hike, ride and enjoy nature. One man made the decision to close an integral part of so many lives, past and future. One man, after demonstrators showed up at his home, closed the pony rides. There was no City Council hearing, no elected officials made this decision, no attention paid to the original intent made for Griffith Parks heritage and historical facilities.

The ponies owned by Mr. Weeks were well cared for. They had food, vet care, retirement facilities, shelter, shade, water misters in the summer and love from every child that touched them. Older retired ponies lived out their life cared for until decisions were made by vets and owners to let them pass peacefully in familiar surroundings, not dropped at auction for a crowded transport to slaughter. A decision nobody takes lightly yet necessary. Decisions were made in the best interest of the ponies, their health and safety, not profit.

Touching a horse or pony brings magic and dreams to every single child that touches it. They are instantly transformed into cowboys or knights in shining armor, princesses and rodeo queens. To see that much joy on the face of a child is beyond priceless. Please don't take that away from our kids.

Sandra Munz





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: ATTN: COMMISSIONS TASK FORCE**

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 1:35 PM

To: Erica Engelhardt &lt; &gt;

Cc: andrea.conant@lacity.org, mehmet.berker@lacity.org, jorge.plascentia@lacity.org, geoff.thompson@lacity.org, contactCD4@lacity.org

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 12:26 PM Erica Engelhardt &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly encourage you to bring back live ponies to the Griffith Park Pony Rides. In addition to this being a long-standing institution in Los Angeles, it's incredibly important that live pony rides exist to teach children (and adults) the importance of positive animal interactions. I have been here many times and took my nephew here for his first pony ride at the age of 4. This ride is how many in the Los Angeles Equine Community get their start. It is also crucial access to live animals for low-income children. It literally teaches kids to have more consideration for animals and treat animals better!

It is, of course, imperative that the ponies are taken care of. But the pony rides seem to have been closed down not out of concern for animal welfare but as a concession to fanatic - and seemingly NON-LOCAL - "protestors" who appear to think no animals are happy working (this is assuredly not the case). These same "protestors" appear to have ulterior motives and seem to love the attention. By giving in to their demands, they have now been emboldened. What's next... the Zoo?

I am an animal rights advocate. I have been a vegetarian for over 25 years. But that does not make me an expert on equine care. The \*only\* people who should have the last word in whether the ponies were healthy and treated well is equine experts. Having laypersons reading a vet report on ponies is like having laypersons reading a housing inspection report. It may look like there are a lot of red flags unless you understand construction and know that the items mentioned are routine and/or easy fixes. And the vet hired by the city said there was no gross negligence and that problems reported were fixed. To hold Steven Weeks accountable for ponies dying of old age that were not required to be reported - and not giving him a chance to correct that - is not acceptable nor is it normal procedure.

On your last phone call, you stated you wanted a "re-imagining" of the rides. Then why not put a stay on your decision while it is worked out? Why have the owner tirelessly re-home all of the ponies (something that is traumatic for the ponies!), lay off the employees (just before Christmas!) and now dismantle and sell all of the parts of it if it is being re-imagined? That makes no sense.

As an ACTUAL local, an 18 year resident of Los Feliz, and a person who understands animal wants and needs more than the "protestors," I am asking you to please re-consider your drastic action taken without citizen input and re-open this beloved and important addition to Griffith Park.

Sincerely,  
Erica Engelhardt

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City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300

1/18/23, 1:35 PM

City of Los Angeles Mail - Re: ATTN: COMMISSIONS TASK FORCE

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640

Fax: (213) 202-2610

Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: BRING BACK LIVE PONIES TO GRIFFITH PARK**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:15 PM

To: Sabrina Khan

&gt;

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 11:20 AM Sabrina Khan &lt; &gt; wrote:

Hello!

My daughter has been riding horses in Moorpark for 6 years. She started riding as a very young child at the Griffith Park pony rides when we lived in Burbank. It is a great way to expose "city kids" to horses, farm animals and nature! Where we ride at the barn in Moorpark, they have a 'exerciser' that is basically a merry-go-round for horses very similar to the small horse ride in Griffith park. It lets them walk and horse like to walk! The rides are not cruel. Horses are walking and kids are giving them love. There is nothing cruel about that.

Thank you for reading!  
Sabrina Khan

Sent from my iPad

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City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Closure of Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To:

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:37 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Related reports and documents can be found at:

<https://www.laparks.org/commissioners/concessions-task-force> or <https://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/pony-rides>

On Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 8:23 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Meredith Reeve** < >  
Date: Sat, Jan 7, 2023 at 4:02 PM  
Subject: Closure of Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo  
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Good afternoon:

I was shocked to hear that the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department decided to close the Griffith Park Pony Rides. I would like to know what led to this decision, and why the department would choose to close a Los Angeles landmark that has been enjoyed by families for decades.

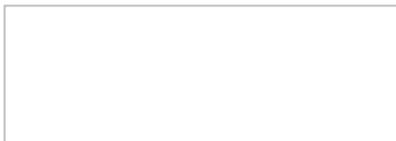
Thank you,

Meredith Reeve

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**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**Public Information Office**  
Email: [rap.publicinfo@lacity.org](mailto:rap.publicinfo@lacity.org)  
Phone: 213-202-2700  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!



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City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figuroa Plaza



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Griffith Park Pony @ Sanctuary**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Patty Shenker <>

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 2:17 PM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 2:05 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patty Shenker** <>  
Date: Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 8:15 AM  
Subject: Griffith Park Pony @ Sanctuary  
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Dear Department,

I have been on the phone calls thanking you all for making the decision to retire the geriatric Griffith ponies. I am sorry that the horse community cannot get behind this progressive and compassionate decision.

I wanted to share this about one of the ponies who went to The Southern California Mini Horse Sanctuary.

"A little update on our Griffith Park Mini Champ... We call him Heart ❤️ because he truly has our heart... he has adjusted very well. He has had a full work up by our Vet and our Vet has floated his teeth... He does suffer from Cataracts in both eyes... We did notice right away all the tripping... we have had several blind minis in the past and understand the challenges... His trims were done his first day he arrived, and he is on a regular rotation. Of course he has been on a worming schedule as well... He is super sweet loves every meal and all the attention... He loves the girls... 💜💜💜 He has his eye, on Mimi!

