

**EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Seamans called the meeting to order, the time being 7:05 p.m. in the Rolling Hills Estates City Hall Council Chambers. The Chairwoman requested that all those in attendance at this meeting introduce themselves.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Seamans, Chairwoman
Dale Allen
Susan Brtis
Melody Colbert
Jim Moore
Priscilla Regur
Andy Rein
Vicki Shinn

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Christine Amin
Carol Dean-Porter

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Andy Clark, Community Services Director
Linda Fitton, Equestrian Services Supervisor

AUDIENCE MEMBERS PRESENT

Rachel McCaskill
Tracy Savich
Pam Schachter
Megan Bagdonis, Daily Breeze

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2008

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRWOMAN SEAMANS ORDERED

THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2008 EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Rachel McCaskill and Tracy Savich reported that Trail Ride Operator, Patrick Murnan, was having personal issues with former employees and that he had a horse die from strangles (equine distemper) which may have infected other horses since it has been on the trails and in the Howlett Park arenas. Discussion ensued regarding a number of issues related to this Trail Ride Operator's business. Staff will contact at least two (2) Veterinarians and follow their recommendations regarding the notification of the public, if necessary.

PETER WEBER EQUESTRIAN CENTER CARETAKER RESIDENCE RELOCATION

Community Services Director Clark reported it had been recently determined by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts that humans are not allowed to live on the grounds of this former landfill. The City has established a new caretaker home location just south of the Peter Weber Equestrian Center's entry on a wide portion of the City's bridle trail west of the Crenshaw Tunnel.

PETER WEBER EQUESTRIAN CENTER AD HOC DESIGN COMMITTEE MEETING

Community Services Director Clark stated that City Council had requested that the Design Committee reconvene to develop recommendations for the best uses of \$1,080,000 in Proposition "A" grant funds designated for the proposed renovation project. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) recently informed the Planning Director that its 5-Year Review Report would be completed by June 1, 2008. The release of this document will assist in determining whether the Los Angeles County Park and Recreation Department will allow the City to expand the Equestrian Center's boundaries. It was also noted that a favorable soils investigation report had been received which will allow the City to obtain a Building Permit for the proposed project.

VARIOUS EQUESTRIAN TRAFFIC MATTERS

Community Services Director Clark summarized a report prepared by the Assistant City Manager regarding various equestrian traffic matters. It was noted that the Sheriff's Department had deployed a motorcycle unit to increase enforcement of motorists not yielding to equestrians in the mid-block crosswalk located on Rolling Hills Road. Committee Members recommended that this Sheriff's unit be requested to monitor the crosswalk weekdays between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and on weekends between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. when the crosswalk tends to have peak usage.

A Posse Subcommittee made up of Dale Allen, Melody Colbert, Jim Moore and Vicki Shinn will determine whether the intersections of Palos Verdes Drive North and Crenshaw Road and Hawthorne and Palos Verdes Drive North have issues of limited visibility for the installation of an additional limit line.

Chairwoman Seamans requested that City staff and the Sheriff join the Posse when the Posse visits these intersections. The Posse will also develop a prioritize list of arterial street locations that equestrian warning signs could be installed to raise motorists awareness that equestrians may cross.

DRESSAGE ARENA STANDARDS AND COST ESTIMATES

The Community Services Director indicated that staff had researched dressage arena standards and learned that suitable materials for a sanctioned dressage riding event could no longer include concrete, unbreakable chain, or rope. Should the current concrete sections be determined necessary for removal, staff developed cost estimates for landfill fees and installation of Trex Company, Inc. arena border materials totaling approximately \$12,000. Trex materials were believed the best product for this proposed project since it is made of recycled plastic materials which will resist the ground moisture regularly found in this arena. Chairwoman Seamans discussed potential funding sources such as the City's General Fund and the Pepper Tree Foundation Fund.

