

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

January 05, 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) Miwako Takiguchi comments regarding Potrero Canyon	#9229f	Referred to General Manager
3) Mike Sultan comments regarding Potrero Canyon	#9229g	Referred to General Manager
4) Linda Sollima Doe comments as Secretary on behalf Hollywoodland Homeownwrs Association regarding Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays	#9231	Referred to General Manager
5) Sarajane Schwartz comments as Safety Chair Hollywoodland Homeowners Association regarding Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays	#9231a	Referred to General Manager
6) Sarajane Schwartz comments as Safety Chair Hollywoodland Homeowners Association regarding Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays	#9231b	Referred to General Manager
7) Sarajane Schwartz comments as Safety Chair Hollywoodland Homeowners Association regarding Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays	#9231c	Referred to General Manager

8) Sarajane Schwartz comments as Safety Chair Hollywoodland Homeowners Association regarding Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays	#9231d	Referred to General Manager
9) Ryan Hines comments regarding A Bridge Home on Riverside Drive	#9232	Referred to General Manager
10) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park Graffiti	#9233	Referred to General Manager
11) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park Graffiti	#9233a	Referred to General Manager
12) Mauro Garcia comments regarding Sycamore Grove Park Graffiti	#9233b	Referred to General Manager
13) Brenda Mason comments regarding Pedlow Field Skate Park	#9234	Referred to General Manager
14) Robin Murez as Chair of Preserving Public Places n behalf of Venice Neighborhood Council comments regarding Restoration of Venice Lifeguard Tower	#9235	Referred to General Manager
15) Michelle Cramas as Chair on behalf of Griffith Park Advisory Board comments regarding Griffith Park Mural	#9236	Referred to General Manager
16) Ralph Sansano comments regarding Veteran's Barrington Park Dog Code	#9237	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Carolyn Shannon-Joyner, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Important: Potrero canyon and negligence

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:46 AM

To: Miwako Takiguchi <

>

Cc: noah.fleishman@lacity.org

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 4:57 PM Miwako Takiguchi <

> wrote:

I am writing to you to express concern over the opening of this park adjacent to our residential neighborhood on irresponsible conditions. We live on one of the residential streets along the canyon, and have been concerned about this park since moving here in 2012. Since moving here, we have unfortunately experienced, on our street alone, a notable increase in property crime, homeless squatters, and an increased frequency of fires and fire hazards in the area.

What I am hearing is the city's plan to open this park imminently is absolutely not safe and highly irresponsible.

This park provides direct access into our residential neighborhoods and backyards. With zero park ranger oversight, zero lighting, zero security, zero rules or regulations, you are inviting more of these incidents. The city has known about all the risks and issues in the area. Opening the park with no plan in place in the context of all the issues we have had is irresponsible and negligent at best.

Has the city decided to turn a blind eye to the fire hazards caused by nighttime camping in the bluffs? It is common sense that if you keep a park like this adjacent to pch, with no barriers whatsoever, open all night with no restrictions or enforcement of any rules, these fires will occur even more often. You cannot be willfully blind to this risk.

As you know, since we have been alerting the fire department for years, some of the streets along the canyon — in particular De Pauw street where I live— is so narrow that, given the parked cars along the street, a fire truck is not always guaranteed access. So if there is a fire, which there will 100% be in a park like this with no restrictions or oversight, how does the city plan to have the emergency vehicles access the area in time to save lives and property? What is your plan, because you need one. The residents deserve to know.

How about the high rate of residential break-ins of the homes specifically along the canyon, where broken glass along the canyon-facing windows, coupled with an exit by the burglars via the canyon, is consistently the point of entry and exit in all cases? No lighting, no security, no rules or oversight? How can this possibly not encourage more of this? It's literally providing a paved pathway to invite more of this behavior. What is the city's plan to mitigate this risk in connection with the opening of a park that has no restrictions on access or use?

It seems, given the issues in our neighborhood, that the city's proceeding to open the park on these conditions (actually on no conditions at all whatsoever as I understand it) is indicative of the city intentionally ignoring the reasonable needs of the residents and our neighbors to keep our community safe. It is shocking.

The park needs to be gated and locked during restricted hours, like we were assured it would be. If the park must be built there, it can only be opened and operated in a responsible manner, with restricted hours and rules about usage, and enforcement of those rules, to minimize the danger to the residents who live around it. Knowing about all the risks, and yet choosing to ignore them completely, is not an option. The city still has a responsibility and duty to its tax-paying residents.

Miwako Takiguchi
De Pauw Street



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Potrero Canyon

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To: Mike Sultan <

>

Cc: "noah.fleishman@lacity.org" <noah.fleishman@lacity.org>, "sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org" <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, "president@pacpalicc.org" <president@pacpalicc.org>, "jasmine.dowl@lacity.or" <jasmine.dowl@lacity.or>, "mike.bonin@lacity.org" <mike.bonin@lacity.org>

Good morning,

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

On Thu, Dec 8, 2022 at 6:13 PM Mike Sultan <

> wrote:

Dear Mr. Fleishman and Ms. Young,

Please don't open Potrero Canyon this Saturday.

Mr. Fleishman, I should have known from the first time we meet you were not supportive of the Pacific Palisades neighborhood. If you remember we all meet on Friends street to discuss the Friends street entrance. At that time, you felt that "let the entrance be completed and if it turns out not to be properly approved, we can lock it". Well, you know what happened after that.

You mentioned on the call zoom last week:

- There was no stagnant water
- 6' fence around the park completed and secured by gates
- City would pass a resolution for park hours – closed sunset set to sun rise

Clearly these major issues have not been resolved. Please delay the park opening until corrections are made.

Mike Sultan

Mackin Media, LLC

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Hollywoodland and Public Safety for the 2022 Winter Holidays

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 7:55 AM

To: Linda Doe >

Cc: Sarajane Schwartz < , mehmet.berker@lacity.org, geoff.thompson@lacity.org, nithya.raman@lacity.org, stefanie.smith@lacity.org, Tracy James <tracy.james@lacity.org>, lafdfirecommission@lacity.org, 40988@lapd.online, Christine O'Brien < >, Crosby Doe < >

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:28 PM Linda Doe

> wrote:

Dear Sarajane

Thank you for this accurate assessment.

I join you in your request for an immediate reply from the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Linda Sollima Doe, Secretary

Hollywoodland Homeownwrs Association Inc.

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022, 7:15 PM

> wrote:

Dear City Officials,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Safety Chair on the board of directors of the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association.

What are your plans for public safety in Hollywoodland, including fire prevention (no smoking), trespassing, and traffic congestion caused by vehicular and pedestrian traffic during the winter holiday season which will soon be here? We have absolutely NO infrastructure for visitors, and our hundred year old substandard narrow, winding, dead-ended streets with no turnarounds or sidewalks just barely cover the needs of residents.

Daily we have problems with the issues mentioned above. (For example there can be close to 100 cars at the illegal view site. How would you ever evacuate these visitors along with residents if such an undertaking were necessary?) We also have extremely limited ingress and egress as we jut into the park as a bottleneck, 80% surrounded by dry brush. When the holidays come there are so many more visitors, and conditions here are even more dangerous.

We have already received notice that there are holiday plans in other parts of Griffith Park east of us "if the park becomes overly impacted during this busy week." And the east part of Griffith Park is where there is long standing infrastructure in place for tourism. What are your plans for us? We want to know the specific criteria you are using in Hollywoodland in determining what is a safe capacity for our streets and magnets, and exactly what is that capacity. When is it too much and what will you do then? Those questions of limits and capacity are common place all over the world where the public gathers.

At times you have placed some DOT officers in our neighborhood. They are mainly stationed at the bootlegged magnets. This is not sufficient. The numbers of visitors have skyrocketed, and their negative impacts have spread to streets further away from these points, and into areas that are even more fragile and narrow.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Comments on A Bridge Home on Riverside Drive

1 message

Matthew Rudnick <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 1:50 PM

To: Ryan Michael Hines >, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "RAP-GPAB@lacity.org" <RAP-GPAB@lacity.org>, "Stefanie.Smith@lacity.org" <Stefanie.Smith@lacity.org>, "Tracy.James@lacity.org" <Tracy.James@lacity.org>

Good Afternoon Mr. Hines,

Thank you for sending us these concerns and comments. I'm adding here [+Rap Commissioners](#) the Department's Commission Office so that the Rec and Park Board of Commissioners have your written comments as well.

-Matthew

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 1:24 PM Ryan Michael Hines <

> wrote:

Dear David Kim and Matthew Rudnick,

I am writing to comment on my experiences since A Bridge Home shelter was built. I am planning to call into the RAP Commission meeting tomorrow as well.

My wife and I have lived in the same apartment on Riverside Drive for almost six years now and have experienced a dramatic negative shift in our safety since A Bridge Home was built. I will outline our experiences below:

- Trash and litter are all over the area in front of the Bridge Housing and up and down the street (this is a constant since the shelter was constructed and did not happen before).

- A few days ago I had to call the fire department to put out a fire in the park area next to the Bridge Home started by people who reside at ABH.

- My neighbor was walking his child home from Ivanhoe elementary earlier this month and had his way blocked by two people smoking drugs out of what was obviously a crack pipe on the Hyperion steps.

- Last month, and many times before, I have witnessed people who I know live in the Bridge Housing doing drugs and blocking the right of way on the Hyperion steps.

- All last year there was a sudden rash of windshield smashing. At least five and maybe up to ten vehicles that were parked on Riverside in legal parking spaces right in front of our apartment building had large rocks hurled through their windshields. This happened during the day and at night.

- Also last year our building's glass front door was smashed overnight at least as many times as the car windshields were. It has happened so often that I lost count.

- The Park and Rec building that used to stand on Riverside was burned down by unhoused people who were living inside it. While the burned out shell of the building still stood awaiting demolition unhoused people would climb up its walls and jump onto the

balconies of the apartment building next door. Two people who live in that building told me about this last year.

- Our parking garage is constantly broken into and vehicles damaged since the shelter was put in.

- There are transient people acting illegally near A Bridge Home Shelter. Since the shelter was constructed there has been an increase in the number of people breaking into our building, tents and illegal camping right outside the Bridge Home fence, as well as drug use in the adjoining Mullholland Memorial Fountain park area.

- There is a group of unhoused people who have been offered shelter but refuse it who camp illegally behind the Friendship Auditorium. They use the bushes outside this community meeting place as a bathroom and have vandalized the Friendship Auditorium by smashing out its windows. They also build illegal and unsafe fires behind this community space.

- Several homeless encampments cropped up after the shelter was built all up and down Riverside drive. It has been a constant battle to keep the sidewalks clear of tents, trash, and drug paraphernalia ever since the Bridge Home was built.

- There are a few residents of the Bridge home who are apparently mentally disturbed and hang around near the shelter and scream at passersby. This has been and continues to be a common issue ever since the shelter was built.

I understand the need to house those in need, but the current situation is untenable and endangers me, my wife, and all our neighbors and visitors.

Thank you so much for your time and the hard work you do for our great city.

Best,

Ryan Hines

--

Matthew Rudnick

Executive Officer

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Email: matthew.rudnick@lacity.org

Work Phone: (213) 202-2627

Cell Phone: (323) 312-7397



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 7:52 AM

To: Garcia Incareal <incareal@juno.com>

Cc:

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 4:11 PM Garcia Incareal < > wrote:

DECEMBER 19

LA Sycamore Park Supervisor Yovonte Robinson

The Sycamore Park has graffiti.

Attach pictures

Thank you

Mauro Garcia

Broker-Notary

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
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Blue graffiti tag on the left side of the arch.

Large graffiti piece on the roller shutter door, featuring blue and black stylized letters and tags.

Blue graffiti tag on the right side of the arch.





Authorized vehicles only



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK GRAFFITI CD1 LA 90065

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 10:51 AM

Good morning,

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 10:38 AM Garcia Incareal < > wrote:
DECEMBER 21

LA Park Supervisor Yonte Robinson
The Sycamore Grove Park has Gan Graffiti again
Attach pictures
Also the exercise machines need repair (the green plastic covers are cracked and rubber handles are missing on some.
Attach
Pictures
Thank you
Mauro Garcia
Broker-Notary

--

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NO CHILDREN UNDER AGE 14
PROHIBIDO MENOS DE 14 AÑOS





Metrol

SOUTHWEST MUSEUM
CASA DE JOSE

VVS

Handwritten graffiti on a white arched wall, featuring stylized letters and symbols. The main text reads "A V S 4 B" with a "K" to the right. There are also some smaller symbols and numbers like "1" and "2" on the "A".

Handwritten graffiti on a red concrete barrier, featuring stylized letters and symbols.

Handwritten graffiti on a red concrete barrier, featuring the words "FOOPY" and "PARTY" with some symbols.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re:

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:10 AM

To: Garcia Incareal

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 10:12 AM Garcia Incareal

> wrote:

DEMBER 26
LA PARK SUPERVISOR YVONTE ROBINSON
THE SYCAMORE GROVE PARK HAS GAN GRAFFITI
ATTACH PICTURE
Mauro Garcia

--
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21st Avenue S. 21

ZIMOB

FOOL
PAVE
GAD
LAD



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: ATTN: NICOLE CHASE

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 9:49 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 4:36 PM Brenda Masson <> wrote:
Hello Commissioner Chase,

I trust this email finds you well this holiday season.

My note is in regards to Pedlow Field Skate Park located in CD6 at 17334 Victory Blvd., Van Nuys. This park is a staple in the Van Nuys community. Being so close to Birmingham High School, it is a meeting place for a very diverse group of folks. Kids and adults alike enjoy this skate park.

On a personal note, my 9-year old son, Cory, is on the Autism Spectrum and I've never seen him thrive more than when he is skating among his peers and elders. He's found a community who accepts him regardless of his neurodivergence. For that I am truly grateful.

Pedlow Field Skate Park is the largest in the valley. I've been in touch with the architect who penned the project some 20 years ago and he is in agreement that the park is well overdue for a renovation. More importantly, this park is without lights which forces closing at 5pm. This is an extreme impediment to adults who wish to skate after work and now that high schools have moved their start time to 8:30am, they are now dismissed at 4:30pm which barely gets them there in time for closing.

Lights are not only a matter of safety, but a necessity to the community. Parents and kids alike agree.

I implore you to consider the importance of funding this project.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Kindest regards,

Brenda Masson

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

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: MOTION: Venice Lifeguard Headquarters Tower Restoration

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Preserving Public Places Committee

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:11 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, Dec 26, 2022 at 3:42 PM Preserving Public Places Committee <

> wrote:

To: traci.park@lacity.org

Cc: Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov, Steve.Hudson@coastal.ca.gov, Shannon.Vaughn@coastal.ca.gov, "Seifert, Chloe@Coastal" <chloe.seifert@coastal.ca.gov>, thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, gjones@bh.lacounty.gov, wontiveros@bh.lacounty.gov, cbaker@bh.lacounty.gov, ilopez@bh.lacounty.gov, MTashjian@bh.lacounty.gov, RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org, Jimmy.Kim@lacity.org, Darryl Ford <Darryl.Ford@lacity.org>, "Karen.Bass@lacity.org" <Karen.Bass@LACity.org>, hydee.feldsteinsoto@lacity.org, Ken Bernstein <ken.bernstein@lacity.org>, lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, ssioufi@dpw.lacounty.gov, "AFine@laconservancy.org" <AFine@LAConservancy.org>, ira.brown@lacity.org, aura.garcia@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org, jessica.caloz@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org, dca.digital@lacity.org, "

" <

>

For your immediate attention:

Attached please find the Motion unanimously passed by the Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers on December 20, 2022 regarding Restoration of the Venice Lifeguard Headquarters Tower.