I only wish we knew where the rest of the animals are now & hope they found wonderful loving homes too.

Again, THANK YOU

Patty Shenker

Sent from my iPhone

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**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**Public Information Office**  
Email: [rap.publicinfo@lacity.org](mailto:rap.publicinfo@lacity.org)  
Phone: 213-202-2700  
Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!







Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

**Re: Griffith Park Pony Experience REVISED submission as a substitute**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:16 PM

To: Liz Radley >

Cc: "CHC@lacity.org" <CHC@lacity.org>, "rachel.ramos@lacity.org" <rachel.ramos@lacity.org>, "Stefanie Smith, Griffith Park" <stefanie.smith@lacity.org>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 1:31 PM Liz Radley

> wrote:

Good afternoon, everyone.

Out of concern for some of our authors' request for privacy, may we please substitute the attached document for the original one submitted yesterday please?

We understand that this becomes a document available to the public, including *currently* on the CHC Google Drive.

The only change we have made to the pdf is the removal of the individual authors' names on the document, and the addition of the Los Angeles Equestrian Coalition email address as a point of contact. ( )

Please let me know if this can be done, and apologies for the inconvenience.

Thank you,

Liz

cell

--  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300

## GRIFFITH PARK PONY EXPERIENCE

**An Educational Adventure to serve the Young Children of Los Angeles  
with Gold Star Care for the Ponies.**

**This Pony Experience could be a model program for other cities, widely seen by Olympic & Paralympic visitors & their children in 2028, to show what Los Angeles can do to transform Pony Rides to a new standard.**

Submitted by the Los Angeles Equestrian Coalition.  
losangelesequestriancoalition@gmail.com

January 18th, 2023

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**Mission Statement: To provide fun opportunities for young children to interact with ponies, including riding, and demonstrate a gold standard of care for those ponies.**

**The goals with 'fun while you learn' include enhancing children's familiarity with compassionate handling for ponies, and to encourage the same for all animals.**

---

### **WESTERN HERITAGE THEMED THROUGHOUT, WITH A COMPLETE PERIMETER FENCE FOR ENHANCED SAFETY OF BOTH CHILDREN & PONIES.**

Encourage Griffith Park-based Western Heritage hand-painted murals to enhance the visual experience.

ADA and similar requirements need to be considered throughout.

#### **Sequence:**

1) At the **Historic Ticket Booth**, purchase ticket that can be used for any single experience: Pony Ambassadors, Pony Ride, mechanical Pony Carousel or Pony Barrel Ride.

Pony Parties need to be booked in advance and are handled separately.

2) **Educational Exhibits** surround the expanded **Historic Waiting Area/Line**.

Posters in *multiple languages* show ponies and describe their basic care.

Example: ponies drinking water, eating grass or hay, being brushed. Pony poop cleaning & how pony poop fertilizes our soil. What do ponies teeth look like? Different pony breeds and colors.

Monitors show video on a loop of some of the same things, with natural sound playing.

Show the gentle handling of ponies to demonstrate nothing is done unkindly or by force.

Example: the sight and natural sound of ponies eating is surprisingly soothing and may help calm the agitated.

Separate lines can have different exhibits to enhance age-appropriate education opportunities.

Each child is offered a choice of Griffith Park Pony coloring pages, should they wish to complete it or take it with them.

### **3) Pony Ambassador Zone.**

Pony interaction: meet a pony, touch a pony, brush a pony. Parents to accompany. One handler per 2 ponies.

### **4) Pony Ride Zone.**

Using the **Historic Tracks**, ponies give gentle pony rides to the children.

The historic tracks and other areas are currently exposed to the weather, and for the ponies they would be best covered, ideally by a solid roof, or at least by quality shade cloth.

Misters and water for the ponies to be in place in the mounting/dismounting area.

Ponies to work in shifts with adequate rest periods, individually monitored.

Additional option: using the outside track area, offer an extended hand-led pony ride at certain times/days only.

### **5) Pony Sanctuary Zone.**

After the ride, a quiet area where adults and children can watch ponies who are in a paddock interacting naturally. There would be no touching of ponies here, it is a place to be in their company. Benches for adults to rest!

**Option: Two Pony Party** areas for birthdays and special events, with hand-led pony rides.

**Option: Mechanical Pony Carousel** to replace Pony Go Round/Pony Sweep. Instead of traditional carousel music, create custom audio of hoofbeats and western narrator.

**Option: Barrel Ride** - pony-themed ride pulled by small electric vehicle.

**Option: Walking Tour** of the pony paddocks/stables to see how they live, at certain days & times. Observation only: no pony interaction as this is their home.

### **Option: Griffith Park Pony Ranger program.**

For repeat customers who wish to participate, a Griffith Park Pony Ranger program to enhance childrens' sense of responsibility and progression, with special access.

This includes **Reading To Ponies**, a quiet way for children and ponies to bond as the child reads to a pony in a one-on-one situation.

## **PONY LIVING QUARTERS with WESTERN HERITAGE THEME**

1) Paddock system with high-quality shelters adequate for groups of ponies to rest out of sun/rain. Notes: herd-based care for ponies keeps them active and stimulates natural interaction, and is preferred to small individual pens or stalls.

2) Additional smaller pens with shelters for as-needed medical care/special needs.

3) Existing barn upgrade to provide additional extreme weather protection as needed.

(see photos below for examples)

SAMPLE IMAGES OF HERD-BASED LIVING WITH HIGH QUALITY SHELTERS





## **ADDITIONAL NOTES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSION**

### **FOR PONIES:**

In pursuit of Gold Standard Animal Welfare, best practices currently include:

Enact recommendations from the Association of Shelter Vets, the Five Freedoms:

Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

Freedom from Discomfort

Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease

Freedom to Express Normal Behavior

Freedom from Fear and Distress

Environment Design that incorporates Enrichment Opportunities and Applied Equine Ethology.

Exercise designed around Biomechanical Correctness for the physical benefit of the pony.

### **FOR PEOPLE**

#### **PONY RANGER EXTENDED PROGRAM**

##### **INTERACTIVE EQUINE WELLNESS LEARNING**

- a. Groom suitable ponies - learning of pony body parts, recognize signs of illness.
- b. Feed the ponies.
- c. How we clean the barn & pens.
- d. Composting in Griffith Park leads to dirt transformed by manure into productive soil.
- e. What does it cost to keep a horse or pony and why?
- f. Explanation of career opportunities, such as farrier, veterinarian, barn manager.

