

**EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Zuckerman called the meeting to order, the time being 6:02 p.m. at the Larga Vista Homeowners Association entryway located at the intersection of Palos Verdes Drive East and Conestoga Drive.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven Zuckerman, Chairman
Susan Brtis
Melody Colbert
Jim Moore
Dave Pierson
Carol Dean-Porter

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Christine Amin
Patrick Killen
Shirley Kline
Priscilla Regur
Vicki Shinn

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Andy Clark, Community Services Director

AUDIENCE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bridget Carmen
Anna Chu
Wendy Ulve
Sunshine

MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2006

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN ZUCKERMAN ORDERED

THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2006 EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

CARRIAGE TRAIL EXTENSION LINK

Chairman Zuckerman and Community Services Director Clark presented a brief overview of the trail extension issue being considered by the Committee. They indicated that the purpose of this meeting was to agree upon the best and safest method to develop a trail link between the Carriage Trail head through the Larga Vista Homeowners Association's street entryway to a proposed trail along Palos Verdes Drive East (PVDE) in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV). Audience Member Sunshine added that the proposed trail was identified in RPV's adopted Conceptual Trails Plan and that this link would assist the efforts to develop the Palos Verdes Loop Trail.

In response to inquiries from Audience Members concerning potential state or federal funding available to develop RPV's proposed trail, Chairman Zuckerman responded that this was not the agenda item being considered by the Committee.

Audience Member Carmen, representing the Larga Vista Homeowners Association (HOA), identified the HOA's concerns about the proposed changes to the entryway's south side including the need to move in-ground lighting, changing the fence design, potentially eliminating future irrigation installation, and disregard for the recent expenditure of HOA and City funds to make improvements to the HOA's street entryway. She clarified, however, that there was not an issue to establish the trail link through the entryway's north side landscaping, but that the HOA would prefer that the proposed trail extension link be postponed until RPV dedicated the proposed trail along PVDE.

The Committee inspected the proposed trail extension link route starting on the entryway's north side landscaping, which would require the removal of shrubs to enhance the current narrow trail that HOA residents were using as a hiking trail link to the Carriage Trail head, located just north of this entryway along PVDE. In addition to a three-rail fence section, demarking the trail on the entryway's north side, equestrian crossing signs were felt needed to be installed on both sides of this intersection.

The Committee then discussed the route that equestrians should use to cross Conestoga Drive. It was determined that not only would painted stripes demarking a crossing would be unsafe, due to causing a slippery footing for horses, but that it was unlikely that equestrians would stay between the lines.

The Committee agreed that horses would be able to step onto a raised sidewalk located on the entryway's south side and enter the short segment of proposed trail within Rolling Hills Estates linking to the proposed RPV trail adjacent to PVDE. The Committee indicated that the concrete sidewalk would have to be scored with a concrete saw to enhance the footing of horses. Additionally, Committee members agreed that a three-rail fence section needed to be turned parallel with PVDE, an in-ground light fixture re-located, and that City staff should grade the trail surface and prune the shrubs and low-hanging tree branches on the short section of trail within the City's right-of-way along PVDE.

Chairman Zuckerman then called for a series of motions for each section of the proposed trail link across Conestoga Drive resulting in

Member Pierson moving, seconded by Member Moore

TO RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF THE CARRIAGE TRAIL ACROSS CONESTOGA DRIVE TO LINK WITH A PROPOSED CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES BRIDLE/HIKING TRAIL REQUIRING: 1) EQUESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET ENTRYWAY; 2) REMOVAL OF SHRUBS AND THE INSTALLATION OF A THREE-RAIL FENCE SECTION ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE STREET ENTRYWAY; 3) NO EQUESTRIAN CROSSWALK STRIPING ACROSS CONESTOGA DRIVE; AND 4) SCORING THE CONCRETE SIDEWALK, PRUNING RIGHT-OF-WAY TREES AND SHRUBS, DEVELOPING THE NATURAL TRAIL SURFACE, AND RE-LOCATING ONE FENCE SECTION AND AN IN-GROUND LIGHT FIXTURE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE STREET ENTRYWAY.

AYES: All in favor.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT / MAINTENANCE CRITERIA

Audience Member Sunshine reviewed draft trail development and maintenance criteria being considered by RPV. In response to Chairman Zuckerman's request for clarification of a trail prism, Audience Member Sunshine defined it as the area that should be kept clear around a trail's tread. Discussion ensued concerning the various trail types, grade distances, and vertical and horizontal clearances. The Committee agreed that a 14-foot vertical clearance would be ideal for equestrians on the City's trails and should be indicated when the Recreation and Open Space Element of the City General Plan is updated.

VACATED TRAIL EASEMENT POSSE FORMATION

Community Services Director Clark requested that a Posse be formed, per City Council's direction at the March 4, 2006 Policy Development Session, to assist staff in making recommendations to vacate certain undeveloped and unmaintained bridle/hiking trail easements. Members Pierson, Britis, Moore, and Colbert volunteered to serve on this Posse to make easement vacation recommendations to the Equestrian Committee.

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Member Colbert submitted a laminated bridle/hiking trails map for the Palos Verdes Peninsula to Community Services Director Clark. The Committee commended Member Colbert for the many hours that she voluntarily spent to prepare several trail maps.

Audience Members Chu and Ulve requested that the City consider establishing an equestrian crossing across Palos Verdes Drive East just north of the intersection of PVDE and Conestoga Drive.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Peninsula Equestrian Evacuation Plan Presentation

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Clark
Community Services Director