Sincerely,

Robin Murez
Chair, Preserving Public Places Committee
Venice Neighborhood Council

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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
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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Whereas, repurposing the Lifeguard Tower as a community asset would create an exceptional cultural enrichment, environmental and educational venue for the entire community, including residents and visitors of all ages and cultural heritages;

Whereas, over 1000 Venice residents, current and retired LA lifeguards & lifeguard chiefs, ocean ecologists, cultural and historic preservationists, surfers and beach goers have signed a petition to save the Venice Lifeguard Tower. Supporters include: Retired Lifeguard Section Chief, LA County Fire Department: Mickey Gallagher, Venice Oceanarium Founding Director: Tim Rudnick, Adjacent Property Owner: Diana Lorber, Educator & Chair VNC & Venice Chamber Education Committees: Joelle Dumas, Estate of Venice Black Forefather Arthur L. Reese: Sonya Reese Greenland, Trustee

NOW THEREFORE, The Venice Neighborhood Council, Board of Officers requests that the California Coastal Commission, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, and the City of Los Angeles refrain from demolishing the Venice Lifeguard Headquarters Tower until the feasibility of its repairs and restoration for use by lifeguards OR other purpose such as a public observation tower and/or lifeguard / ocean or other museum can be fully evaluated in conjunction with representatives of the Venice Neighborhood Council, and public and private nonprofit organizations.

ACTION: The motion was approved by a vote of 13/0/0.

Sincerely



James Murez
VNC President
James.Murez@VeniceNC.org

Supporting Documents:

Joint Powers Agreement: <https://www.venicenc.org/ncfiles/download/60>

Dedication: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting636ee6723b371.jpg>

Rendering: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting636ee6e18ca69.pdf>

Assessment: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee63784cf025ff5.pdf>

CDP Waiver: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting636ee6e18ae62.pdf>

ZIMAS: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting6396113406d1e.png>

SurveyLA: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting639611340776c.pdf>

Petition: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting6396113405920.pdf>

Copy to:

California Coastal Commission Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov,

Steve.Hudson@coastal.ca.gov, Shannon.Vaughn@coastal.ca.gov,

chloe.seifert@coastal.ca.gov,

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov,

Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors gjones@bh.lacounty.gov,

wontiveros@bh.lacounty.gov, cbaker@bh.lacounty.gov, ilopez@bh.county.gov,

MTashjian@bh.lacounty.gov,

Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks California Coastal Commission
RAPCommissioners@lacity.org, Jimmy.Kim@lacity.org, Darryl.Ford@lacity.org,
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles Karen.Bass@LACity.org,
Los Angeles Office of Historic Preservation lambert.giessinger@lacity.org,
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works ssioufi@dpw.lacounty.gov,
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Los Angeles City Department of Public Works aura.garcia@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org,
jessica.caloza@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org,
Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs dca.digital@lacity.org,
Secretary@VeniceNC.org

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: GPAB Letter in Support of Griffith Park Mural

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:08 AM

To: Michelle Crames <

>

Cc: Gerry Hans <

>, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org, Brenda Aguirre

<brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org, darryl.ford@lacity.org, Stefanie Smith

<stefanie.smith@lacity.org>, Emma Taylor <emma.taylor@lacity.org>

Good morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 23, 2022 at 2:41 PM Michelle Crames <

> wrote:

Dear RAP Commission and FoGP,

I hope you are well. As the Chair of GPAB, I am happy to reach out on behalf of our advisory board with a letter in support of FoGP's proposed mural. As always, we appreciate all of you and your hard work in support of our city's parks. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to be helpful.

Best,

Michelle Crames

Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

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City of Los Angeles

Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

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Griffith Park Advisory Board

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

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

December 23, 2022

Los Angeles Board
of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

Earlier this month, Friends of Griffith Park presented an idea for a mural on the three north-facing walls at the Griffith Park Visitor Center Auditorium. The artists who would be responsible for the work boast a practice that purports to “create nature-inspired art to incite a visceral connection between people and their environments,” and that is exactly what we witnessed in the proposal, which was well-considered in its reflection of the park and its environment.

The painting itself is lush and vibrant, portraying local flora such as Buckwheat and California Fuchsia and, of course, paying homage to the late P-22. In addition to this artwork, our board also supports additional proposals put forth by Friends of Griffith Park, including:

The current building identification be relocated to above the mural area
The removing of several low-growing juniper shrubs, replacing them with native plants, as well as a Seed Spire, which is a trademark of the artists’ practice—a biodegradable cylinder that disintegrates over time leaving behind a smattering of flora (this option further accentuates the artists’ imaginative ethos)

Griffith Park is one of the true gems on offer in Los Angeles and its Visitor Center is a key access point for both residents and tourists alike to gain additional insight into the park’s natural majesty. This mural serves to beautify the structure while incorporating some of the elements of what has made--and will continue to make--Griffith Park a global destination. It is for these reasons that our board wholly endorses the project put forth by FoGP and the aforementioned artists (Studio Tutto). Additionally, we hope that given the tremendous response to P-22’s

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Michelle Crames; Vice Chair – Karen Thornton; Secretary – Chris Laib; Aida Ashouri; Aaron Chung; Alex Crow; Gene Gilbert; Jason Greenwald; Alex Phillips

passing that this project can be fast-tracked, as it immediately serves our community's desire to memorialize an animal whose impact was deep and enduring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Me".

Michelle Crames
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim; Matthew Rudnick; Brenda Aguirre; Cathie Santo Domingo; Darryl Ford;
Stefanie Smith; CD4: Emma Taylor; FOGP: Gerry Hans



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Dog Parks - Requesting to Amend Code to Include Max Number of Dogs Per Person.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Ralph Sansano <>
Cc: RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:11 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, Dec 26, 2022 at 4:30 PM Ralph Sansano <> wrote:
To Any Representative at RAP -

I would like to ask and request if there is anyone on your team that could assist me on the process/request to amend LAMC regarding dog parks to include, 'a maximum number of dogs per person in the park'? Specifically, I am requesting that the City adopt a similar language used by the County of LA in the matter: *"I. No more than three dogs are allowed per person responsible in attendance in the Dog Off-Leash Area."* [17.04.412 - Dog Off-Leash Area Rules and Regulations](#). Primarily for the safety of both visitors and their pets.

Visiting Veteran's Barrington Park in the afternoon (12/26/22) for the first time, my dog (mix shepherd/husky) was immediately chased and attacked by a group of large dogs (two german shepherds, and a pit bull) whom of which, were part of a larger group of 15-20+ dogs overseen by ONE dogwalker (see image below). The dogwalker was too distracted to notice since she was watching the other dogs and was not able to recall or chase after the dogs since she was 1) not the dog owner, and 2) on the other side of the park. Fortunately, my dog was able to run back to me without any serious injuries.

The issue with this scenario is that this could've happened to anyone else (pet or human) with far worse outcomes. Yet, there are unfortunate examples of these incidents that are evident in [Yelp](#), and Google reviews specifically at this park. This appears to be an ongoing and pervasive problem. Any dog owner can tell you that one person cannot safely control and oversee the unpredictable actions of more than two to three dogs at a time. Still, dogwalkers are bringing 20+ dogs into the park.

Sadly, these dog walkers make coming to these perceived safe places for dogs to be unleashed turn into a risky, unsafe, and volatile environment for pet owners and their pets. Sometimes to the extent of not wanting to visit at all.

Any help would be greatly appreciated and I am more than open to discussing this over the phone and/or zoom.

Ralph Sansano



--
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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 10:59 AM

To: John Webster <

>

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactCD4@lacity.org>

Good Morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 10:58 AM John Webster <

> wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

I urge you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, a treasured legacy business and attraction that will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2023—if you let it.

I have read the City Council file #21-1457 and supporting documents, and it seems clear that concession holder Steve Weeks is invested in caring for the ponies and responding to all recommended policy changes made by the third party equine expert.

It is unfair to Mr. Weeks, to the ponies and to the countless children and families who care about the Pony Rides that City Council issued a motion on October 25 directing RAP to make a determination about terminating the Pony Rides' lease in less than two months' time, and that RAP has now simply terminated that lease with no public notice, no report back to City Council and no opportunity for comment.

Please! Stop the clock, extend the lease into the 75th anniversary year of 2023, and give this treasured community resource a chance to survive and bring joy to more families.

If there are to be changes made to the Pony Rides concession in the interest of new ideas about animal rights, then these new ideas should be fully hashed out before these senior ponies are displaced, possibly to be sent for slaughter if no home can be found for them on such short notice.

That would be a cruel and pointless end to a life of service, and would break so many L.A. hearts.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and happy holidays,

John P. Webster



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 3:09 PM

To:

Cc: LA Parks Public Information <rap.publicinfo@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 Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 2:31 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> 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
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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--
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Fax: (213) 202-2610



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 3:04 PM

To:
Cc: LA Parks Public Information <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>, Angeles Moreno <angeles.moreno@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 Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 2:30 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the following correspondence.

Thank you.

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

From: **Pamela Perkins** < >
Date: Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 4:55 PM
Subject: Griffith Park Pony Rides
To: RAP.PUBLICINFO@LACITY.ORG <RAP.PUBLICINFO@lacity.org>

12-18-2022

Regarding the Closure of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

Mr. Rudnick,

I am a citizen of the City of Los Angeles and I attended the protest concerning the closure of the Pony Rides 12-18-22 at Griffith Park. I don't understand why the contract is not being renewed. I implore you to reconsider the position in this matter and help to reopen the facility for the good of all concerned especially the children of Los Angeles living in an urban environment. These small ventures allow for the first ride on a real pony as I did when I was a child. My first experience was overwhelming wonder for these beautiful animals and led to a lifelong love and respect for them.

I have seen the letter to Matthew Rudnick dated May 25th, 2022, which finds no wrongs committed by Steve Weeks and with every inspection was found that "the ponies appeared healthy, well-kept and cared for, and appropriately utilized in the riding program; there was no evidence of neglect or abuse". "The Department of Animal Services has found no grounds for a permit revocation or any further action at this time and will continue to evaluate any further complaints." I can't understand what reason can be given for not reissuing the permit. If reasonable additional requirements need to be made, then I'm certain that these can be adhered to.

From the experience on 12-18-22 of (PETA) radical protesters that were screaming falsehoods and misinformation inches from parents, telling them to stop eating meat and become vegetarian, berating them for wanting to have their children ride ponies and using foul language toward supporters and families with children present (and crying from being harassed). In fact-checking, PETA has a kill rate on animals that far exceeds any shelter by a great margin. Their adoption rate, according to one source, is less than 1%. They have evolving agendas that include extreme measures about all pet ownership as well. It is unfair to have this harassment happening when parents just want to have a pleasant day with their families.

I would hope that the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreations and Parks would not be swayed by radical groups and would please reconsider the reinstatement of the permit for the pony rides. This could be a threshold to eradicate all horse ownership in Los Angeles. It is my understanding that Griffith Park was given to the city with the understanding that it would be used by and for equestrians:

“Proceedings of the Los Angeles Zoological Society: Volume 1, Issue 1

A PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES
ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND AQUARIUM
AMUSEMENT, EDUCATION- AND INVESTIGATION

No zoo would be complete without the opportunity given the children to ride upon ponies and donkeys, or even better, to have the thrill of swinging up on the back of a kind old elephant, or go jogging along, clinging to the hump of a camel. There will be a real necessity for saddle-horses and burros to carry adults, as well as children, over the comfortably graded

trails from which the various groups of animals may be seen to the best advantage.

Proceedings of the Los Angeles Zoological Society: Volume 1, Issue 1”.

While I may think that elephants and camels might be impractical, members of the equine family are the perfect choice for children to experience and learn about. Urban areas need to have these facilities available for the children and adults. It gives us the opportunity to connect in a very real way to the natural world, away from the stress of city life. We then live in the moment, relating to *this animal here and now* as we ride together. Our blood pressure goes down, our muscles relax. Horses, ponies, mules - are our "life" partners. I hope that you can see this or at least try to understand it. Please Ms. Raman, help to reinstate the Pony Rides at Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

Pamela Perkins

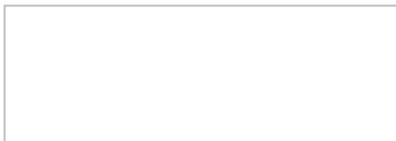
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Information Office
Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org
Phone: 213-202-2700
Website: www.laparks.org

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Keep Pony rides

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 2:59 PM

To: c

Cc: LA Parks Public Information <rap.publicinfo@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 Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 2:27 PM LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please see the following correspondence.

Thank you

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

From: Connie Kokiousis < >
Date: Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 8:55 PM
Subject: Keep Pony rides
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

As long as these ponies are being kept in a humane way, the pony rides should continue!

If a problem was found, why can it not be corrected?

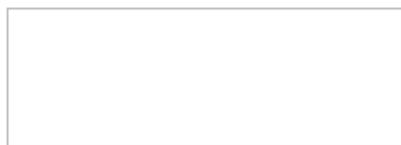
To shut them down is just closing another business and turning our city into a wasteland.

They are a part of Los Angeles tradition for many families.

I will petition for the animals to be cared for properly and stay open!

--
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--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Save Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 9:21 AM

To: "

Cc: Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "RAP.publicinfo@lacity.org" <RAP.publicinfo@lacity.org>

Good morning,

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

On Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 5:44 PM

<

> wrote:

Dear Mr. Kim,

I started taking my horse obsessed child to the Griffith Park Pony Rides at the age of three. For a child who was extremely shy, clinging to my leg, to be picked up by a stranger and put on a pony, all smiles and giggles, was nothing short of miraculous. This started our family on an equestrian journey that led us to ultimately purchase a ranch in Lake View Terrace, where we now live with our five horses. We enjoy riding the local trails, and my child is a successful show jumping and dressage rider, and at 18 now teaches lessons to beginner riders.

We are fortunate enough to have the means to realize our equestrian dream. A majority of the families who patronize the Griffith Park Pony Rides, about 70%, are low income, and a \$5 pony ride is all they can afford. I've seen the magic of the interaction with ponies in my own child, and the idea of this opportunity being taken away from low-income children breaks my heart.

The animal rights extremists protesting know nothing about horses. The initial veterinarian report showed only minor issues, very common in horses. These issues were immediately remedied by the owner, and verified by the veterinarian. There was no neglect or abuse, also verified by the veterinarian. I inspected the ponies myself, and saw nothing that concerned me. I assure you, if there were any neglect or abuse happening, the horse lovers of the equestrian community would be the first to speak up. The ponies that passed away were among the retired ponies, and they died of causes that are very common in horses. There was no requirement to report the death of ponies, yet this was cited as the reason for not renewing the contract. Seems clear this was an excuse, and the real motivation was the protests. I personally witnessed the abusive behavior of these protestors, yelling at parents and children, calling them pony abusers, telling them they have blood on their hands, making children cry. Giving in to this horrendous behavior does not fix the problem, it only emboldens the protestors to continue with these abusive tactics. I also have been made aware that the protestors appeared at your home and the homes of other RAP officials, and I believe that is unacceptable behavior, and I am sorry that you and your family had to endure this abuse. They already have other city animal and equestrian venues in their sights, so if you thought this decision would make them go away, you are mistaken.