##### **HOW HORSES HELP HUMANS**

- a. Star Horses a 501(c)3 therapeutic riding program based at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Griffith Park.
- b. Local 501(c)3's working with children and horses such as Taking The Reins, Compton Cowboys.
- c. Mounted Police, Animal Services and Search & Rescue.
- d. Equine Assisted Psychotherapy opportunities –veterans, first responders, victims/survivors.
- e. Other Therapeutic Riding opportunities.

## 6 - HOW HUMANS HELP HORSES

- a. Understanding horse and pony psychology and how they learn.
- b. Modern styles of positive training, getting away from old myths.
- c. Horse sanctuaries – information on why they are needed and how they work.
- d. Medical mental benefits to horses – psychological/emotional bonding
- c. Exercise/Equine Physical Fitness
- d. Equine Rehab Education
- e. Equine Massage (and the ponies can get this too!)
- f. Overview of Specialized Medical Treatments/Physical Benefits to Horses, including: Chiropractic work, Acupuncture, Raif, Magnetic, Homeopathic, Herbs/Natural Remedies, PEMF, IRAP, surgeries, medicine for chronic diseases.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:14 PM

To: Jett &lt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 9:50 AM Jett &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Animal Defenders International, based here in Los Angeles, on behalf of our supporters in the LA area, would like to thank Jimmy Kim and all of the Commissioners for not renewing the Griffith Park pony rides and petting zoo contract.

We respectfully request that no animal attractions are added in its place.

This is a great opportunity to add environmental educational programs or other outdoor activities for children and families, that do not exploit animals for entertainment.

We thank you again for your ongoing efforts to protect the animals in Los Angeles.

Best,

Kim Jett

\*\*\*\*\*

K. Jett  
Executive Director



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: Griffith Park

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:15 PM

To: karen elger < >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:19 AM karen elger < > wrote:

Good morning,

Thankyou Mr. Kim and Commissioners for not renewing the Griffith Park and Pony Rides and Petting Zoo.

I appreciate that it must be a difficult job and no way to please everyone. You made a compassionate decision and the animals are better off for it.

As you move forward, please replace this concession with a non-animal model to ensure that no animals are neglected or exploited.

There are so many alternatives.

Environmental educational programs, nature trails, interactive playgrounds. The list goes on.

Thankyou very much for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: Griffith Pony ride info.....

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 7:09 AM

To: "Jageck(Toni)" <

>

Cc: "CHC@lacity.org" <CHC@lacity.org>, "RAP.publicinfo@lacity.org" <RAP.publicinfo@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "contactcd4@lacity.org" <contactcd4@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org" <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org" <councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org>, "councilmember.lee@lacity.org" <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org" <gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org>, "ydd@lacity.org" <ydd@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 1:10 AM Jageck(Toni) <

> wrote:

I have sent to you all before, and made calls also.

I want to express again that the Griffith Pony rides need to be reinstated to being open, asap.

I know there are several meetings tomorrow via zoom that once again will allow callers to express their opinions.

As a tax paying property owner, voter who also supports the Equestrian community here in my local area...I want to share with you how a lot of the callers expressing their opinions are NOT even local taxpaying people in the district. The Radical protestor groups rally, just like they did at the Griffith Park Pony rides, with out of town paid protesters ....They also send out emails stating to have massive groups of people to call in for the past and current zoom meetings, expressing there negativity for the Pony Rides.

They are not even local people voicing their opinions on something they have any knowledge of from living here and witnessing anything pertaining to the Pony Rides...

This is a recent email that was sent to a person I know....that then was forwarded to me....

I am appalled that you will allow again their opinions to matter... Their are knowledgeable vets, equestrian owners in this area that have visited the pony rides to see if there was any type of neglect or cruelty.

There was NOT.....

Please reinstate the pony rides in Griffith Park for the positive impact is has for our young youth in LA, especially lower income families that support- benefit from the connections of the ponies in their children lives.

I know....from life long experience from myself. I have been a avid pony-horse rider-owner since I was about 8 years old, up till today. It has a huge positive character building moral impact instilled in kids, truly.

property owner  
equestrian  
voter in LA  
mother- of 2 college graduates  
lover of Griffith Park

Toni Osseck

Below you will see 2 letters showing how "they" operate to consume the public with their negativity they spew. Make special note these are not groups writing, calling, emailing in from OUR own LA area. So don't believe that it is OUR general public from OUR area that is expressing ALL the negative comments you might read or hear.

=====

**Chicago Alliance for Animals**  
January 26, 2022 · 🌐

**THIS IS A DAA (DAILY ACTION ALERT) THAT ANYONE CAN DO (REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU LIVE) - PLEASE TAKE ACTION (only 1 form of contact is requested) AND COMMENT HOW (not 'Done!') IN THE COMMENTS. PLEASE DON'T LIKE, REACT OR COMPLAIN AND PLEASE DON'T SHARE UNTIL YOU TAKE ACTION AND COMMENT HOW. CONTACTING OFFICIALS IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE - THANK YOU!**

Let's help Zohra Fahim ban pony and horse rides in Los Angeles!

Today's DAA is to urge Los Angeles Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell to work with his colleagues to ban inhumane and dangerous pony and horse rides as soon as possible.

Please consider letting him know that you won't be spending your tourism dollars in LA until animals are no longer exploited for entertainment.

**Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell**  
(213) 207-3015 and/or (818) 336-1293 (Phone)  
Councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org  
mitch@mitchofarrell2017.com  
info@mitchofarrell2022.com  
Mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

(Please put the first 3 to O'Farrell in the To field and cc the mayor)

<https://www.facebook.com/Mitch4LA> (You can send him a FB message or directly email him here)

<https://twitter.com/MitchOfarrell> (Twitter - Please also tag @MayorOfLA @LACityCouncil & @LAtourism )

<https://www.instagram.com/mitchofarrell/?hl=en> (Instagram)

Thank you very much for speaking for these exploited ponies and horses!