Audience Member Schachter informed the Committee that two (2) dressage show organizers (Suzi Kuykendall and David Schmutz) were seeking locations to host sanction dressage show events. It was noted, however, that two (2) regulation dressage arenas would be the most efficient set-up for a sanctioned dressage show. The Palos Verdes Chapter (PVC) of the California Dressage Society has one (1) portable regulation size dressage arena which has been set up previously in the large oval arena in Howlett Park, but that the Park's second smaller oval arena is not large enough to set up another regulation size dressage arena. Unfortunately, Ms. Schachter also stated that there wasn't enough current interest by PVC members to organize a local dressage show.

Discussion ensued by Committee members regarding the importance in keeping the Howlett Park Equestrian Center viable and therefore made the following recommendation:

MEMBER ALLEN motioned, seconded by MEMBER MOORE

TO RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER A RENOVATION PROJECT AT THE NEXT BUDGET STUDY SESSION TO REMOVE THE HOWLETT PARK EQUESTRIAN CENTER'S DRESSAGE ARENA'S CONCRETE BORDER SECTIONS AND REPLACE THEM WITH TREX COMPANY, INC. MATERIALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION ARENA CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRWOMAN SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

BOARDING ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

Community Services Director Clark reviewed the staff report which outlined City Council's request for the Equestrian Committee to develop policies or measures which will minimize the impacts on neighborhoods from equestrian businesses boarding horses on residential properties, such as trail ride operators or equestrian trainers. The City has received several unsubstantiated neighborhood concerns about a trail riding operator with a City Business License boarding horses on multiple properties along the bridle trail behind Moccasin Lane.

Member Shinn noted that health and safety regulations control many different types of business and that equestrian business should have similar regulations in effect. The staff report indicated two (2) City Council suggested policies for equestrian businesses and the Committee developed many more as shown below:

1. Business patrons shall not be allowed to park on the streets within the neighborhood in which the business' boarding is taking place; rather that it be required to occur at a public or institutional parking lot, such as a park, school, or church with permission of the agency.
2. Manure dumpsters shall be located on private property at all times and not stored in or blocking the bridle trail.
3. All equestrian business clients must wear a helmet.
4. Trail rides shall be limited to maximum of six (6) riders.
5. All riders shall be instructed in and required to practice proper arena and/or trail etiquette.
6. Set a minimum age for riders.

7. Do not allow riders to ride double, such as a parent and child on the same horse.
8. Require riding boots for all riders.
9. Require a minimum of two (2) Veterinarian examinations per year for all equestrian businesses' horses.

Chairwoman Seamans requested that Committee members review the draft equestrian business policies in these Minutes and finalize this list for recommendation to City Council at the next Equestrian Committee meeting. Zoning and Code Administrator Beall will be asked to attend the next Committee meeting to comment on the proposed equestrian business policies.

EQUESTRIAN ISSUES LOG

Member Colbert requested that the City submit a request for the Lomita Sheriff's Station Posse to be directed to stop the rider who gallops his thoroughbred horse on the Palos Verdes Landfill Loop Trail without regard to other riders.

The Equestrian Issues Log was received and filed by the Committee.

MAYOR'S BREAKFAST RIDE - MAY 10, 2008 AT 8:00 A.M.

Member Allen encouraged all Committee members to attend this year's Mayor's Breakfast Ride event which will start from Chandler Park and end at Ernie Howlett Park. The route planned this year is estimated to take one (1) hour to complete.

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Member Allen reported that some residents are draining swimming pools onto the trails again. Staff requested that Committee members obtain addresses and report this violation to City Hall immediately.

Audience member Schachter recommended that a driveway style mirror be placed on the trail intersection at the northeast corner of Chandler Park to increase safety and visibility at this section of the trail.

Community Services Director Clark stated that he had received a Peninsula resident's recommendation for the City to hold a Grand Re-Opening Ceremony for the Dave Pierson Trail, since a portion of it is closed due to a condominium development project at the intersection of Silver Spur Road and Crenshaw Boulevard. The Committee did not agree with this recommendation.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Stables Fund Fee Changes
Stables Design Committee Update
Trail Names Signage Recommendation
Chandler Ranch Development Bridle Trail

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Clark
Community Services Director