I urge you to reconsider this decision, and to renew the pony rides contract.

Kindest regards,

Gina Cruz
CD7 resident

Chair, Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board (for disclosure and identification purposes only, not representing the board)

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: FW: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Henley, Belinda" <

Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 9:22 AM

Good Morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 9:07 AM Henley, Belinda < > wrote:

Dear Los Angeles Commissioner,

I am asking you to reconsider your position on the Griffith Park Pony Rides and I am asking on behalf of the ponies themselves.

I consider myself to be an advocate for the proper treatment of animals. However, I am a horse-owner myself. Furthermore, I am a PONY owner. I am also the Chairman of the local Gymkhana here in my town of Leona Valley.

All of my horses/ponies are rescues/adopted. I adopted them all from reputable horse rescues, one of them being "Love This Horse Equine Rescue", which was highlighted in Forbes magazine for being one of the most transparent equine rescues in existence.

I would like to shed some light for you on what happens to ponies 98% of the time.

A new horse owner, purchases or acquires a pony for their small child. IF the pony is well trained, like the ones at Griffith Park Pony rides, hopefully the child will have a great experience, learning how to ride. However, around year 10 or 11 of the child's life, they begin to yearn for a bigger, faster horse. And so, the pony is put on the back-burner and the family puts the pony up for sale.

The pony goes on to the next home, and the next, and the next (if it's lucky) or like most, ends up at a Kill Buyer's auction

That is a fact. Right now, this week alone, I saw 4 adds for people looking to rehome their ponies on social media. It is saddening to me because I know what their fate will be.

A pony is more likely to bounce around and have an unstable life and end up at the kill buyer than a full sized horse because of their small stature and the limited amount of time that a child will remain a child.

What does the science tell us about horses and ponies? They establish deep bonded relationships with the other ponies and horses around them AND their CARE-TAKERS. They enjoy PREDICTABLE, ROUTINE, and a stable home

life and environment.

They grieve, panic, become stressed, and experience separation anxiety when they are separated from their herd. They are herd animals, to be alone, is to be DEAD. They have feelings, they remember, they have a photographic memory!

I can and will predict that the majority of the ponies at Griffith Park, if the rides are forced to close, will either bounce around from home to home and or end up at the kill buyer/feed lot. Ponies live for a VERY LONG TIME, longer than a horse. Ponies can live up to 30 years old or older in captivity and with good care. The ponies at Griffith Park are VERY well cared for.

Horses in the wild have an average lifespan of up to 12 years.

I rescued all of my horses and ponies from the kill lot. They were emaciated when I got them. I nursed them back to health. My horses/ponies have a home with me for LIFE, but that is a RARE, EXTREMELY RARE situation for ponies/horses.

Would closing down the pony rides do more harm than good for the ponies? YES, it will.

What animal rights activists such as PETA aren't aware of is how many horse/ponies are sent to the kill buyer EVERY DAY! There are already too many! Shall we increase the amount of animals sent to their death because a group of people who do not have any experience with horses or the horse world itself is making the most noise about animal welfare right now? Or because you think it's politically incorrect??? These groups do not know what goes on behind the scenes, most of them have probably never ridden a horse or even seen a pony in person.

Dear Mayer, our nation's FEDERAL GOVERNMENT even has a program that subsidizes the adoption of our wild mustangs to try to save them as they are being gathered up for the slaughter on a daily basis! Our Federal Government has an adoption program where they PAY THE ADOPTER to take home a wild mustang, in order to preserve these animals.

I ask you to reconsider your position based on the information that I just gave you. I am not talking about the children or the pony owner or PEOPLE. I am asking you to consider the WELFARE of the HORSE! It's always for me, about the welfare of the horses/ponies.

Please take this information to heart! I also want you to know that I am a Registered Democrat.

Sincerely,

Belinda Henley

[St. Jude Medical is now Abbott.](#)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 3:37 PM

To: Audra Hotchkiss < >

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Good afternoon Audra,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 3:33 PM Audra Hotchkiss < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, General Manager Kim and Councilmember Raman,

I am writing to ask that the Griffith Park Pony Rides be granted a reprieve in their eviction day of December 21st and to extend their lease at minimum to at least their 75th anniversary of operation in 2023. My lifelong love of horses and riding was inspired by my parents driving out to Griffith Park so I could ride the ponies at the age of 4 years old. As ultimately a horse owner, I am very familiar with the health challenges of maintaining older equines, and the outside review of the operation showed acceptable management of a herd of more than 35 ponies. Shetland ponies can easily live to 30 years, and it must be recognized that a "forever home" in a time of soaring hay and board prices is not guaranteed to last "forever", and many unwanted horses and ponies sadly meet their fate on a truck bound for slaughter across the border. Additionally, GPPR is the only affordably priced horseback riding experience for working families. I'm sure thousands of children have discovered their love of horses at GPPR.

Sincerely

Audra Lembertas Hotchkiss

--
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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:57 AM

To: Leilani Commons

>

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactcd4@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 1:38 AM Leilani Commons <

> wrote:

To the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission:

To blindside Griffith Park stakeholders of the abrupt and unjust eviction and subsequent closure of the Griffith Park Pony Rides is a betrayal to your constituents and all those whom Griffith Park intends to serve.

I strongly urge the Commission to consider a different course of action to allow this 75-year-old institution and fixture of Griffith Park to remain open.

Leilani Commons

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jackie Sloan >
Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Sun, Dec 11, 2022 at 8:43 PM Jackie Sloan < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

As the Director of The Children's Ranch Foundation, a therapeutic animal caretaking program in the Atwater Village Equestrian District, I join other business owners, equestrians and residents of the City of Los Angeles in urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

At The Children's Ranch, we teach kids, adolescents and adults with learning, social/emotional and developmental challenges how to care for horses. There is a delicate balance that must be found in both helping our students learn important life skills, and caring for the needs of our horses. We are careful to always prioritize the health and well-being of the equines we care for, while still teaching our students important life and independence skills.

For many Los Angeles kids, the Griffith Park Pony ride is the only low-cost opportunity they will ever have to interact with a horse (a sensitive prey animal). I am confident that the Griffith Park Pony Ride concession holder, Steve Weeks, could similarly prioritize the health and wellbeing of the ponies in his program, while still offering this unique chance for children to interact with a pony in the middle of the city. I also feel confident that Mr. Weeks can address any concerns that animal rights activists have, and respond to all recommended policy changes made by the third-party equine expert.

Closing the pony ride so suddenly puts the ponies at grave risk. It is extremely difficult to re-home ponies in the middle of the city, especially over the holidays, and with no notice.

Instead, my hope is that a compromise can be found – one that honors the needs of the ponies, and also preserves the Griffith Park Pony Ride for future generations of children.

Thank you for considering my concerns,

Jackie Sloan



Jackie Sloan, Director

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: DO NOT STOP GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 7:37 AM

To: Mandi Dillin

Cc: "RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org" <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, "mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org" <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 10:37 AM Mandi Dillin < > wrote:

The decision by the Recreation and Parks Department is absolutely ridiculous and is kow towing to a small but vocal group of people who are against perceived animal exploitation. The reason why there are checks and balances within the park's system and within the City for that matter is to make sure that the animals are well-cared-for and not abused. The fact that the LA City veterinarian did not find any evidence of abuse or neglect and the Parks Department still closed it down without offering the spot to another concessionaire confirms that there is political pressure which the Parks Department is responding to at a level above the decision maker who decided to shut down the pony rides completely. My understanding is that there are multiple issues with the way the parks department is being run currently and maybe that will change with the inauguration of the new Mayor - I hope!

Situations like this strip long standing cultural traditions, removing much needed *simple* joys from people's lives. This was an activity that the public was able to enjoy and was managed by well meaning and responsible group of people. My children have gone to the pony rides several times and I was looking forward to taking them with their grandparents so we would have 3 generations of people enjoying something that is becoming a relic of the past. Thousands of Angelinos have enjoyed this tradition for GENERATIONS and you are letting a small group of millionaires remove one of the last affordable family recreation activities. There is absolutely nothing you're going to be able to put in place of the pony rides that will be as affordable. The building and remodeling cost alone for whatever you think you can do within the Pony space at Griffith Park will price people out of enjoying it - unless you want all-white or only millionaire families at Griffith Park, which might be the whole point of this charade.

The cost of family recreation in Los Angeles County is insane. Any 'kid's museum' or 'kids activity' that is not at a library is at least \$25 per child which might be nothing to you but it's a lot to a working family with kids. Public spaces like Griffith Park are essential to the mental well-being of both parents and children and activities like the pony rides enhance the enjoyment of the outdoors and expose kids to animals, which is something that a lot of kids don't have the opportunity to experience in their homes or neighborhoods.

Please assign the space to a new pony concessionaire or reconsider your decision. I believe it's completely in error and you've not thought about the long-term effects. It is removing and white

washing something that defines Los Angeles for a lot of people. So much of the city is gone - turned into The Grove or The Americana where a corporate and sterilized form of recreation is offered at sky-high prices.

Activism certainly has a place in society but when activists use lies to remove something that is so innocent and lighthearted it just contributes to what I see as the sterilization of our society where the only fun people can have is corporate mandated fun.

Thank you.
Amanda Dillin

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: General manager Mr. Jimmy Kim removal

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:52 AM

To: ida dizon >

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page.

We appreciate your feedback.

On Sat, Dec 10, 2022 at 10:36 AM ida dizon < > wrote:

I call on the Rec and Parks commissioners to immediately remove and replace Mr. Jimmy Kim as the General Manager of Recs and Parks for LA City.

Mr. Jimmy Kim has violated the Brown act by not discussing the non renewal of the Griffith Park pony rides with the public. In addition, he also did not request discussion with the Griffith Park Advisory Board. He is not acting in good faith with the general public and displays poor judgement.

There were no valid grounds to not renew the pony ride contract. The horses were found healthy by numerous reports within LA City as well as an independent 3rd party Veterinarian in 2022. There were No contract violations.

In addition, there may be inappropriate collusion with Councilmember Nithya Raman.

There is a lack of transparency as well as trust for residents of LA City and cause for immediate removal of Mr Jimmy Kim from his position as General manager is warranted.

Thank you.

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:57 AM

To: Leilani Commons

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactcd4@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 1:38 AM Leilani Commons <

> wrote:

To the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission:

To blindside Griffith Park stakeholders of the abrupt and unjust eviction and subsequent closure of the Griffith Park Pony Rides is a betrayal to your constituents and all those whom Griffith Park intends to serve.

I strongly urge the Commission to consider a different course of action to allow this 75-year-old institution and fixture of Griffith Park to remain open.

Leilani Commons

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:53 AM

To: Alex Moffatt <

>

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Sun, Dec 11, 2022 at 1:35 PM Alex Moffatt <

> wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and CM Raman,

As a student living near LA, Griffith Park and its ponies have all been near and dear to my heart. It is not fair to ask for these elderly ponies to be sold. The risk is too high that they will be placed into bad homes or even to the slaughterhouse. Please do the right thing and extend the lease of the pony rides.

Happy Holidays,

Alexandra Moffatt

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides Griffith Park - Thank you for saving the ponies!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 3:04 PM

To: Laura Barillaro <

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 2:32 PM Laura Barillaro <

> wrote:

Please forward to:

Attn: Jimmy Kim, General Manager

Attn: Matthew Rudnick, Executive Officer

Dear Matthew Rudnick and Jimmy Kim,

Thank you so much, Mr. Jimmy Kim and Mr. Matthew Rudnick, for making the right decision for Steven Weeks' ponies at Griffith Park. Please ensure that Weeks will be forced to allow the ponies to be released to a sanctuary and not auctioned off to other owners who might sell and/or abuse them further, and that the new concession will be a non-animal one.

Griffith Park's pony rides have a long history of shameful abuse of those helpless ponies, as well as children being harmed when things escalated. The ponies were recently filmed working in blistering heat in the summer and being forced to stand outside at night with no shelter in the freezing rain of winter. And those are just two examples of several.

This Thursday when the call-in meeting is held, please remember that Weeks has a number of like-minded friends who will call in to defend him, despite all the solid proof of terrible abuses and neglect, aside from the inherent abuses common in such pony rides. Please listen to the other side, who have no profit motive and nothing to gain except for great relief that the dear ponies will be going to sanctuary, and that there will be no more such animal abuse at beautiful Griffith Park.

Thank you again for doing the right thing,
Laura Campbell

--

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides Griffith Park - Thank you for saving the ponies!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 3:04 PM

To: Laura Barillaro <

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We appreciate your feedback.

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Attn: Jimmy Kim, General Manager

Attn: Matthew Rudnick, Executive Officer

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Thank you again for doing the right thing,
Laura Campbell

--

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides in Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Linda Walling
Cc: "mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org" <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:49 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Sat, Dec 10, 2022 at 10:23 AM Linda Walling < > wrote:
December 10, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Kim,

It is my understanding that Steve Weeks business has been turned down for the reconsidering of his lease to be continued at the the Griffith Park pony rides.

As a horse owner, I can assure you that the City will be losing out here. Private lessons are much more expensive for the Los Angeles families and tourists.

The City of Los Angeles sent a veterinarian out and the ponies got a good medical review.

You should be **thanking him** for his valuable service and grateful for his small business. I hope you recognize the significance of this loss to Griffith Park.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kindest Regards,

Linda Walling

Attachment(s):

- 1.) Pony Ride Poster Image
- 2.) Correspondence dated 5/25/22.

--

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Letter-to-R...

**BOARD OF
ANIMAL SERVICES
COMMISSIONERS**

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PRESIDENT

OLIVIA E. GARCIA
VICE PRESIDENT

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JILL COHEN

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**DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES**
221 N. Figueroa Street
6TH Floor, Suite #600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

ANNETTE G. RAMIREZ
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

CURTIS R. WATTS
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Administration

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

May 25, 2022

Matthew Rudnick
Assistant General Manager &
Chief Sustainability Officer
Department of Recreations and Parks
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 350
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Rudnick:

The Department of Animal Services issues permits to animal related businesses within the City of Los Angeles and performs yearly inspections to verify compliance with state and local ordinance. The Department of Animal Services has routinely conducted yearly inspections of the Griffith Park Pony Rides located at 4730 Crystal Springs within Griffith Park. The Griffith Park Pony Rides is a children's attraction to provide affordable access to ponies for riding and farm animals for petting. In addition to the yearly permit inspections conducted, the Department of Animal Services will also conduct inspections when complaints are received regarding handling or maintenance of the animals at any animal related business with a permit issued by the Department of Animal Services.

The Griffith Park Pony Rides has been issued two animal related business permits by the Department of Animal Services: a Petting Zoo Permit which expires in July 2022 and a Pony Ride Permit which expires in March 2023. Prior to the issuance of the Pony Ride and Petting Zoo Permits, inspections were conducted and all local and state ordinances enforced by Animal Services were in compliance.

The Department has received complaints from an animal advocacy group and similar complaints from individuals. In response the Department has conducted numerous inspections and requested an inspection by two Certified Equine Animal Cruelty Investigators: a Veterinarian and an Animal Control Officer. The Veterinarian stated: "In conclusion, at the time of my inspection of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, the ponies appeared healthy, well-kept and cared for, and appropriately utilized in the riding program; there was no evidence of neglect or abuse." The Department of Animal Services has found no grounds for a permit revocation or any further action at this time and will continue to evaluate any further complaints.