**Dallas Fort Worth Animal Rights** Follow Group 🔍 ...

**Gloria Raquel Carbajal**  
September 22, 2021 · 🌐

Via Zohra Fahim

**ACTION ALERT: ITS ALL HANDS ON DECK** as the ongoing issue of neglect and abuse at Griffith Park and Ride Pony continues. We must politely let the Council know that this is an important issue, and animals welfare is top of mind for their Los Angeles constituents.

Today, please send the below email to Councilmember Nithya Raman's office at:... **See more**



**Dallas Fort Worth Animal Rights** Follow Group 🔍 ...

**Gloria Raquel Carbajal**  
September 22, 2021 · 🌐

Via Zohra Fahim

**ACTION ALERT: ITS ALL HANDS ON DECK** as the ongoing issue of neglect and abuse at Griffith Park and Ride Pony continues. We must politely let the Council know that this is an important issue, and animals welfare is top of mind for their Los Angeles constituents.

Today, please send the below email to Councilmember Nithya Raman's office at:

Email: [contactCD4@lacity.org](mailto:contactCD4@lacity.org)

Dear Council member Nithya Raman,

I am reaching out to strongly urge you to place a ban on pony rides, as the neglect and abuse at Griffith Park and Pony Rides have been occurring since 2016. On July 17th, 2021, a child was seriously dragged and trampled, as the child's saddle slipped off the pony. I know that you're a working mom of preschool-aged twins, and understand the importance of child safety. Moreover, the animals at Griffith Park and Ride Pony are treated unkind, inhumane, and are neglected. A recent undercover investigation revealed the horses and ponies on the turnstile did not receive water for almost seven hours. The workers were seen drinking water more often than these beautiful animals. When a pony stopped in the middle of the ride, the worker pushed the pony. District 4 is better than this, and I urge you to ban pony rides. Santa Monica City Council was able to see the light, and I believe the City of Los Angeles can too!

Thank you for all that you do for our community.

Sincerely,

-----Original Message-----

From:  
 To: Jageck < >  
 Sent: Tue, Jan 17, 2023 3:28 pm  
 Subject: Fwd: THURSDAY: Join Call to Urge Non-Animal Model at Griffith Park

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Brittany Michelson - In Defense of Animals < >  
**Date:** January 17, 2023 at 3:00:12 PM PST  
**To:**  
**Subject:** THURSDAY: Join Call to Urge Non-Animal Model at Griffith Park

**Reply-To:**

On December 21st, 2022 the Griffith Park Pony Rides & Petting Zoo was shut down after the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks decided not to renew the contract. We are proud to have partnered with Los Angeles Alliance for Animals on this campaign. We are now working to ensure that whatever concession replaces the pony rides will not involve the exploitation of animals.

Please join the Commission Task Force on Concessions call on **Thursday January 19th at 8:30 am** Pacific Time to urge the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to implement a non-animal model.

You can say something like:

1. Thank the Dept. of Recreation and Parks for not renewing the contract for the pony rides
2. Urge them to consider a non-animal model and suggest alternatives that are educational and/ or entertaining without exploiting animals

DIAL (669) 900-6833, AND ENTER 863 9630 8134, THEN PRESS #.  
INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SIGN UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO LISTENERS AT THE START OF THE MEETING. EACH SPEAKER WILL BE GRANTED A MAXIMUM OF TWO MINUTES.

Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86396308134> Or Dial +1 669 900 6833 to Join the Meeting Then Enter This Webinar ID: 863 9630 8134 AND PRESS #

Thank you for speaking up against animal exploitation!

In Defense of Animals  
(415) 448-0048

<http://www.idausa.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/indefenseofanimals>  
<https://twitter.com/idausa>  
[https://www.instagram.com/ida\\_international](https://www.instagram.com/ida_international)  
<https://youtube.com/indefenseofanimals>

Animal charities will struggle to stay afloat during this economic downturn. If you're able, please consider making a monthly donation to In Defense of Animals. You can become an Animal Advocate here: <http://idausa.org/advocates>

In Defense of Animals  
3010 Kerner Blvd.  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [unsubscribe](#).

--

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: In support of a living animal model for the Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Sabrina Silver <

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 7:08 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 10:22 PM Sabrina Silver &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Ms. Sylvia Patsaouras, President  
Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department  
Office of Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 86328  
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328  
SENT VIA EMAIL: [RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG](mailto:RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG)

and

Commission Task Force on Concessions

**RE: Task Force on Concessions, Commission Meeting January 19, 2023  
AGENDA ITEM#4 General Public Comment: Griffith Park Pony Rides**

I support a live-animal model for the Griffith Park Pony Rides. I support humane and ethical animal-human interactions.

Early interactions with animals are beneficial to individuals and society and the animals themselves. Equestrian activities such as pony rides are a positive way to introduce children to animals, nature, and outdoor activities, and may inspire life-long interest in and desire to care for horses and all animals and help children learn to become more compassionate to each other as well. People only protect what they care about. Offering this experience, with live ponies, contributes towards inspiring children who grow up to become adults who care about the humane and ethical treatment of animals. It contributes to a better future.

The Griffith Park Pony Rides are an essential historic component of Griffith Park and a valuable recreational opportunity for the children of all of Los Angeles's denizens and visitors.

Riding a pony offers physical, mental, and social developmental experiences. Animal exposure during early childhood development has many positive effects, including teaching confidence, compassion, and empathy, and can inspire a lifelong love of animals and nature. A pony ride at GPPR may even inspire future career choices.

The low cost of the pony rides makes it affordable for low-income parents, providing an opportunity for a diversity of families to offer their children such a richly memorable and valuable experience. In fact, this \$5 pony ride was the last of two affordable recreational activities offered in Griffith Park. (The other - the carousel - is not currently operating.)

Riding and hands-on interaction with a living pony provides a valuable opportunity to instill a love of living animals in children who will then want to treat them well. A pony ride at the GPPR may even inspire some young ones to become the next generation's elite riders or choose a career working with animals or to start a business making clothing and tack. At the very least, the experience primes the next generation to care about animals. Without human care and conservation, wild and domestic animals and the natural environment risk extinction and obliteration. Children are our best hope to preserve our planet and our future. People will save what they love. Positive experiences with living animals at a young age are the best way to cultivate a love of animals and nature.