Sincerely,

Annette G. Ramirez
Interim General Manager

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com





GRIFF



GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES AND PETTING ZOO

ALL RIDES \$5 EACH
BEST PRICED PONY RIDE IN
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Free parking every
day!





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Thank you for doing the right thing for the horses!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:55 AM

To: "Our Planet. Theirs Too." <

>

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 8:28 PM Our Planet. Theirs Too. <

> wrote:

Dear commissioners of LA Parks Department,

I wanted to personally THANK YOU for your brave and just decision to cancel the Pony rides at Griffith Park!

As an animal lover and director of a non-profit that helps animals, I have written letters on this subject and attended a few of your virtual meetings over the past weeks, including the last meeting a week ago in which I've gotten the chance to speak - all in the attempt to urge the Parks Department to take action to help those elderly ponies (and other animals) being worked at Griffith Parks's Pony Rides, rain or shine.

So I am more than thrilled to have heard that you have listened to the pleas and requests made by so many of us concerned Angelinos, and voted to end the use and abuse of these majestic animals for 'entertainment' in Griffith Park, and let these animals retire in peace! This is absolutely remarkable of you! You have proved that your department really cares for people and animals alike (as we know, these rides also posed a safety risk for the kids), that public officials do listen to their citizens and constituents, and that LA is still one of the most compassionate cities in the world!

I salute you, I thank you, and you have my eternal respect and gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

Aylam Orian
Founder/President

--

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Thank You!

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 8:26 PM Alondra Reveles <

wrote:

Hello, thank you so much for not renewing the contract for Griffith park pony rides. I'm glad that now the cycle of suffering that occurred at that place has been put to a stop. This sends a great message to kids and future generations. It teaches us to evolve and not needlessly harm beings for entertainment nor profit. The place can be replaced with a community garden, animal-FREE models, or anything else that doesn't harm beings. Thank you!

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 2:04 AM Tracy Wallace <> wrote:

Dear Commissioners:

I am a native LA resident, having been born here in 1962. My mom took me to the Griffith Park Pony rides when I was just a kid. Since 2001, my husband and I have owned a horse who is housed at the LA Equestrian Center. I am writing in support of the Griffith Park Pony rides. I believe that a decision was made to close the pony rides without full knowledge of how ponies work, and how much effort it takes to take care of these animals, plus the unique health and wellness needs of these animals.

Equines are fragile creatures, and need special care. The owner of the pony rides, to my understanding, has taken good care of the ponies. Yes, four ponies have died, but animals die. They get old, and horses and ponies can colic and subsequently die in a short period of time. Sometimes there's nothing that can be done. It's my understanding that two of the ponies who died were old, and one had a bad colic. The other one had a freak accident. Horses and ponies are strong animals. It's not the owner's fault.

The Griffith Park Pony rides are an integral part of LA history. I implore you to reconsider the decision and keep the ponies where they are. Please don't listen to a small bunch of vegan activists who know nothing about equines.

Sincerely,

Tracy Wallace

--
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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 7:38 AM

To: William R Sloan >

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactCD4@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 11:28 AM William R Sloan < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

I join other residents of the City of Los Angeles in urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

I regularly took both of my now adult grandchildren to the Griffith Park Pony Rides when they were children. This early exposure to horses inspired my daughter Jackie to found The Children's Ranch Foundation in the Atwater Village Equestrian District, where my granddaughter now works teaching kids, adolescents and adults with learning, social/emotional and developmental challenges how to care for horses.

For many Los Angeles kids, the Griffith Park Pony ride is the only low-cost opportunity they will ever have to interact with a horse. I am confident that the Griffith Park Pony Ride concession holder, Steve Weeks, could prioritize the health and wellbeing of the ponies in his program, while still offering this unique chance for children to interact with a pony in the middle of the city. I also feel confident that Mr. Weeks can address any concerns that animal rights activists have, and respond to all recommended policy changes made by the third-party equine expert.

Instead of closing the Pony Ride, my hope is that a compromise can be found – one that honors the needs of the ponies, and also preserves the Griffith Park Pony Ride for future generations of children.

Thank you,
Judy Sloan

--

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: THANK YOU!!

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 12:23 PM

To: " " < >
 Cc: Los Angeles Mayor's Office <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org

Good afternoon Christina,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 12:21 PM < > wrote:

Dear Honorable Members of LA City Council,

Your decision to NOT renew the Griffith Park horse riding business was absolutely the best, intelligent, based on facts decision you have made.

Facts:

1. Elder horses, not cute young ponies being forced to work 6 days a week, 7/8 hours a day.
2. Independent veterinarians who are not hired by the business note the horses are old and have injuries from forced labor.
3. Old horses are tired and do not want to move but are forced to run by staff scaring them, slapping loudly behind each horse for the entire route to force them to run.
4. They show signs of depression and anxiety from being forced to run the same circles all day long, everyday.

More FACTS:

1. Parents and children are not deprived of interaction with horses and animals because they can visit animal rescue sanctuaries.
2. Parents welcomed the flyers of listed animal sanctuaries to visit. They will not miss the horses at Griffith Park.
3. Visiting animals at sanctuaries will teach kids EMPATHY instead of callousness towards the animals they are USING animals.
4. When using the horses without being thoughtful about how tired and hot the horses are, this teaches kids to be callous towards animals and this lack of empathy also translates to how kids treat humans.
5. The horse operator lied to the city about their horses dying!!!

Thank you for your ethics and courage on this horse business issue.

Sincerely,
 Christina Ku
 Los Angeles, CA

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: ponies

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 5:52 PM Theresa Narad < > wrote:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to ask you to renew the lease for the Griffith Park pony rides.

I understand that you have had protests from PETA.

At this time, when the natural world is becoming less and less accessible to children; the introduction to riding well mannered ponies to children is often a life changing event. It certainly was for me.

Please renew the license for pony rides at Griffith Park.

PETA is an extremist group with questionable motives. It would be a shame to lose a valuable cultural asset to Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Theresa Narad

Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides - DO NOT CANCEL LEASE

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:45 AM

To: Nick Konopisos <

>

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactCD4@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 6:19 PM Nick Konopisos <

> wrote:

RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman:

As a concerned citizen and active horse owner/rider, it breaks my heart to hear that the Council would cave to a few PETA activists that know nothing about equine animal welfare. The Griffith Park Pony Rides provide so much joy to the youth of LA and Southern California.

Please vote this proposal down, we cannot make decisions because a few activists out of 8 million think this it is "unfair" to let a child ride a pony. It is my understanding that the operator is open to working on recommended policy changes as provided by a 3rd party vet, etc. I also understand that there has been no public notice since the October 25th directive and no report back to City Council, nor an opportunity for PUBLIC comment. Additionally, has the City thought about the welfare of the ponies should this policy get enacted? Do you know how hard it is to find homes for ponies, they could end up in slaughter? Have the activists offered to take them all home and care/feed for them? I think we all know the answer.

I would think the CD and Council would be more worried about the **insane homeless issue** destroying ALL its districts, and that has gone unchecked for years. This should be a much more urgent concern than caving to PETA activists that have no idea what they are talking about and have used suspect tactics to intimidate the owners and families at the pony rides over the years. They should be put in jail, not listened to for crying out loud, cannot believe the City of LA would be bullied by this ilk. Please extend the lease to enable this amazing institution reach it's 75th anniversary and beyond.

-Nick Konopisos



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony rides

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:45 PM Greg Schultz < > wrote:

Please extend the lease of the pony rides as they have meant a lot to my family. I am a L A resident and will vote for them to stay.
Please contact me for any further information.
Thank you
Gregory Schultz

This message may contain confidential or proprietary information intended only for the use of the addressee(s) named above or may contain information that is legally privileged.
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Thank you.

FAFLD

--
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Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Ponies 12/15/22 city council agenda item

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:46 AM

To: val a <

>

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 10:32 PM val a <

> wrote:

Dear RAP commissioners and LA city council member Raman,

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, currently a public school teacher, and active community member. I ask that for your consideration to extend the continue Griffith Park Pony rides business. After reading and knowing that current owner, Steve Weeks, is committed to the health and living conditions of the ponies, I hope the council and Parks and Recreation keep Griffith Park ponies for all to support and continue making memories.

I understand, Steve Weeks made a donation of \$300,000 recently in order to keep the ponies at Griffith and that donation was denied by GM Park & Recs, Jimmy Kim, without consulting city council. I hope public comment and through report of the living conditions of the ponies be considered, in hopes to preserve a safe, affordable activity for children.

Thank you,

Valerie Albicker

Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "rebecca beechfamily.com" >

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:46 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 11:58 PM rebecca < > wrote:

- > I have resided in the Los Feliz area for over 24 years. My husband and I raised our children here and now have adult children and grandchildren who also live in your district.
- >
- > I am writing to convey my great concern and dismay that the Griffith Park Pony Rides are slated to be removed this month. Like hundreds of thousands of other Los Angeles residents, our family and friends have benefitted enormously from taking our children to the pony rides. It is a treasured experience and tradition for our family.
- >
- > We are especially concerned that the Pony Rides were slated for termination based largely on a campaign by animal activists and without any opportunity for the community to weigh in on the issue. I believe it was wrong to end a treasured 74-year concession without due diligence and without an extended, open, public discussion about the issues involved.
- >
- > I am also extremely disappointed that you voted to end a tradition that benefits the broadest possible cross-section of our citizenry. In particular, for countless working class families, the Griffith Park Pony Rides provide an opportunity for a child to experience a joy-filled, happy pony ride at an affordable price in a beautiful setting in their city, something from which they would otherwise be excluded, because of cost.
- >
- > I am also concerned about the breaking up of a herd of ponies who have been bonded and lived together for many years. Through exposure to horses from family members, I have learned that horses and ponies have strong bonds of kinship and a powerful sense of family with one another. The forced destruction of these animal relationships with the slated breakup of the Griffith Park Pony Rides will be destructive for the animals.
- >
- > Please reconsider this decision for the good of the working families of Los Angeles, who crave a connection to animals, and who learn the love of animals and nature, at the Griffith Park Pony Rides.
- >
- > Rebecca Beech,
- > Los Angeles, California
- >

Sent from my iPhone

--
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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To: "J. Michael Hennigan" <

>

Cc: "Thomas J. Doud

)"

>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 6:12 AM J. Michael Hennigan <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioner

It would surprise me if there has ever been an injury to a pony caused by being ridden in that arena. All animals and people sometimes get injured by just living, but that ride is not likely the cause. Please reconsider.

Mike Hennigan

McKool Smith

J. Michael Hennigan

Principal

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Angelenos Deeply Thank RAP for Shutting Down GP Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To: V L < >

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 4:21 PM V L <

> wrote:

Dear LA RAP Commissioners,

Firstly, I'd like to express my deep gratitude for RAP's wise decision to not renew the contract at Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo, where animals exploited like vehicles and petting toys have been enduring immense stress for decades. It's about time the progressive city of LA transform this cruel, antiquated concession into a NON-ANIMAL MODEL, as there's a major shift worldwide away from using animals for food, fashion, entertainment, and other anthropocentric purposes. So-called "tradition" or "culture" should not allow animal cruelty to continue in a modern society. It's fundamental that a civilized society properly educate the future generations to respect and coexist nature and animals, and concessions like the pony rides and petting zoo was a threat to establishing such an opportunity for children through miseducation.

As expected, you may have already been receiving some outcries from the equestrian communities to "save the pony rides," "Children will lose their fun," or other messages of that manner. However, children can still interact with animals, in fact, in far healthier and more respectful and educational ways in sanctuaries, where animals won't be exploited for profit or be stressed, which is safer for both the animals and the children.

What these equestrian communities fail to recognize or seldom bring up is the fact that animals, including horses, are not naturally meant to be ridden by humans. There are numerous scientific studies that demonstrate that riding horses causes skeletal, muscle, and tissue damage under any circumstance. Please refer to studies by Dr. Deb Bennett and Matilda Holmer and colleagues if this subject matter is of great interest to you. Simply put, both wild and domestic (a euphemism for "broken" or "psychologically and physically dominated by humankind to go against their natural behaviors") horses do not carry their young or each other on their backs. An equine's back is a very sensitive part that allows communication between the brain and the rest of the body and is not meant for a human to apply pressure on. Many former equestrians themselves are coming to realization that if they truly loved and cherished horses, they would not be burdening their backs, legs, or other body parts. Barbaric "traditions" like horse-racing, rodeos, animal circuses, and more are under great criticism, as more and more people are educating themselves on the cruelty behind using animals for entertainment. There is no right way to do the wrong thing. There are myriads of ways to grow healthy companionship and provide equines with utmost care and ample exercise without riding them.

On this note, I'd like to present a few ideas for potential amenities to be set up in the place where the pony rides and petting zoo used to be:

◇ The only acceptable animal model would be a sanctuary.

Kindred Spirits Care Farm, Chatsworth, is hoping to move closer into the city, and this would be a great replacement to allow truly healthy and respectful interactions between animals and children. The operator of the sanctuary has wonderful educational programs for children, including children's arts and crafts corner.

◇ Children today lack physical activity, and the following sports activities may also help fight the high child obesity rate in the U.S.:

Tennis, squash, badminton, volleyball, basketball courts, rock-climbing, trampoline park, skating park, yoga at the park, etc.

◇ Giant board games: chess & checker boards, jenga, connect four, etc

◇ Children's playground, ground fountains, giant floor pianos, outdoor concert area, ferris wheel, mini rollercoaster, Go-Kart, small-scale botanical gardens, science park, library

◇ A plant-based/vegan cafe with ample outdoor seating for parents to relax in while they await their kids, giving the Parisian afternoon stroll-at-the-park atmosphere. A wonderful inspiration would be our local Coffee and Plants vegan cafe in Old Town Pasadena owned by the talented singer Leona Lewis.

There are so many other excellent ways this area of Griffith Park can be transformed into without exploiting animals.

Thank you all once again for listening to the concerns of not only Angelenos, but citizens worldwide. 🌸



Angelenos, citizens worldwide, and the animals thank LA RAP
for discontinuing animal cruelty in the progressive city of Los Angeles!

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park - THANK YOU

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:50 AM

To: Jose Manik Gonzalez <

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, "rachel.ramos@lacity.org" <rachel.ramos@lacity.org>, "mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org" <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 9:39 PM Jose Manik Gonzalez <

> wrote:

I am writing to say THANK YOU for your recent decision to not renew the contract at Griffith Park, to extend pony rides. I have personally witnessed these animals used and exploited, as they tirelessly carry children on their backs and are subjected to horrific conditions. As a patron I always felt empathy for these creatures, but didn't know how to change things. THIS IS AMAZING NEWS THAT YOU HAVE CANCELLED THE CONTRACT. I hope you will not change your mind and let these radical "equestrian enthusiasts" persuade you to continue this barbaric and cruel practice.

Instead of the pony rides, there are so many other ideas this space can be used for. An animal sanctuary would be an incredible idea and offer children and adults the same up-close and personal experience with animals who no longer have to be exploited or used in any way. Children can learn to appreciate these beautiful creatures while learning compassion and kindness.

Additionally, a wonderful yoga garden or garden in general would be a great replacement for the space. I have seen other parks introduce large musical instruments, chess sets, large jenga game, and other oversize games for children to play.

The possibilities for this space are endless. So long as animals are no longer exploited, and instead children are learning to respect and appreciate all creatures, while enjoying the outdoors, I will be happy to know that the ponies no longer suffer.

Again, thank you so much for listening to the people and the Animals, and choosing to end this cruel and unnecessary practice. WHAT A MONUMENTAL DAY FOR LOS ANGELES!

THANK YOU!!!

Manik Gonzalez

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony rides at Griffith Park

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 9:35 AM

Good morning Leslie,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 9:34 AM leslie chavers < > wrote:
To the office of Jimmy Kim,

Just a note to express my appreciation that the pony rides will be shutting down for good next week.

Thank you for considering the suffering that these ponies endured all their lives.

I hope the next step will be moving them to sanctuaries where they will be treated like kings and queens for the rest of their lives.

In appreciation,
Leslie Chavers
-a lifelong resident of So.Cal. (65 years and counting)

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Save the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 9:50 AM

To: Netty Carr <

Cc: jimmy.kim@lacity.org, stefanie.smith@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 9:49 AM Netty Carr <

> wrote:

|

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: GRPR Please reconsider and save.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:38 PM

To: Linda Walling >

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 11:20 AM Linda Walling
December 15, 2022

> wrote:

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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Dear Commissioner Kim,

This is a historical attraction site. When the Griffith Park was donated to the city, the pony rides were in that agreement. I think the extremist protesters are the problem and someone caved to their extreme threats.

I understand your need for progress but this re imagining in the park concerns me. The location is very close to the many homeless tents that are scattered in and around Griffith Park and the Los Angeles river. I hope you are prepared with an immediate plan to keep that area off the grid of the homeless who will possibly set up overnight.

I mostly ride my current horse is around is Bette Davis Park. The homeless like to visit that campground area, mostly living on the Riverbed.

As a lifelong equestrian I have seen this before in Orange County, at the Bolsa Chica wetlands in Huntington Beach with Smoky's Stables (with both horses and pony rides). See article LA Times 12-29-1989. The area is a wild life refuge and beach view homes now.

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1989-12-29-me-1290-story.html>

I disagree with your decision about the ponies welfare. The owner came from an equestrian back ground. I admire him for his patience with working the underprivileged families and their children and tourists of Los Angeles. I saw his business last weekend and it looked wonderful to me. Please save the historical pony rides.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kindest Regards,

Linda

4 Attachment(s)

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City of Los Angeles
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Karla Martinez (Los Angeles Mayor's Office)

Dec 14, 2022, 15:46 MST

Greetings Linda,

Thank you for contacting the Mayor's Office with your concerns about the Griffith Park Pony Rides Concessionaire. Animal welfare is a key priority for the Mayor's Office.

A professional third party assessment of the Griffith Park Pony Rides operation was conducted. The assessments were thoughtfully reviewed, and the Department of Recreation and Parks concluded it was best for the animals' welfare to not renew the concession contract.

The Griffith Park Pony Rides is beloved by many. Although this operation is ending, the Department of Recreation and Parks, in partnership with the community, will reimagine a new, affordable, recreational and educational activity for the area that will bring new memories for families to come.

-Office of Mayor Karen Bass



GRIFF



GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES AND PETTING ZOO

ALL RIDES \$5 EACH
BEST PRICED PONY RIDE IN
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Free parking every
day!





It's New Year's Day 1949—a good day for parents to bundle up their toddlers and take them to the southeast end of Griffith Park to ride Tommy T. Wright's ponies. *USC Regional History Center, Hearst Newspaper Collection*

PONY RIDE BEGINS OPERATIONS

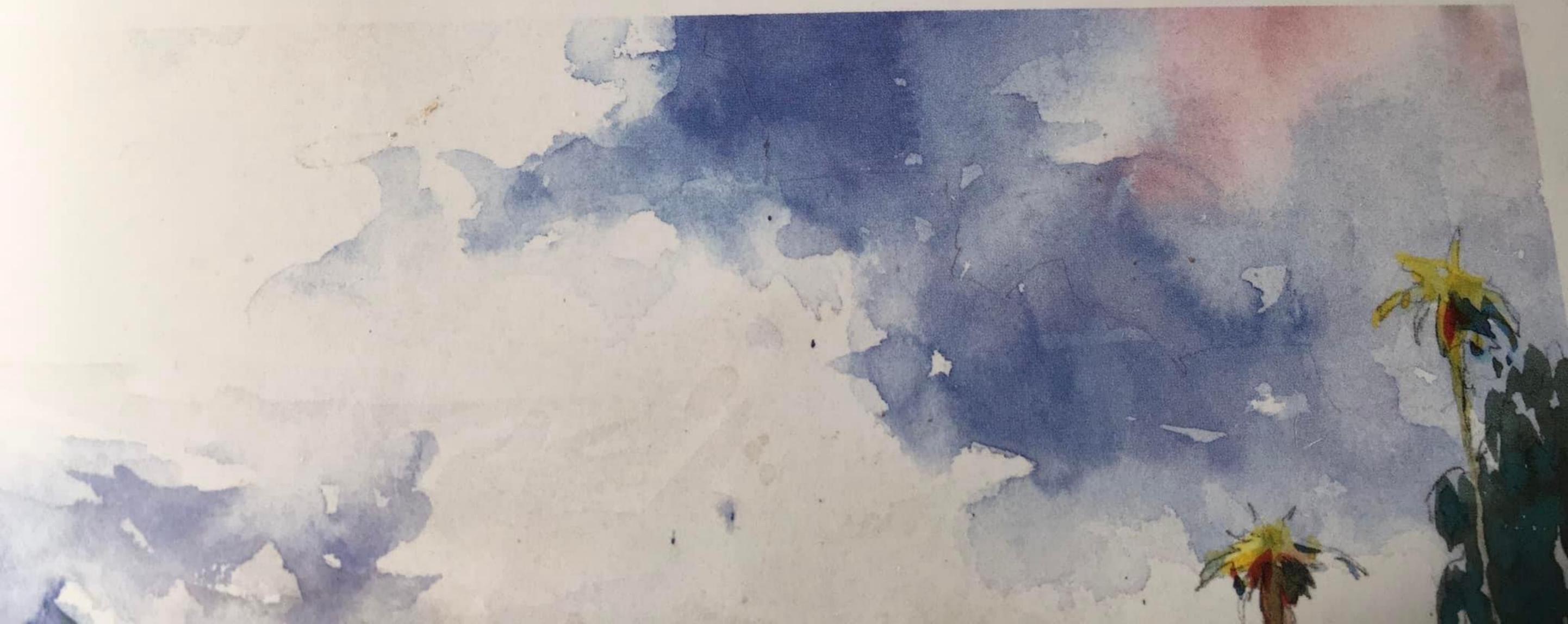
The Griffith Park and Southern became a success in large part because a compatible attraction was established next door. As with the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round, the park's Pony Ride concession was originated in Lincoln Park. Tommy T. Wright began a pony ride there in 1946. It was apparently a low-investment operation—he rented his horses from an El Monte stable.

After a couple of years of successful operation, the Recreation and Parks Department asked Wright (who was also a Recreation and Parks employee) to start a similar concession at Griffith Park's Riverside Drive entrance. World War II surplus Quonset huts were originally used to board the horses; they were eventually replaced by wooden stables. And the ponies were no longer rentals. Wright bought ponies, bred them and eventually showed them for prizes.⁷

GRIFFITH PARK

A
Centennial
History

By Mike Eberts





PARTY CORRAL

PONY RIDES
PRIVATE AREA

X



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides at Griffin Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:39 PM

To: "Meyer, Tricia" <

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 11:44 AM Meyer, Tricia <

> wrote:

Commissioners –

I support PETA, but I do think not renewing the pony rides is ridiculous. Listening to these callers, have they seen the pony rides? They are not worked to death, they barely move. People are suggesting sanctuaries. Who is paying for those sanctuaries and where are the sanctuaries that have room for all these ponies? If there were any conditions that needed to be changed, that could have been addresses, but as I have heard, no problems were found. I've seen comments on line that people can go to an equestrian center, that is not something all families in LA can afford. This was an affordable way for families to be exposed to horses. Also, do these people even realize there is already a carousel in Griffith Park!! Do they realize that ice skating rinks are closing as they are expensive to run? Go carts!!! Really?!?! Pollution in the park, not a great idea.

PETA has emailed all of their followers and it's pretty obvious from the callers, a lot of them have called in. I'm a PETA follower but I don't agree with ending of the Pony Rides.

Please Save Pony Rides in Griffith Park!

Tricia Meyer**Account Executive | Disney Ad Sales****DisneyAdSales.com** in | @ |



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:41 PM

To: Jelena Woehr <

>

Cc: Katy Young Yaroslavsky <

>

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 11:46 AM Jelena Woehr <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Kim,

I am on your special meeting call right now and have already given my public comment, but I would like to call your attention following the meeting to the fact that every person who called in with equine care experience of any kind has supported the pony rides.

It takes years of practice and education to understand how to properly care for equines, how to read their body language and facial expressions to determine their mood and emotions, and how to provide them with the best possible conditions for health and long life. People who do not have equine care experience simply do not know enough about these unique animals, who do not have the same needs as housepets like dogs and cats, to determine whether or not horses are happy or healthy.

It was absolutely shameful to hear on the call that the President of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee had to call and make public comment just to give his opinion to the task force, and the task force refused to respond to his question in the public comment period as to why the Equine Advisory Committee was not consulted on this equine issue. How awful for an equine expert who has donated his time to serve on an advisory committee created by the city specifically to advise on these issues to have to go through the humiliation of calling and begging for an answer from this commission's task force, and then to be summarily ignored!

EVERY caller, no exceptions, with equine care experience supported the pony rides. EVERY caller, no exceptions, who opposed the pony rides was an activist with absolutely no equine care experience.

If you, the commissioners, would be comfortable with out-of-town extremists with no knowledge of your lifestyle, interests, or hobbies coming into YOUR homes and workplaces to tell you how to conduct yourself in your own areas of expertise, then by all means continue bending to the whims of these extremists.

Mr. Bayne is a passionate bicyclist; to Mr. Bayne, would you be comfortable with all bicycle-related decisions in the city of Los Angeles being made by extremists who know nothing about bicycle maintenance or safe bicycling, and want to see bicycles removed from all public spaces in the city? Unless you would like to turn over the issue of bikes to the people who most despise bicyclists, please do not turn over the issue of equines to the people who most despise equestrians.

This shortsighted and cowardly behavior by Mr. Kim and the Recreation and Parks Commission sets the precedent that the City of Los Angeles will make its decisions based on who shouts the loudest and has the most free time, not based on who has the facts, science, and expertise on their side. There are more animal rights extremist protesters in the park than horse owners counter-protesting in the park because those of us who actually know how to care for horses are spending our time caring for horses and working in order to afford the care of our horses, not standing in a public park harassing children, pregnant women, and parents.

Unhoused human beings are living in Griffith Park without the unlimited food, shelter, and lifelong healthcare offered by Mr. Weeks to the Griffith Park ponies. I have never seen any of the animal rights extremists offer those suffering human beings as much as a meal or a kind word. Please leave the ponies alone, leave decisions about equines to equine experts such as the city's own Equine Advisory Committee which was shamefully NOT consulted on this issue, and turn your attention to caring for human beings who are living lives much worse than the lives of these fat, happy, well-socialized and kindly treated ponies.

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Best wishes,
Jelena Woehr

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SAVE GRIFFITH PARK PONIES

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:42 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 11:58 AM Julie Casey < > wrote:

I am writing to express my shock and disappointment in the decision not to renew the permit for the Griffith Park Ponies.

The decision seems to be based solely on the efforts of an extreme radical group. The independent consultant hired by the parks department found "the working conditions to be satisfactory and did not witness any gross violations related to the care or the treatment of the animals on exhibit". The letter to Mr. Weeks wherein he is informed of the decision to shut this beloved landmark down confirms such. And upon re-inspection, the consultant noted numerous recommended improvements had been made and stated in her conclusions that "the improvements and ongoing changes made to the operations of the pony rides, including new policies and practices, meet the current legal standards set forth by California Health and Safety Code 25998-Standards for Horses for Hire and Animal Welfare Act".

The reason stated for deciding to shut down Mr. Week's business and a treasured activity for Angelinos is because he failed to report the death of some of the ponies. The statement that the "lack of communication" is the reason for not renewing the contract contradicts the fact that no notice is required. Essentially what the city has done is punish this organization even though they are operating within the established standards and requirements.

I note that no time wasted no time in calling for replacement concessions, and in a city plagued with corruption it makes me wonder if there is some ulterior motive in shutting down the Griffith Park Pony Rides. Does the committee already have someone they plan to replace this historic establishment? Perhaps a developer that helped fund the PAID protesters?

I urge you to reverse your decision. Look at the facts, not the propaganda of a small group of protesters who don't even live in the community. Save this long-standing beloved attraction. Do not take away the only opportunity that some children have to interact with animals where they their experiences can develop into a lifetime of caring about animals. Do the right thing - Save the ponies!

Sincerely,

Julie Casey
Burbank, CA--
City of Los Angeles



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Finishing my statement

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:43 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 1:00 PM Miriam Preissel <

> wrote:

This is meant for pony rides consideration.

I'm sorry I was on zoom and never got to my point.

I understand that this controversy isn't what anyone wants to deal with. That may be the reality. I don't think people understand concessions vs city budgeted replacements.

I don't see anything that can't be fixed (Temp at time of rides).. If going forward there was trusted oversight, it doesn't seem to be anything that the protestors will accept other than shutting it down.

Hard place to be. To continue for another year and set up oversight and try to keep the protestors at bay is the only way I see to go forward without shutting it down.

I'd actually like to see it continued more than not but how to deal with the protestors is the real challenge and I'm very sorry it comes down to that.

Best,

Miriam Preissel

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:44 PM

To: Larry Gray Jr

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 1:43 PM Larry Gray Jr < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners and Council Members:

Why do we have to hear about your actions after they have transpired? It is unfortunate that you didn't take the time and effort to listen to your constituents before you made the decision to end the lease for your long-term and valuable tenant, The Griffith Park Pony Rides. If you had, there would be no need for all these letters, emails, etc. They would continue to be a valuable part of the history of Los Angeles and Griffith Park. This is where I originally developed my love for horses as did my children and grandchildren. When you take away this experience, you rob everyone of the experience to get to know and love horses, many of whom grow up to be horse-lovers and owners, as am I. If it is not too late, please reconsider and change your decision and extend the lease for the Pony Rides and stop listening to the minority radical activists who want to change the world for the worse. Please listen to your people!. What's next, Travel Town with activists who object to train whistles?

Thank you! Lawrence C Gray

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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides - comment to the Commission

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:45 PM

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Atwater Village Neighborhood Council's letter regarding Renewal of the Griffith Park Pony Ride Contract

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:42 PM

To: Josh Hertz <josh@atwatervillage.org>

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, "andrea.conant@lacity.org" <andrea.conant@lacity.org>, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, Edward Morrissey < >, Gene Gilbert < >, Courtney Morris < >, Kristina Smith < >

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On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 12:55 PM Josh Hertz < > wrote:

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Best,

Josh HertzAtwater Village Neighborhood Council Board Member
Co-Chair / South Atwater Representative

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AVNC Officers Co-Chairs: Josh Hertz, Edward Morrissey • Treasurer: Anthony Forester • Secretary: Brett Kushner

December 8, 2022

Re: Request for L.A. City Parks and Recreation to Exercise the Second Renewal of the Pony Ride Contract

Dear Councilmember Raman, Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Commissioners and RAP General Manager Kim,

The Atwater Village Neighborhood Council respectfully requests that the second one-year extension of the Griffith Park Pony Ride Concession Contract (No. 281) be exercised to allow continued operations.