The city now has an opportunity to enhance the public's experience of the GPPR by adding additional components, such as hands-on and educational opportunities (examples: a grooming station for kids to brush the ponies, educational signage about pony behavior and care to entertain and educate those waiting in line, a history of domestication and its benefits to animals—including longer life, medical treatments, provided food and shelter). Enhancing safety protocols, such as requiring helmets, and enhancing animal care standards (beyond what is considered sufficient) demonstrate our city's commitment to providing safe, diverse, ethical, and humane, recreational opportunities. The Griffith Park Pony Rides can become the premiere model for venues world-wide to emulate.

In general, domestic animals, especially companion animals, benefit from domestication. Rather than have to 'earn a living' in the wild, fend off predators, forage for food, and suffer from injury without medical attention, and die much younger, these ponies will have their food, shelter and medical needs met and will likely live years longer.

Our cities have become so mechanized with so few opportunities to interact with living animals that it is a rare and welcome gift to be able to expose young people to them. This important and iconic respite from technology and fast-paced, asphalt-covered, city life in Griffith Park is a rare treasure!

Please re-open the Griffith Park Pony Rides and enhance them for the benefit of the public and the ponies.

Respectfully,

Sabrina Silver

Please do not read, copy or disseminate this communication unless you are the intended addressee. This e-mail communication contains confidential and/or privileged information intended only for the addressee. If you have received this communication in error, please e-mail me immediately, and destroy all copies of the communications. Thank you.

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Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Re: Letter in Support of Griffith Park Pony Rides**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 7:07 AM

To: Sam Kirkeby &lt;

&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 7:17 PM Sam Kirkeby &lt;

&gt; wrote:

Jan. 18. 2023

Dear Sirs,

I was born in Hollywood in 1965. My father was a well known western novelist and screenwriter so I grew up reading his flamboyant tales of cowboy romance and western adventure. His novels were made into many films starring the likes of John Wayne, Elvis Presley, Kirk Douglas and Audie Murphy. By the time I could talk I was asking where my pony was, and when I could go riding. My first pony ride would have been circa 1968 at Kiddie Land where the Beverly Center now stands in West Hollywood. Since then horses and riding have become a lifelong passion for me. My parents bought me my first pony when I was five. At 13 I was accepted into a private boarding school where it was required to have a horse. The motto of my school was "the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a boy". My school believed it built character and taught responsibility to care for another sentient being and have that animal rely on you for its feed, exercise, stall mucking, grooming, nutrition and well being. As an adult horses have continued to be my passion and my horses have worked in films, TV, music videos and even performed live onstage in an opera at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles. They have worked with actors, musicians and celebrities including Madonna, Andrea Bocelli, Zendaya, Adrian Brody, One Republic, and many others. Some of the most significant and meaningful relationships in my life have been blessed to come my way because of horses and the roads and pathways my love of horses has taken me down.

None of this would have happened without the Pony Rides in Los Angeles, and the patience and love of my mother and father. I would not be who I am today without all that horses and my horse friends have taught me over nearly six decades. I have been blessed to be involved with these noble, beautiful, patient and kind animals throughout the majority of my life. They are my teachers, my therapists, my shoulders to cry on, my laughter, my blessings, my friends. They are my church.

Perhaps by now it is clear that I wholeheartedly support keeping the pony rides at Griffith Park. I believe Steve Weeks has done an excellent job based on his compassionate care of the ponies including many elderly ponies who have life long "retirement plans" even after they are not longer able to be ridden. How nice it would be if most elderly people had the same personal attention, medical care and comfort in their golden years as his ponies do! Steve's years of service to the city bringing children joy and connection to nature and his quick attention to any and all concerns addressed by the park's 3rd party vet inspecting the ponies' care shows he is truly committed to the outstanding health and welfare of his ponies.

I believe the park's knee jerk reaction to fanatic animal activist extremism is shameful. Since when is screaming obscenities and yelling at parents and children a basis on which to form public policy? God forbid we jump every time ignorant and bullying activists believe they know better than horsemen & horsewomen who have dedicated their lives to these noble and gentle animals. God forbid we rely on the fact-deficient histrionics of zealots instead of professional veterinarians like those hired by the park who found no abuse at the pony rides. The city and the park mustn't cave in to uninformed and ignorant hysteria which in no way reflects the feelings of the Los Angeles equestrian community or the

facts of the park's own third party veterinarian.

The ultimate mission of these misguided animal "advocates" is plainly stated in the park's very own veterinarian's report:

***"It must be noted, that to some degree, extreme activists will never agree with ANY animals working for hire in an entertainment capacity due to their underlying beliefs against any animals used for work, entertainment, performance or on display as they believe any and all of these practices are abusive."***

Dr Rachel Sachar, DVM, CVA

It is my strongest belief that if we cave in to these fanatics' demands now, every aspect of animal ownership will be on the table from now on. Petting zoos will be next, then horse shows and events, animals in motion pictures and films, and ultimately any riding of horses altogether. What will the park do when the LA Zoo comes under fire? Close the zoo? Re-home all those exotic animals like Steve has had to do? What happens when they decide that keeping animals as pets is wrong and they claim that your favorite golden retriever, poodle or tabby cat is basically a slave living in the prison of your home?

It is my most heartfelt plea to all of you, that you keep the pony rides in Griffith Park just as they always have been, and listen to the voices of the LA Equestrian Advisory Committee, professional veterinary professionals and the entirety of your local, resident Los Angeles equestrian community.

Thank you for listening,

Sam Kirkeby  
Burbank, CA  
Los Angeles native,  
Burbank resident for 25 years

--  
City of Los Angeles  
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

# Re: Los Angeles Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:44 PM

To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 11:36 AM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

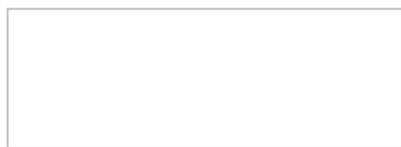
From: **Pamela Perkins** < >  
 Date: Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:22 PM  
 Subject: Los Angeles Griffith Park Pony Rides  
 To: [RAP.PUBLICINFO@LACITY.ORG](mailto:RAP.PUBLICINFO@LACITY.ORG) <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, [mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org](mailto:mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org) <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, [contactCD4@lacity.org](mailto:contactCD4@lacity.org) <contactCD4@lacity.org>, [councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org) <councilmember.kevindeleon@lacity.org>, [info@laconservancy.org](mailto:info@laconservancy.org), <rap-gpab@lacity.org>

Hello - Please open the attached letter. Thank you.