In its letter dated November 22, 2022, RAP stated that the decision not to exercise the second one-year extension was based on the Pony Ride Owner not informing RAP of the death of four ponies.

However, based on recent media reports, RAP acknowledged that the Pony Ride Contract did not in any way require the Pony Ride Owner to inform the city of any pony deaths. It is further reported following this November 22 letter that these four ponies were elderly, retired and no longer working - part of the herd of aged ponies maintained at the owner's expense. Three of four ponies passed due to maladies associated with old age and the fourth pony passed due to an injury as a result of an errant kick from another pony over food.¹

Moreover, RAP did not seek any public input before deciding to terminate the Pony Ride Contract. We believe that stakeholder input is critical in making any decision of this magnitude. The City Council has called for public input as to activities in Griffith Park. The time for public input should have come BEFORE the pony rides were given notice. The public should be allowed to voice their opinions. The need to rehome the ponies due to nonrenewal of the Pony Ride Contract is a gigantic task and once this well-functioning operation is torn apart, it will be almost impossible to reconstruct.

The closure of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, after 74 years of successful operation, deprives generations of Los Angeles children the opportunity to interact with an equine (traditionally thought to be available only to a privileged few) in an affordable manner. The \$5.00 per ride charge puts this wonderful opportunity well within the reach of modest and low-income residents. Losing this one-of-a-kind opportunity to touch the children of families with limited means would be a deep loss.

Atwater Village is fortunate to include Griffith Park at its western boundary. We also enjoy a vibrant equine community of many villagers who have dedicated their lives to the care and welfare of horses. Mr. Stephen

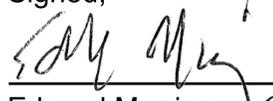
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Weeks, the owner of the Griffith Park Pony Ride, is a respected member of the equine community and is well known and understood to be a compassionate and responsible equine owner who cares deeply for his ponies.

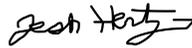
It should finally be noted that even the city's own Equine Advisory Committee urges RAP to renew the Pony Ride Contract.²

Based on the foregoing, we request that the Pony Ride Contract be immediately extended, and that public comment be allowed before any further action is taken to end the Pony Ride Contract which would effectively close the Griffith Park Pony Ride for good.

Signed,



Edward Morrissey
Co-Chair



Josh Hertz
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² LA Equine Advisory Committee letter to the RAP General Manager (letter attached)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: FW: Griffith Park Pony Rides

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "Henley, Belinda" <

Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 9:22 AM

Good Morning,

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

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 9:07 AM Henley, Belinda <

> wrote:

Dear Los Angeles Commissioner,

I am asking you to reconsider your position on the Griffith Park Pony Rides and I am asking on behalf of the ponies themselves.

I consider myself to be an advocate for the proper treatment of animals. However, I am a horse-owner myself. Furthermore, I am a PONY owner. I am also the Chairman of the local Gymkhana here in my town of Leona Valley.

All of my horses/ponies are rescues/adopted. I adopted them all from reputable horse rescues, one of them being "Love This Horse Equine Rescue", which was highlighted in Forbes magazine for being one of the most transparent equine rescues in existence.

I would like to shed some light for you on what happens to ponies 98% of the time.

A new horse owner, purchases or acquires a pony for their small child. IF the pony is well trained, like the ones at Griffith Park Pony rides, hopefully the child will have a great experience, learning how to ride. However, around year 10 or 11 of the child's life, they begin to yearn for a bigger, faster horse. And so, the pony is put on the back-burner and the family puts the pony up for sale.

The pony goes on to the next home, and the next, and the next (if it's lucky) or like most, ends up at a Kill Buyer's auction

That is a fact. Right now, this week alone, I saw 4 adds for people looking to rehome their ponies on social media. It is saddening to me because I know what their fate will be.

A pony is more likely to bounce around and have an unstable life and end up at the kill buyer than a full sized horse because of their small stature and the limited amount of time that a child will remain a child.

What does the science tell us about horses and ponies? They establish deep bonded relationships with the other ponies and horses around them AND their CARE-TAKERS. They enjoy PREDICTABLE, ROUTINE, and a stable home life and environment.

They grieve, panic, become stressed, and experience separation anxiety when they are separated from their herd. They are herd animals, to be alone, is to be DEAD. They have feelings, they remember, they have a photographic memory!

I can and will predict that the majority of the ponies at Griffith Park, if the rides are forced to close, will either bounce around from home to home and or end up at the kill buyer/feed lot. Ponies live for a VERY LONG TIME, longer than a horse. Ponies can live up to 30 years old or older in captivity and with good care. The ponies at Griffith Park are VERY well cared for.

Horses in the wild have an average lifespan of up to 12 years.

I rescued all of my horses and ponies from the kill lot. They were emaciated when I got them. I nursed them back to health. My horses/ponies have a home with me for LIFE, but that is a RARE, EXTREMELY RARE situation for ponies/horses.

Would closing down the pony rides do more harm than good for the ponies? YES, it will.

What animal rights activists such as PETA aren't aware of is how many horse/ponies are sent to the kill buyer EVERY DAY! There are already too many! Shall we increase the amount of animals sent to their death because a group of people who do not have any experience with horses or the horse world itself is making the most noise about animal welfare right now? Or because you think it's politically incorrect??? These groups do not know what goes on behind the scenes, most of them have probably never ridden a horse or even seen a pony in person.

Dear Mayer, our nation's FEDERAL GOVERNMENT even has a program that subsidizes the adoption of our wild mustangs to try to save them as they are being gathered up for the slaughter on a daily basis! Our Federal Government has an adoption program where they PAY THE ADOPTER to take home a wild mustang, in order to preserve these animals.

I ask you to reconsider your position based on the information that I just gave you. I am not talking about the children or the pony owner or PEOPLE. I am asking you to consider the WELFARE of the HORSE! It's always for me, about the welfare of the horses/ponies.

Please take this information to heart! I also want you to know that I am a Registered Democrat.

Sincerely,

Belinda Henley

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



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Re: Atwater Village Neighborhood Council's letter regarding Renewal of the Griffith Park Pony Ride Contract

1 message

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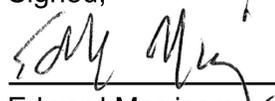
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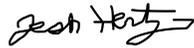
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Re: Pony Rides

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Re: Finishing my statement

1 message

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This is meant for pony rides consideration.

I'm sorry I was on zoom and never got to my point.

I understand that this controversy isn't what anyone wants to deal with. That may be the reality. I don't think people understand concessions vs city budgeted replacements.

I don't see anything that can't be fixed (Temp at time of rides).. If going forward there was trusted oversight, it doesn't seem to be anything that the protestors will accept other than shutting it down.

Hard place to be. To continue for another year and set up oversight and try to keep the protestors at bay is the only way I see to go forward without shutting it down.

I'd actually like to see it continued more than not but how to deal with the protestors is the real challenge and I'm very sorry it comes down to that.

Best,

Miriam Preissel

--
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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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SAVE GRIFFITH PARK PONIES

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:42 PM

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 11:58 AM Julie Casey < > wrote:

I am writing to express my shock and disappointment in the decision not to renew the permit for the Griffith Park Ponies.

The decision seems to be based solely on the efforts of an extreme radical group. The independent consultant hired by the parks department found "the working conditions to be satisfactory and did not witness any gross violations related to the care or the treatment of the animals on exhibit". The letter to Mr. Weeks wherein he is informed of the decision to shut this beloved landmark down confirms such. And upon re-inspection, the consultant noted numerous recommended improvements had been made and stated in her conclusions that "the improvements and ongoing changes made to the operations of the pony rides, including new policies and practices, meet the current legal standards set forth by California Health and Safety Code 25998-Standards for Horses for Hire and Animal Welfare Act".

The reason stated for deciding to shut down Mr. Week's business and a treasured activity for Angelinos is because he failed to report the death of some of the ponies. The statement that the "lack of communication" is the reason for not renewing the contract contradicts the fact that no notice is required. Essentially what the city has done is punish this organization even though they are operating within the established standards and requirements.

I note that no time wasted no time in calling for replacement concessions, and in a city plagued with corruption it makes me wonder if there is some ulterior motive in shutting down the Griffith Park Pony Rides. Does the committee already have someone they plan to replace this historic establishment? Perhaps a developer that helped fund the PAID protesters?

I urge you to reverse your decision. Look at the facts, not the propaganda of a small group of protesters who don't even live in the community. Save this long-standing beloved attraction. Do not take away the only opportunity that some children have to interact with animals where they their experiences can develop into a lifetime of caring about animals. Do the right thing - Save the ponies!

Sincerely,

Julie Casey
Burbank, CA--
City of Los Angeles



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:41 PM

To: Jelena Woehr <

>

Cc: Katy Young Yaroslavsky <

>

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 11:46 AM Jelena Woehr <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Kim,

I am on your special meeting call right now and have already given my public comment, but I would like to call your attention following the meeting to the fact that every person who called in with equine care experience of any kind has supported the pony rides.

It takes years of practice and education to understand how to properly care for equines, how to read their body language and facial expressions to determine their mood and emotions, and how to provide them with the best possible conditions for health and long life. People who do not have equine care experience simply do not know enough about these unique animals, who do not have the same needs as housepets like dogs and cats, to determine whether or not horses are happy or healthy.

It was absolutely shameful to hear on the call that the President of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee had to call and make public comment just to give his opinion to the task force, and the task force refused to respond to his question in the public comment period as to why the Equine Advisory Committee was not consulted on this equine issue. How awful for an equine expert who has donated his time to serve on an advisory committee created by the city specifically to advise on these issues to have to go through the humiliation of calling and begging for an answer from this commission's task force, and then to be summarily ignored!

EVERY caller, no exceptions, with equine care experience supported the pony rides. EVERY caller, no exceptions, who opposed the pony rides was an activist with absolutely no equine care experience.

If you, the commissioners, would be comfortable with out-of-town extremists with no knowledge of your lifestyle, interests, or hobbies coming into YOUR homes and workplaces to tell you how to conduct yourself in your own areas of expertise, then by all means continue bending to the whims of these extremists.

Mr. Bayne is a passionate bicyclist; to Mr. Bayne, would you be comfortable with all bicycle-related decisions in the city of Los Angeles being made by extremists who know nothing about bicycle maintenance or safe bicycling, and want to see bicycles removed from all public spaces in the city? Unless you would like to turn over the issue of bikes to the people who most despise bicyclists, please do not turn over the issue of equines to the people who most despise equestrians.

This shortsighted and cowardly behavior by Mr. Kim and the Recreation and Parks Commission sets the precedent that the City of Los Angeles will make its decisions based on who shouts the loudest and has the most free time, not based on who has the facts, science, and expertise on their side. There are more animal rights extremist protesters in the park than horse owners counter-protesting in the park because those of us who actually know how to care for horses are spending our time caring for horses and working in order to afford the care of our horses, not standing in a public park harassing children, pregnant women, and parents.

Unhoused human beings are living in Griffith Park without the unlimited food, shelter, and lifelong healthcare offered by Mr. Weeks to the Griffith Park ponies. I have never seen any of the animal rights extremists offer those suffering human beings as much as a meal or a kind word. Please leave the ponies alone, leave decisions about equines to equine experts such as the city's own Equine Advisory Committee which was shamefully NOT consulted on this issue, and turn your attention to caring for human beings who are living lives much worse than the lives of these fat, happy, well-socialized and kindly treated ponies.

--

Best wishes,
Jelena Woehr

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides at Griffin Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:39 PM

To: "Meyer, Tricia" <

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 11:44 AM Meyer, Tricia <

> wrote:

Commissioners –

I support PETA, but I do think not renewing the pony rides is ridiculous. Listening to these callers, have they seen the pony rides? They are not worked to death, they barely move. People are suggesting sanctuaries. Who is paying for those sanctuaries and where are the sanctuaries that have room for all these ponies? If there were any conditions that needed to be changed, that could have been addresses, but as I have heard, no problems were found. I've seen comments on line that people can go to an equestrian center, that is not something all families in LA can afford. This was an affordable way for families to be exposed to horses. Also, do these people even realize there is already a carousel in Griffith Park!! Do they realize that ice skating rinks are closing as they are expensive to run? Go carts!!! Really?!?! Pollution in the park, not a great idea.

PETA has emailed all of their followers and it's pretty obvious from the callers, a lot of them have called in. I'm a PETA follower but I don't agree with ending of the Pony Rides.

Please Save Pony Rides in Griffith Park!

Tricia Meyer**Account Executive | Disney Ad Sales**

DisneyAdSales.com in | @ |





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: GRPR Please reconsider and save.

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 3:38 PM

To: Linda Walling >

Good afternoon,

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

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 11:20 AM Linda Walling > wrote:
December 15, 2022

City of Los Angeles
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Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Website: www.laparks.org

Dear Commissioner Kim,

This is a historical attraction site. When the Griffith Park was donated to the city, the pony rides were in that agreement. I think the extremist protesters are the problem and someone caved to their extreme threats.

I understand your need for progress but this re imagining in the park concerns me. The location is very close to the many homeless tents that are scattered in and around Griffith Park and the Los Angeles river. I hope you are prepared with an immediate plan to keep that area off the grid of the homeless who will possibly set up overnight.

I mostly ride my current horse is around is Bette Davis Park. The homeless like to visit that campground area, mostly living on the Riverbed.

As a lifelong equestrian I have seen this before in Orange County, at the Bolsa Chica wetlands in Huntington Beach with Smoky's Stables (with both horses and pony rides). See article LA Times 12-29-1989. The area is a wild life refuge and beach view homes now.

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1989-12-29-me-1290-story.html>

I disagree with your decision about the ponies welfare. The owner came from an equestrian back ground. I admire him for his patience with working the underprivileged families and their children and tourists of Los Angeles. I saw his business last weekend and it looked wonderful to me. Please save the historical pony rides.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kindest Regards,

Linda

4 Attachment(s)

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Karla Martinez (Los Angeles Mayor's Office)

Dec 14, 2022, 15:46 MST

Greetings Linda,

Thank you for contacting the Mayor's Office with your concerns about the Griffith Park Pony Rides Concessionaire. Animal welfare is a key priority for the Mayor's Office.

A professional third party assessment of the Griffith Park Pony Rides operation was conducted. The assessments were thoughtfully reviewed, and the Department of Recreation and Parks concluded it was best for the animals' welfare to not renew the concession contract.

The Griffith Park Pony Rides is beloved by many. Although this operation is ending, the Department of Recreation and Parks, in partnership with the community, will reimagine a new, affordable, recreational and educational activity for the area that will bring new memories for families to come.

-Office of Mayor Karen Bass



GRIFF



GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES AND PETTING ZOO

ALL RIDES \$5 EACH
BEST PRICED PONY RIDE IN
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Free parking every
day!





It's New Year's Day 1949—a good day for parents to bundle up their toddlers and take them to the southeast end of Griffith Park to ride Tommy T. Wright's ponies. *USC Regional History Center, Hearst Newspaper Collection*

PONY RIDE BEGINS OPERATIONS

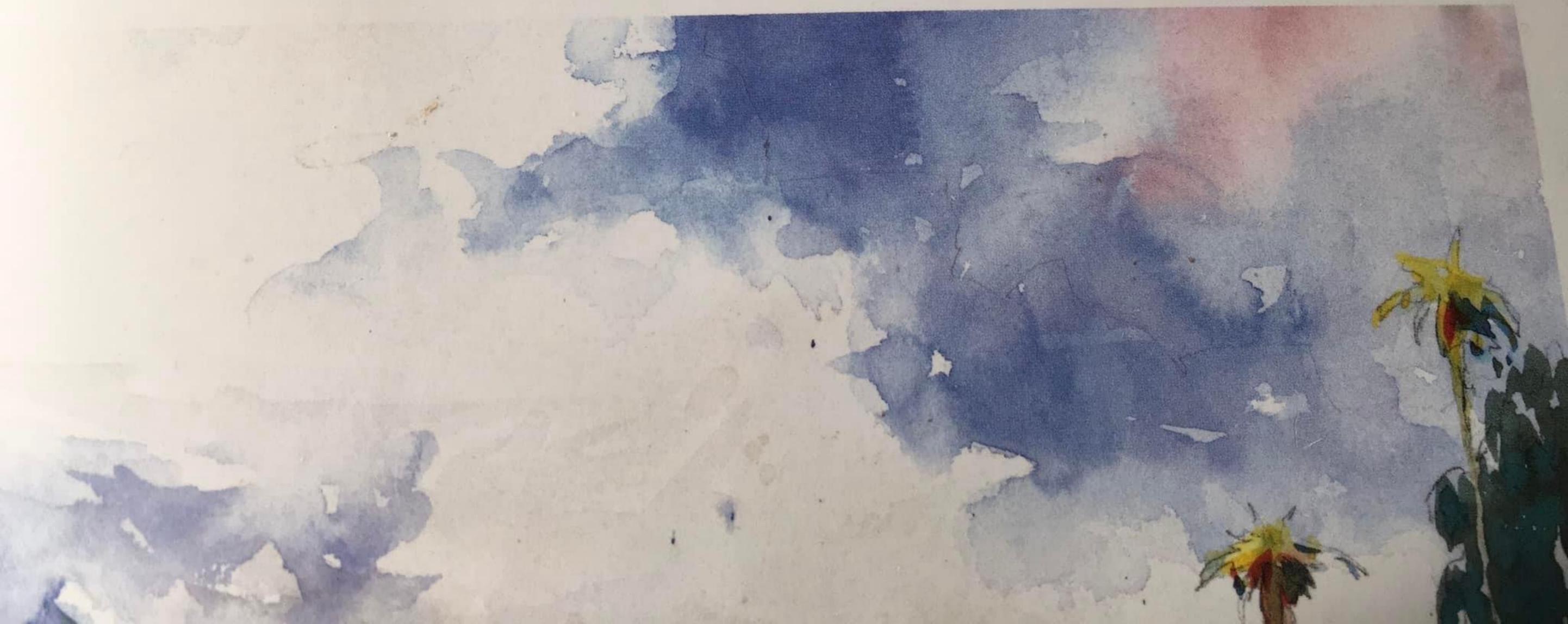
The Griffith Park and Southern became a success in large part because a compatible attraction was established next door. As with the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round, the park's Pony Ride concession was originated in Lincoln Park. Tommy T. Wright began a pony ride there in 1946. It was apparently a low-investment operation—he rented his horses from an El Monte stable.

After a couple of years of successful operation, the Recreation and Parks Department asked Wright (who was also a Recreation and Parks employee) to start a similar concession at Griffith Park's Riverside Drive entrance. World War II surplus Quonset huts were originally used to board the horses; they were eventually replaced by wooden stables. And the ponies were no longer rentals. Wright bought ponies, bred them and eventually showed them for prizes.⁷

GRIFFITH PARK

A
Centennial
History

By Mike Eberts





PARTY CORRAL

PONY RIDES
PRIVATE AREA

X



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Save the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 9:50 AM

To: Netty Carr <

Cc: jimmy.kim@lacity.org, stefanie.smith@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 9:49 AM Netty Carr <

> wrote:

|

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony rides at Griffith Park

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 9:35 AM

Good morning Leslie,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 9:34 AM leslie chavers < > wrote:
To the office of Jimmy Kim,

Just a note to express my appreciation that the pony rides will be shutting down for good next week.

Thank you for considering the suffering that these ponies endured all their lives.

I hope the next step will be moving them to sanctuaries where they will be treated like kings and queens for the rest of their lives.

In appreciation,
Leslie Chavers
-a lifelong resident of So.Cal. (65 years and counting)--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park - THANK YOU

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:50 AM

To: Jose Manik Gonzalez <

Cc: "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, "rachel.amos@lacity.org" <rachel.amos@lacity.org>, "mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org" <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 9:39 PM Jose Manik Gonzalez <

> wrote:

I am writing to say THANK YOU for your recent decision to not renew the contract at Griffith Park, to extend pony rides. I have personally witnessed these animals used and exploited, as they tirelessly carry children on their backs and are subjected to horrific conditions. As a patron I always felt empathy for these creatures, but didn't know how to change things. THIS IS AMAZING NEWS THAT YOU HAVE CANCELLED THE CONTRACT. I hope you will not change your mind and let these radical "equestrian enthusiasts" persuade you to continue this barbaric and cruel practice.

Instead of the pony rides, there are so many other ideas this space can be used for. An animal sanctuary would be an incredible idea and offer children and adults the same up-close and personal experience with animals who no longer have to be exploited or used in any way. Children can learn to appreciate these beautiful creatures while learning compassion and kindness.

Additionally, a wonderful yoga garden or garden in general would be a great replacement for the space. I have seen other parks introduce large musical instruments, chess sets, large jenga game, and other oversize games for children to play.

The possibilities for this space are endless. So long as animals are no longer exploited, and instead children are learning to respect and appreciate all creatures, while enjoying the outdoors, I will be happy to know that the ponies no longer suffer.

Again, thank you so much for listening to the people and the Animals, and choosing to end this cruel and unnecessary practice. WHAT A MONUMENTAL DAY FOR LOS ANGELES!

THANK YOU!!!

Manik Gonzalez

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Angelenos Deeply Thank RAP for Shutting Down GP Pony Rides and Petting Zoo

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To: V L < >

Good morning,

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

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 4:21 PM V L <

> wrote:

Dear LA RAP Commissioners,

Firstly, I'd like to express my deep gratitude for RAP's wise decision to not renew the contract at Griffith Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo, where animals exploited like vehicles and petting toys have been enduring immense stress for decades. It's about time the progressive city of LA transform this cruel, antiquated concession into a NON-ANIMAL MODEL, as there's a major shift worldwide away from using animals for food, fashion, entertainment, and other anthropocentric purposes. So-called "tradition" or "culture" should not allow animal cruelty to continue in a modern society. It's fundamental that a civilized society properly educate the future generations to respect and coexist nature and animals, and concessions like the pony rides and petting zoo was a threat to establishing such an opportunity for children through miseducation.

As expected, you may have already been receiving some outcries from the equestrian communities to "save the pony rides," "Children will lose their fun," or other messages of that manner. However, children can still interact with animals, in fact, in far healthier and more respectful and educational ways in sanctuaries, where animals won't be exploited for profit or be stressed, which is safer for both the animals and the children.

What these equestrian communities fail to recognize or seldom bring up is the fact that animals, including horses, are not naturally meant to be ridden by humans. There are numerous scientific studies that demonstrate that riding horses causes skeletal, muscle, and tissue damage under any circumstance. Please refer to studies by Dr. Deb Bennett and Matilda Holmer and colleagues if this subject matter is of great interest to you. Simply put, both wild and domestic (a euphemism for "broken" or "psychologically and physically dominated by humankind to go against their natural behaviors") horses do not carry their young or each other on their backs. An equine's back is a very sensitive part that allows communication between the brain and the rest of the body and is not meant for a human to apply pressure on. Many former equestrians themselves are coming to realization that if they truly loved and cherished horses, they would not be burdening their backs, legs, or other body parts. Barbaric "traditions" like horse-racing, rodeos, animal circuses, and more are under great criticism, as more and more people are educating themselves on the cruelty behind using animals for entertainment. There is no right way to do the wrong thing. There are myriads of ways to grow healthy companionship and provide equines with utmost care and ample exercise without riding them.

On this note, I'd like to present a few ideas for potential amenities to be set up in the place where the pony rides and petting zoo used to be:

◇ The only acceptable animal model would be a sanctuary.

Kindred Spirits Care Farm, Chatsworth, is hoping to move closer into the city, and this would be a great replacement to allow truly healthy and respectful interactions between animals and children. The operator of the sanctuary has wonderful educational programs for children, including children's arts and crafts corner.

◇ Children today lack physical activity, and the following sports activities may also help fight the high child obesity rate in the U.S.:

Tennis, squash, badminton, volleyball, basketball courts, rock-climbing, trampoline park, skating park, yoga at the park, etc.

◇ Giant board games: chess & checker boards, jenga, connect four, etc

◇ Children's playground, ground fountains, giant floor pianos, outdoor concert area, ferris wheel, mini rollercoaster, Go-Kart, small-scale botanical gardens, science park, library

◇ A plant-based/vegan cafe with ample outdoor seating for parents to relax in while they await their kids, giving the Parisian afternoon stroll-at-the-park atmosphere. A wonderful inspiration would be our local Coffee and Plants vegan cafe in Old Town Pasadena owned by the talented singer Leona Lewis.

There are so many other excellent ways this area of Griffith Park can be transformed into without exploiting animals.

Thank you all once again for listening to the concerns of not only Angelenos, but citizens worldwide. 🌸



Angelenos, citizens worldwide, and the animals thank LA RAP
for discontinuing animal cruelty in the progressive city of Los Angeles!

City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To: "J. Michael Hennigan" <

>

Cc: "Thomas J. Doud

)"

>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 6:12 AM J. Michael Hennigan <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioner

It would surprise me if there has ever been an injury to a pony caused by being ridden in that arena. All animals and people sometimes get injured by just living, but that ride is not likely the cause. Please reconsider.

Mike Hennigan

McKool Smith

J. Michael Hennigan

Principal

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: "rebecca beechfamily.com" >

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:46 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 11:58 PM rebecca < > wrote:

- > I have resided in the Los Feliz area for over 24 years. My husband and I raised our children here and now have adult children and grandchildren who also live in your district.
- >
- > I am writing to convey my great concern and dismay that the Griffith Park Pony Rides are slated to be removed this month. Like hundreds of thousands of other Los Angeles residents, our family and friends have benefitted enormously from taking our children to the pony rides. It is a treasured experience and tradition for our family.
- >
- > We are especially concerned that the Pony Rides were slated for termination based largely on a campaign by animal activists and without any opportunity for the community to weigh in on the issue. I believe it was wrong to end a treasured 74-year concession without due diligence and without an extended, open, public discussion about the issues involved.
- >
- > I am also extremely disappointed that you voted to end a tradition that benefits the broadest possible cross-section of our citizenry. In particular, for countless working class families, the Griffith Park Pony Rides provide an opportunity for a child to experience a joy-filled, happy pony ride at an affordable price in a beautiful setting in their city, something from which they would otherwise be excluded, because of cost.
- >
- > I am also concerned about the breaking up of a herd of ponies who have been bonded and lived together for many years. Through exposure to horses from family members, I have learned that horses and ponies have strong bonds of kinship and a powerful sense of family with one another. The forced destruction of these animal relationships with the slated breakup of the Griffith Park Pony Rides will be destructive for the animals.
- >
- > Please reconsider this decision for the good of the working families of Los Angeles, who crave a connection to animals, and who learn the love of animals and nature, at the Griffith Park Pony Rides.
- >
- > Rebecca Beech,
- > Los Angeles, California
- >

Sent from my iPhone

--
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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Ponies 12/15/22 city council agenda item

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:46 AM

To: val a <

>

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 10:32 PM val a <

> wrote:

Dear RAP commissioners and LA city council member Raman,

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, currently a public school teacher, and active community member. I ask that for your consideration to extend the continue Griffith Park Pony rides business. After reading and knowing that current owner, Steve Weeks, is committed to the health and living conditions of the ponies, I hope the council and Parks and Recreation keep Griffith Park ponies for all to support and continue making memories.

I understand, Steve Weeks made a donation of \$300,000 recently in order to keep the ponies at Griffith and that donation was denied by GM Park & Recs, Jimmy Kim, without consulting city council. I hope public comment and through report of the living conditions of the ponies be considered, in hopes to preserve a safe, affordable activity for children.

Thank you,

Valerie Albicker

Sent from my iPhone

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony rides

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:45 PM Greg Schultz < > wrote:

Please extend the lease of the pony rides as they have meant a lot to my family. I am a L A resident and will vote for them to stay.
Please contact me for any further information.
Thank you
Gregory Schultz

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FAFLD

--
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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides - DO NOT CANCEL LEASE

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:45 AM

To: Nick Konopisos <

>

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactCD4@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 6:19 PM Nick Konopisos <

> wrote:

RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman:

As a concerned citizen and active horse owner/rider, it breaks my heart to hear that the Council would cave to a few PETA activists that know nothing about equine animal welfare. The Griffith Park Pony Rides provide so much joy to the youth of LA and Southern California.

Please vote this proposal down, we cannot make decisions because a few activists out of 8 million think this it is "unfair" to let a child ride a pony. It is my understanding that the operator is open to working on recommended policy changes as provided by a 3rd party vet, etc. I also understand that there has been no public notice since the October 25th directive and no report back to City Council, nor an opportunity for PUBLIC comment. Additionally, has the City thought about the welfare of the ponies should this policy get enacted? Do you know how hard it is to find homes for ponies, they could end up in slaughter? Have the activists offered to take them all home and care/feed for them? I think we all know the answer.

I would think the CD and Council would be more worried about the **insane homeless issue** destroying ALL its districts, and that has gone unchecked for years. This should be a much more urgent concern than caving to PETA activists that have no idea what they are talking about and have used suspect tactics to intimidate the owners and families at the pony rides over the years. They should be put in jail, not listened to for crying out loud, cannot believe the City of LA would be bullied by this ilk. Please extend the lease to enable this amazing institution reach it's 75th anniversary and beyond.

-Nick Konopisos



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: ponies

1 message

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

Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 5:52 PM Theresa Narad < > wrote:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to ask you to renew the lease for the Griffith Park pony rides.

I understand that you have had protests from PETA.

At this time, when the natural world is becoming less and less accessible to children; the introduction to riding well mannered ponies to children is often a life changing event. It certainly was for me.

Please renew the license for pony rides at Griffith Park.

PETA is an extremist group with questionable motives. It would be a shame to lose a valuable cultural asset to Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Theresa Narad

Sent from my iPhone

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: THANK YOU!!

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 12:23 PM

To: " " < >

Cc: Los Angeles Mayor's Office <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, rachel.ramos@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org, matthew.rudnick@lacity.org

Good afternoon Christina,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 12:21 PM < > wrote:

Dear Honorable Members of LA City Council,

Your decision to NOT renew the Griffith Park horse riding business was absolutely the best, intelligent, based on facts decision you have made.