--  
 Design the World  
 Pamela Perkins

--  
**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**Public Information Office**  
 Email: [rap.publicinfo@lacity.org](mailto:rap.publicinfo@lacity.org)  
 Phone: 213-202-2700  
 Website: [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

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1-10-2023

Regarding the Reinstatement of the Los Angeles Griffith Park Pony Rides

Los Angeles City Officials

To Whom This Concerns,

I am writing the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Recreation and Parks to suggest a way to compromise and keep the ponies and the petting zoo at Griffith Park. As with all compromises, not everyone will be happy but I'm hoping that something like this could work:

The Pony Rides could be mandated by an oversight committee. This committee could be a group of licensed or otherwise certified professionals to assure that the science in decision-making is adhered to. The facility could be inspected on demand and/or at least four times per year. Any corrections could be made in a reasonable amount of time set by these professionals.

1. Licensed Equine Veterinarians – at least two.
2. Animal Services for the humane treatment of all animals – Los Angeles certificated personnel.
3. Stable management professional – minimum 10 years documented experience with stables preferably with ponies. Responsible for the physical structure inspections and waste management.
4. A pony training and management professional – minimum ten years documented experience.
5. Historical Cultural impact – Griffith Park Heritage Committee.
6. Environmental Health Inspections – County of Los Angeles.

Additionally, I would have someone to evaluate the positive community impact of returning the ponies and petting zoo animals to the facility. The activity was a favorite of lower to middle income families that would have difficulty paying for riding lessons available to the higher income.

The age limit for the ponies and mini horses should be older than six years (for full physical development) and a mandatory retirement age of twenty-five years or sooner depending on the veterinarian input. At retirement the pony would be rehomed to a safe-vetted stable to live out its life. Any and all health concerns of the animals would be reported along with the quarterly inspections.

The average life expectancy of a horse is 25-30+ years; the average life expectancy of a pony is usually 10 years longer. Also notable is that it is more common to see ponies ridden later in life than their full-sized counterparts. There are theories that ponies are hardier/healthier than horses, contributing to both a longer lifespan and a longer under-saddle career. While genetics and a little luck play a factor in determining a pony's

lifespan, there are many things within the owners' control to promote a long, healthy life. This is in the form of regular vet-checks, especially the teeth, digestive system and hooves. The addition of these inspections would make the ponies and other animals under such scrutiny that may seem overdone but would move toward satisfying the allegations of misuse and cruelty (which were never founded).

There is no substitute for firsthand pony experiences for the children of Los Angeles especially in the urban areas. Everyone I've spoken to has had a very positive experience in participation of the Griffith Park Pony Rides. Many children respond to the more kinesthetic interactions with animals. They also learn that these animals are sensitive creatures and respond to calmness and kindness. When this is learned at an early age, it can carry through to adulthood. Domestic animals help children develop their own sense of humanity and responsibility. In this controlled environment, the children and the ponies and the petting zoo animals all benefit from the experience. Domestic ponies have been bred since the middle-ages for riding and cart pulling. Carrying a tiny human is a part of their forte.

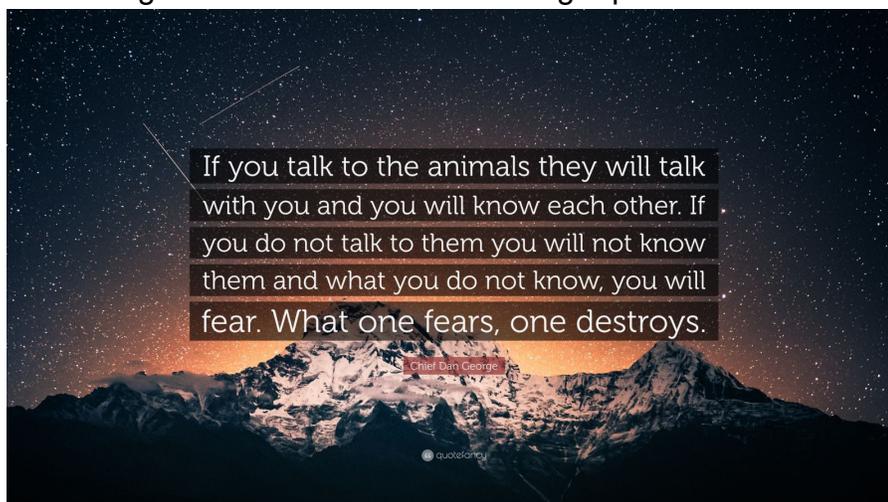
In conclusion, I'm urging all Los Angeles city government decision makers involved in this situation to use these and other ideas to bring back the Griffith Park Pony Rides. The oversight of seasoned, licensed professionals - those in the profession of the Animal Sciences can help assure full accountability of the activities with more fact and less speculative opinion.

I am a citizen of the City of Los Angeles I would hope that the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreations and Parks would please reconsider the reinstatement of the pony rides. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Perkins

P.S. The following is a favorite Chief Dan George quote:





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Pony rides**

1 message

**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: JOANN BEAVER < >

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 8:58 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office again, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 12:13 AM JOANN BEAVER &lt; &gt; wrote:

So disappointed that you allowed this to happen it should of been a historical place . The children will be missing out on a chance to know and feel what it would be like to be around horses there are a lot of children in the city that will never get the chance to ride a horse, when my granddaughter first rode she liked it so much when she was a little older I got her ridding lesson if it wasn't for the pony rides I would of never known she would enjoyed it.  
SO VERY DISAPPOINTED! WHAT ELSE WILL YOU TAKE AWAY

On Dec 21, 2022, at 3:09 PM, Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt; wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 2:31 PM LA Parks Public Information &lt;RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org&gt; wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **joann beaver** < >  
Date: Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 11:25 PM  
Subject: Pony rides  
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Please don't take away the pony right I have many memories as a child. I also have memories of my daughter being on the ponies and my granddaughter being on the ponies why is everything being taken away?

Please save the ponies

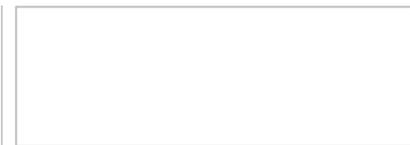
Joann Beaver

Sent from my iPhone

--

**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**Public Information Office**  
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: RAP Concessions Task Force & Commission Mtg Jan 19, 2023 - PUBLIC COMMENTS

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:14 PM

To: Lisa Baca < >

Cc: Lisa Baca < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 9:30 AM Lisa Baca < > wrote:

Good Morning

Enclosed please find the statement from Steve Weeks that could not be read today in public comment within 1 minute today.

Steve and his wife were continuously harassed for over 1 year without any city protections as a City concession vendor.

The Griffith Park Pony Ride has been closed since Dec 21, 2022 and the Los Angeles Animal Alliance, Miss Zorah Fahim, continue harrassing the Weeks family.

This includes a Jan 3, 2023 press conference in front of Attorney General Bonta's LA office accusing Steve Weeks of neglect and abuse, which RAP found none.

(Please see below).

Thank you,  
Lisa Baca  
Los Angeles  
Equestrian Coalition

January 17, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

In November 2022, the decision to close GPPR was abruptly made by RAP General Manager, Jimmy Kim, a recent appointee. For five years I ran the pony rides with no complaints from the City of Los Angeles. Our relationship was excellent. The reason given for non-renewal of my contract was "lack of transparency regarding the natural deaths of four retired ponies". I was never required to report the death of any pony. Nor has any other city equestrian center tenant been required to do so. Jimmy Kim's statement said that Steve Weeks "did not report the passing of these ponies. **However**, Steve Weeks was not required to report these deaths". What kind of a contradiction is that? I was instructed that my contract would end on December 21, 2022. I have rehomed 40 ponies and the property will be completely vacated very soon.

What needs to be evaluated here is a matter of process and what happens next deserves very careful consideration. It is apparent at this point that Mr. Kim did not do his homework. The Cultural Heritage Commission wasn't consulted. The Friends of Griffith Park were left out of the process as was the city's appointed Equine Advisory Commission. Everyone appeared to be blindsided, including me. I was

negotiating a new contract with RAP up until a few days before I was told my contract would not be renewed.

Last week the Los Angeles City Council moved to hear the matter of GPPR in committee. This is encouraging news. We should task this new committee to find answers as to why the city has failed the children and families of Los Angeles. The issue here is twofold. Firstly, to save the historical buildings and designated resources that compose the pony rides and secondly, to reopen the pony rides to the benefit of the children of Los Angeles under a new operator. This 74-year-old iconic venue in Griffith Park is filled with the echoes of over ten million Angeleno children who have ridden the ponies over the decades.... many of whom are underprivileged. It should also be considered how the loss of the pony rides will affect the park in general. Several hundred thousand people (annually) spent their weekends riding the ponies, the train and picnicking in the area. I believe this will have a profound effect on Griffith Park. The train operator has expressed that he expects to lose 1/3 to 1/2 of his volume. The snack bar will likely will not reopen at all.

With your help I am hopeful that we can move forward on the first of these two objectives. I would like to personally thank you for your involvement in highlighting the injustice of this process to date.

Thank you,  
Steve Weeks

--  
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## Re: reinstate Griffith Park pony rides with RFP NOW !

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:15 PM

To: ida dizon <

>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 1:13 PM ida dizon <

> wrote:

What are you waiting for ? RFP pony rides now to bring back our treasured historical pony rides !! Thanks.

Savegriffithparkponyrides

--

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Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Replace Griffith Park Pony Rides & Petting Zoo with a Non-Animal Model**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 8:12 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 7:22 AM Priscila Benteu < > wrote:

Dear Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Los Angeles Recreation and Parks,

As someone who cares about the well-being of animals and one of over 250,000 In Defense of Animals supporters, I thank you for not renewing the Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo contract and ending the prolonged suffering of the ponies and farmed animals at the facility. Not only do pony rides involve animal suffering, but they also teach children that it's acceptable to use animals for entertainment instead of teaching them to respect and appreciate animals as sentient beings.

I urge you to replace the current concession with a non-animal model. There are many options to consider that do not involve exploiting animals, including environmental education programs, where families can learn how to respect and care for native plants and animals within the park. Creating an opportunity for children to learn about respecting nature and wild animals at the iconic Griffith Park would provide an enriching and positive experience. Ideas that involve entertainment include go-karts, inflatable obstacle courses, or a FUNBOX (an inflatable bounce park). Now is the perfect time to switch all city parks to non-animal entertainment models.

Thank you for your consideration, and for continuing Los Angeles' legacy as leaders of humane animal welfare policies.

Sincerely,  
Priscila Benteu

--  
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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
Figueroa Plaza  
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

## Re: The zoom mtg today 1/19/23 🌿 Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:20 PM

To: inger >

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 3:30 PM inger < > wrote:  
(It was nice talking to you today Takisha)

Dear Commissioners

\*Thank you, Jimmy Kim and commissioners for Not renewing the Pony ride and Petting Zoo contract at Griffith Park.

\*I was un-able to speak at the zoom meeting this morning:

-I tried to get on the zoom meeting this morning to speak, a while after it had started (it started 8. 30am) I raised my hand by entering \*9 , the equine people were still talking. BUT, I was Unable to speak.....a voice said we have one more speaker, and another woman's voice started talking..., when I thought it was my turn to talk, I didn't get to talk.

\*\*\*Please, I urge you to replace the park with a Non-Animal Model. Let's teach our children and people in general, about love and respect for all, in which of course include the animals.

\*Let's stop making money off the back of animals, let's face it, it usually involves cruelty then. Animals are here with us, for their own reasons, not for us to use or abuse in any way.

\*By teaching our children, and adults, about true love, respect and care, we will create a better world with more kindness and respect torch each other as well in the process, we will benefit and evolve for better. We have more than enough violence in Los Angeles, we need to change and work torch a non violence community/society.

\*Also, why are even some of the equine people sooo involved in this.... Too many of the 'horse people' that also often "claim to be such experts"... have a history of using force, control and whips to make the horses do unnatural, uncomfortable and painful behavior/things, and scary jumps, the list goes on. Many horses get injured from this terrible treatment and force, done by some non-caring humans that seem to have no sense of compassion or caring of others wellbeing.

\*So why should Anyone that believe it's ok to treat animals/sensitive horses like that have any saying here...! I see a big lack of compassion in such behavior.