Facts:

1. Elder horses, not cute young ponies being forced to work 6 days a week, 7/8 hours a day.
2. Independent veterinarians who are not hired by the business note the horses are old and have injuries from forced labor.
3. Old horses are tired and do not want to move but are forced to run by staff scaring them, slapping loudly behind each horse for the entire route to force them to run.
4. They show signs of depression and anxiety from being forced to run the same circles all day long, everyday.

More FACTS:

1. Parents and children are not deprived of interaction with horses and animals because they can visit animal rescue sanctuaries.
2. Parents welcomed the flyers of listed animal sanctuaries to visit. They will not miss the horses at Griffith Park.
3. Visiting animals at sanctuaries will teach kids EMPATHY instead of callousness towards the animals they are USING animals.
4. When using the horses without being thoughtful about how tired and hot the horses are, this teaches kids to be callous towards animals and this lack of empathy also translates to how kids treat humans.
5. The horse operator lied to the city about their horses dying!!!

Thank you for your ethics and courage on this horse business issue.

Sincerely,

Christina Ku

Los Angeles, CA

--

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 7:38 AM

To: William R Sloan >

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactCD4@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page.

We appreciate your feedback.

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 11:28 AM William R Sloan < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

I join other residents of the City of Los Angeles in urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

I regularly took both of my now adult grandchildren to the Griffith Park Pony Rides when they were children. This early exposure to horses inspired my daughter Jackie to found The Children's Ranch Foundation in the Atwater Village Equestrian District, where my granddaughter now works teaching kids, adolescents and adults with learning, social/emotional and developmental challenges how to care for horses.

For many Los Angeles kids, the Griffith Park Pony ride is the only low-cost opportunity they will ever have to interact with a horse. I am confident that the Griffith Park Pony Ride concession holder, Steve Weeks, could prioritize the health and wellbeing of the ponies in his program, while still offering this unique chance for children to interact with a pony in the middle of the city. I also feel confident that Mr. Weeks can address any concerns that animal rights activists have, and respond to all recommended policy changes made by the third-party equine expert.

Instead of closing the Pony Ride, my hope is that a compromise can be found – one that honors the needs of the ponies, and also preserves the Griffith Park Pony Ride for future generations of children.

Thank you,
Judy Sloan

--

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 2:04 AM Tracy Wallace <> wrote:

Dear Commissioners:

I am a native LA resident, having been born here in 1962. My mom took me to the Griffith Park Pony rides when I was just a kid. Since 2001, my husband and I have owned a horse who is housed at the LA Equestrian Center. I am writing in support of the Griffith Park Pony rides. I believe that a decision was made to close the pony rides without full knowledge of how ponies work, and how much effort it takes to take care of these animals, plus the unique health and wellness needs of these animals.

Equines are fragile creatures, and need special care. The owner of the pony rides, to my understanding, has taken good care of the ponies. Yes, four ponies have died, but animals die. They get old, and horses and ponies can colic and subsequently die in a short period of time. Sometimes there's nothing that can be done. It's my understanding that two of the ponies who died were old, and one had a bad colic. The other one had a freak accident. Horses and ponies are strong animals. It's not the owner's fault.

The Griffith Park Pony rides are an integral part of LA history. I implore you to reconsider the decision and keep the ponies where they are. Please don't listen to a small bunch of vegan activists who know nothing about equines.

Sincerely,

Tracy Wallace

--
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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Thank You!

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 8:26 PM Alondra Reveles <

wrote:

Hello, thank you so much for not renewing the contract for Griffith park pony rides. I'm glad that now the cycle of suffering that occurred at that place has been put to a stop. This sends a great message to kids and future generations. It teaches us to evolve and not needlessly harm beings for entertainment nor profit. The place can be replaced with a community garden, animal-FREE models, or anything else that doesn't harm beings. Thank you!

--

City of Los Angeles
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Thank you for doing the right thing for the horses!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Dec 14, 2022 at 7:55 AM

To: "Our Planet. Theirs Too." <

>

Good morning,

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

On Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 8:28 PM Our Planet. Theirs Too. <

> wrote:

Dear commissioners of LA Parks Department,

I wanted to personally THANK YOU for your brave and just decision to cancel the Pony rides at Griffith Park!

As an animal lover and director of a non-profit that helps animals, I have written letters on this subject and attended a few of your virtual meetings over the past weeks, including the last meeting a week ago in which I've gotten the chance to speak - all in the attempt to urge the Parks Department to take action to help those elderly ponies (and other animals) being worked at Griffith Parks's Pony Rides, rain or shine.

So I am more than thrilled to have heard that you have listened to the pleas and requests made by so many of us concerned Angelinos, and voted to end the use and abuse of these majestic animals for 'entertainment' in Griffith Park, and let these animals retire in peace! This is absolutely remarkable of you! You have proved that your department really cares for people and animals alike (as we know, these rides also posed a safety risk for the kids), that public officials do listen to their citizens and constituents, and that LA is still one of the most compassionate cities in the world!

I salute you, I thank you, and you have my eternal respect and gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

Aylam Orian
Founder/President

--

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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides in Griffith Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Linda Walling
Cc: "mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org" <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:49 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Sat, Dec 10, 2022 at 10:23 AM Linda Walling < > wrote:
December 10, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Kim,

It is my understanding that Steve Weeks business has been turned down for the reconsidering of his lease to be continued at the the Griffith Park pony rides.

As a horse owner, I can assure you that the City will be losing out here. Private lessons are much more expensive for the Los Angeles families and tourists.

The City of Los Angeles sent a veterinarian out and the ponies got a good medical review.

You should be **thanking him** for his valuable service and grateful for his small business. I hope you recognize the significance of this loss to Griffith Park.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kindest Regards,

Linda Walling

Attachment(s):

- 1.) Pony Ride Poster Image
- 2.) Correspondence dated 5/25/22.

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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
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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Letter-to-R...

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**DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES**
221 N. Figueroa Street
6TH Floor, Suite #600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

ANNETTE G. RAMIREZ
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

CURTIS R. WATTS
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Administration

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

May 25, 2022

Matthew Rudnick
Assistant General Manager &
Chief Sustainability Officer
Department of Recreations and Parks
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 350
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Rudnick:

The Department of Animal Services issues permits to animal related businesses within the City of Los Angeles and performs yearly inspections to verify compliance with state and local ordinance. The Department of Animal Services has routinely conducted yearly inspections of the Griffith Park Pony Rides located at 4730 Crystal Springs within Griffith Park. The Griffith Park Pony Rides is a children's attraction to provide affordable access to ponies for riding and farm animals for petting. In addition to the yearly permit inspections conducted, the Department of Animal Services will also conduct inspections when complaints are received regarding handling or maintenance of the animals at any animal related business with a permit issued by the Department of Animal Services.

The Griffith Park Pony Rides has been issued two animal related business permits by the Department of Animal Services: a Petting Zoo Permit which expires in July 2022 and a Pony Ride Permit which expires in March 2023. Prior to the issuance of the Pony Ride and Petting Zoo Permits, inspections were conducted and all local and state ordinances enforced by Animal Services were in compliance.

The Department has received complaints from an animal advocacy group and similar complaints from individuals. In response the Department has conducted numerous inspections and requested an inspection by two Certified Equine Animal Cruelty Investigators: a Veterinarian and an Animal Control Officer. The Veterinarian stated: "In conclusion, at the time of my inspection of the Griffith Park Pony Rides, the ponies appeared healthy, well-kept and cared for, and appropriately utilized in the riding program; there was no evidence of neglect or abuse." The Department of Animal Services has found no grounds for a permit revocation or any further action at this time and will continue to evaluate any further complaints.

Sincerely,

Annette G. Ramirez
Interim General Manager

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com





GRIFF



GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES AND PETTING ZOO

ALL RIDES \$5 EACH
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Free parking every
day!





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pony Rides Griffith Park - Thank you for saving the ponies!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 3:04 PM

To: Laura Barillaro <

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 2:32 PM Laura Barillaro <

> wrote:

Please forward to:

Attn: Jimmy Kim, General Manager

Attn: Matthew Rudnick, Executive Officer

Dear Matthew Rudnick and Jimmy Kim,

Thank you so much, Mr. Jimmy Kim and Mr. Matthew Rudnick, for making the right decision for Steven Weeks' ponies at Griffith Park. Please ensure that Weeks will be forced to allow the ponies to be released to a sanctuary and not auctioned off to other owners who might sell and/or abuse them further, and that the new concession will be a non-animal one.

Griffith Park's pony rides have a long history of shameful abuse of those helpless ponies, as well as children being harmed when things escalated. The ponies were recently filmed working in blistering heat in the summer and being forced to stand outside at night with no shelter in the freezing rain of winter. And those are just two examples of several.

This Thursday when the call-in meeting is held, please remember that Weeks has a number of like-minded friends who will call in to defend him, despite all the solid proof of terrible abuses and neglect, aside from the inherent abuses common in such pony rides. Please listen to the other side, who have no profit motive and nothing to gain except for great relief that the dear ponies will be going to sanctuary, and that there will be no more such animal abuse at beautiful Griffith Park.

Thank you again for doing the right thing,
Laura Campbell

--

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



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:53 AM

To: Alex Moffatt <

>

Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Sun, Dec 11, 2022 at 1:35 PM Alex Moffatt <

> wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and CM Raman,

As a student living near LA, Griffith Park and its ponies have all been near and dear to my heart. It is not fair to ask for these elderly ponies to be sold. The risk is too high that they will be placed into bad homes or even to the slaughterhouse. Please do the right thing and extend the lease of the pony rides.

Happy Holidays,

Alexandra Moffatt

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: General manager Mr. Jimmy Kim removal

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:52 AM

To: ida dizon >

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Sat, Dec 10, 2022 at 10:36 AM ida dizon < > wrote:

I call on the Rec and Parks commissioners to immediately remove and replace Mr. Jimmy Kim as the General Manager of Recs and Parks for LA City.

Mr. Jimmy Kim has violated the Brown act by not discussing the non renewal of the Griffith Park pony rides with the public. In addition, he also did not request discussion with the Griffith Park Advisory Board. He is not acting in good faith with the general public and displays poor judgement.

There were no valid grounds to not renew the pony ride contract. The horses were found healthy by numerous reports within LA City as well as an independent 3rd party Veterinarian in 2022. There were No contract violations.

In addition, there may be inappropriate collusion with Councilmember Nithya Raman.

There is a lack of transparency as well as trust for residents of LA City and cause for immediate removal of Mr Jimmy Kim from his position as General manager is warranted.

Thank you.

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: DO NOT STOP GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 13, 2022 at 7:37 AM

To: Mandi Dillin

Cc: "RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org" <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, "mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org" <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

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We appreciate your feedback.

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 10:37 AM Mandi Dillin < > wrote:

The decision by the Recreation and Parks Department is absolutely ridiculous and is kow towing to a small but vocal group of people who are against perceived animal exploitation. The reason why there are checks and balances within the park's system and within the City for that matter is to make sure that the animals are well-cared-for and not abused. The fact that the LA City veterinarian did not find any evidence of abuse or neglect and the Parks Department still closed it down without offering the spot to another concessionaire confirms that there is political pressure which the Parks Department is responding to at a level above the decision maker who decided to shut down the pony rides completely. My understanding is that there are multiple issues with the way the parks department is being run currently and maybe that will change with the inauguration of the new Mayor - I hope!

Situations like this strip long standing cultural traditions, removing much needed *simple* joys from people's lives. This was an activity that the public was able to enjoy and was managed by well meaning and responsible group of people. My children have gone to the pony rides several times and I was looking forward to taking them with their grandparents so we would have 3 generations of people enjoying something that is becoming a relic of the past. Thousands of Angelinos have enjoyed this tradition for GENERATIONS and you are letting a small group of millionaires remove one of the last affordable family recreation activities. There is absolutely nothing you're going to be able to put in place of the pony rides that will be as affordable. The building and remodeling cost alone for whatever you think you can do within the Pony space at Griffith Park will price people out of enjoying it - unless you want all-white or only millionaire families at Griffith Park, which might be the whole point of this charade.

The cost of family recreation in Los Angeles County is insane. Any 'kid's museum' or 'kids activity' that is not at a library is at least \$25 per child which might be nothing to you but it's a lot to a working family with kids. Public spaces like Griffith Park are essential to the mental well-being of both parents and children and activities like the pony rides enhance the enjoyment of the outdoors and expose kids to animals, which is something that a lot of kids don't have the opportunity to experience in their homes or neighborhoods.

Please assign the space to a new pony concessionaire or reconsider your decision. I believe it's completely in error and you've not thought about the long-term effects. It is removing and white

washing something that defines Los Angeles for a lot of people. So much of the city is gone - turned into The Grove or The Americana where a corporate and sterilized form of recreation is offered at sky-high prices.

Activism certainly has a place in society but when activists use lies to remove something that is so innocent and lighthearted it just contributes to what I see as the sterilization of our society where the only fun people can have is corporate mandated fun.

Thank you.
Amanda Dillin

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

--
City of Los Angeles
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please extend the lease of the Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Jackie Sloan >
Cc: contactCD4@lacity.org, jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Sun, Dec 11, 2022 at 8:43 PM Jackie Sloan < > wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, GM Kim and Councilwoman Raman,

As the Director of The Children's Ranch Foundation, a therapeutic animal caretaking program in the Atwater Village Equestrian District, I join other business owners, equestrians and residents of the City of Los Angeles in urging you to act immediately to halt the pending eviction of the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

At The Children's Ranch, we teach kids, adolescents and adults with learning, social/emotional and developmental challenges how to care for horses. There is a delicate balance that must be found in both helping our students learn important life skills, and caring for the needs of our horses. We are careful to always prioritize the health and well-being of the equines we care for, while still teaching our students important life and independence skills.

For many Los Angeles kids, the Griffith Park Pony ride is the only low-cost opportunity they will ever have to interact with a horse (a sensitive prey animal). I am confident that the Griffith Park Pony Ride concession holder, Steve Weeks, could similarly prioritize the health and wellbeing of the ponies in his program, while still offering this unique chance for children to interact with a pony in the middle of the city. I also feel confident that Mr. Weeks can address any concerns that animal rights activists have, and respond to all recommended policy changes made by the third-party equine expert.

Closing the pony ride so suddenly puts the ponies at grave risk. It is extremely difficult to re-home ponies in the middle of the city, especially over the holidays, and with no notice.

Instead, my hope is that a compromise can be found – one that honors the needs of the ponies, and also preserves the Griffith Park Pony Ride for future generations of children.

Thank you for considering my concerns,

Jackie Sloan



Jackie Sloan, Director

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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
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 7:57 AM

To: Leilani Commons

>

Cc: "contactCD4@lacity.org" <contactcd4@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for your email regarding the Griffith Park Pony Rides.

The Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners will be hosting a Special Concession Task Force meeting scheduled for December 15, 2022 after the regular board meeting adjourns.

All information regarding this special meeting and documents that will be presented at that meeting can be found in our concessions task force page: [Recreation and Parks Concessions Task Force Page](#).

We appreciate your feedback.

On Mon, Dec 12, 2022 at 1:38 AM Leilani Commons <

> wrote:

To the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Commission:

To blindside Griffith Park stakeholders of the abrupt and unjust eviction and subsequent closure of the Griffith Park Pony Rides is a betrayal to your constituents and all those whom Griffith Park intends to serve.

I strongly urge the Commission to consider a different course of action to allow this 75-year-old institution and fixture of Griffith Park to remain open.

Leilani Commons

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