\*A whip is a cruel torture tool to control and hurt someone with, it's painful to get wipped wether you're a person or animal. Remember, the use of bullhook in circuses Finally got banned in Los Angeles because it's cruel, and without their cruel tool, they can't control or break down the elephants. Angelino's don't want cruelty!!!

\*There are non-profit Animal Sanctuaries in LA where children and families can meet and learn about animals, their personalities, and their natural behaviors in a civilized way.

\*It's time to snap out of the ugly and dark, Evolve and Create a new History of Griffith Park that we can be PROUD of, Without Hurting Anyone, going forward.

\*It's been heart wrenching to see and learn about how these innocent ponies/animals were forced against their will, dragged and worse, their limpings, gait walk, soars, sadness, the pain they endured and the depression, over-worked, forced, heat, noize, no water or food, deaths, dissappearance.....the list goes on.

What a DARK history....

\* And, What happened to the 6 missing ponies...?

\*We, You, can change the dark history now by chosing a Non-Animal Model, leave the animals out of this, they are here for Their own reasons. Their quality of life is just as important to them, as ours is to us. We can all feel pain, suffering or joy.

Animal cruelty is some of the lowest low-blow behavior I can think of!

\*Please, let the Griffith park continue in a brighter, more positive, evolved, fun and educational place for everyone to enjoy, where no-one is harmed, meaning a non-animal model. Where no-one is forced to be against their will.

I'm glad to learn that you already gotten many Non- Animal Model ideas/suggestions from Caring People and Animal Welfare Organisations.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Inger

--

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From: **Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Date: Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 7:09 AM

Subject: Re: I support the Griffith Park Pony Rides

To: Colleen Stratton < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and appropriate staff.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 1:27 AM Colleen Stratton < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing again in support of the LA Pony Rides. PLEASE right this wrong and set up a new pony ride. The ponies are irreplaceable!!

I am a Glendale resident, lifelong horse owner, and former LAEC board member for over 20 years. The radical extremists who protested the pony rides know nothing about horses and do not represent the views of the Los Angeles community.

**PROOF**  
**that out of town**  
**activists will attempt**  
**to over take the phone lines Jan 19**  
**regarding anti pony rides**

On December 21st, 2022 the Griffith Park Pony Rides & Petting Zoo was shut down after the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks decided not to renew the contract. We are proud to have partnered with Los Angeles Alliance for Animals on this campaign. We are now working to ensure that whatever concession replaces the pony rides will not involve the exploitation of animals. Please join the Commission Task Force on Concessions call on Thursday January 19th at 8:30 am Pacific Time to urge the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to implement a non-animal model. You can say something like: 1. Thank the Dept. of Recreation and Parks for not renewing the contract for the pony rides. 2. Urge them to consider a non-animal model and suggest alternatives that are educational and/or entertaining without exploiting animals. DIAL (669) 669-6833, AND ENTER 863 9630 8134, THEN PRESS #. INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO SIGN UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO LISTENERS AT THE START OF THE MEETING. EACH SPEAKER WILL BE GRANTED A MAXIMUM OF TWO MINUTES. Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86396308134> Or Dial +1 669 669 6833 to Join the Meeting Then Enter This Webinar ID: 863 9630 8134 THEN PRESS # Thank you for speaking up against animal exploitation.

San Rafael, CA 94901  
United States

Sincerely,  
Colleen Stratton  
Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 7, 2022, at 2:15 PM, Rap Commissioners <[rap.commissioners@lacity.org](mailto:rap.commissioners@lacity.org)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Recreation and Parks Board Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners. If you have further questions or comments please respond to this email.

On Sat, Feb 5, 2022 at 1:53 PM Colleen Stratton <[colleen.stratton@lacity.org](mailto:colleen.stratton@lacity.org)> wrote:

Dear Rachel, Matthew and RAP commissioners,

I support the Griffith Park Pony Rides. Pony Rides are good for the community and good for the ponies. When I was a little girl, **my dad took me to a pony ride and it changed my life!** I fell in love with horses. I started drawing horses and eventually went on to become a professional artist. Despite the fact that my parents didn't have a lot of money, they gave me a pony for my 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. My pony was my best friend well into adulthood. Being around horses, caring for them, loving them, has given my life profound meaning and joy -- all because my dad took me to a pony ride!

The Los Angeles Alliance for Animals is a small group of activists, with radical viewpoints, who know nothing about horses. They only have 108 followers on Twitter. Their bio reads: **LAAA is an all volunteer, grassroots group formed to end exploitative pony and horse rides in the LA area.**

There is nothing exploitive about pony rides. Pony rides are a wonderful way for people of all backgrounds to spend time with horses.

On the RAP zoom call on 2/4/22, many callers insisted that the ponies should go to a sanctuary. The activists are delusional. There isn't a sanctuary in CA that could take all those ponies. Sanctuaries are funded by donations. They're all struggling to stay afloat and are filled to capacity.

Ponies are expensive to keep. My small horse cost around \$1,300.00 a month at LAEC, plus vet care. It's a little less expensive to feed a Shetland pony, but the cost of renting a stall is the same.

According to the ASPCA, "In the year 2020, approximately 36,000 American horses were trucked over our borders to be slaughtered for human consumption. Until this practice is banned and Congress passes a law against slaughter here in the U.S., no horse is safe."

Steve Weeks has been in the horse industry for 28 years. He owned and ran the Traditional Equitation School (TES) at the LA Equestrian Center for years. During that period of time, I boarded my horse (in E-barn) near the TES horses. The TES horses looked healthy and TES was well run.

If you put any person or business under a microscope, you will find a flaw. Please keep the complaints by these misguided activists in perspective and do what is best for the people of Los Angeles, the equestrian community and Steve Week's ponies. Please renew the Griffith Park Pony Rides contract.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Stratton

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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## RFP for pony rides

1 message

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**Joseph Dizon**

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Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 4:19 PM

To: jimmy.kim@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, jennifer.hull@lacity.org, karen.bass@lacity.org

Dear City officials,

You can fix your misguided mistake of canceling our historical Griffith park pony rides ! Do not let ignorant activists dictate our 74 year old community treasure. With full support from the CHC you would be foolish not to.

Please bring back our pony rides with a RFP immediately!

Thank you.