

EQUESTRIAN CENTER
MINUTES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005
City Council Conference Room

PRESENT: Chair Sally Feola
Commissioner Debbie Humphreys
Commissioner Shari Nichols

Assistant City Manager Ken Duran
Sycamore Ranch Operators Mr. & Mrs. Adair

ABSENT: Vice Chair Darlene McGrady
Commissioner Misty Reiss

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feola called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. by leading the flag salute.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2005

Commissioner Humphreys made a motion to approve the minutes of April 5, 2005 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols and approved unanimously.

SYCAMORE CANYON EQUESTRIAN CENTER UPDATE

Mr. Duran reported that the City Manager is still in negotiations with Mr. & Mrs. Adair on the terms of a lease extension. Mrs. Adair submitted for review the May occupancy report.

COMMUNITY ARENA UPDATE

Mr. Duran reported that there have been no new discussions with the cell tower vendor on when the tower and lights would be installed. He added that staff is still gathering information from the insurance authority and other facilities as far as possible rules changes for the community arena.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Lee Cromer commented that it appears that some people are giving private group lessons in the community arena and it should not be allowed. She also asked about the Sycamore Creek Trail redesign. She also suggested that soccer

groups using the Horsethief Canyon Park fields should be reminded about traffic speed on the road. Mr. Duran responded that the Recreation Department has regular meetings with the Youth Sports groups and he will ask them to bring this up at the next meeting.

Mrs. Cromer suggested that a sign be installed on San Dimas Ave. approaching the trail head to the Walnut Creek trail cautioning drivers to yield to horses. Commissioner Humphreys agreed that that would be a good idea because horses using the trail on the east side of the street cross San Dimas Ave to get to the staging area.

Mrs. Cromer also commented on a house adjacent to 850 Oakway where someone is parking on the grass.

Marcia DeMarco suggested that the City should consider requiring minors to wear helmets when riding in the community arena. She also commented that the oleanders along San Dimas Canyon Road need to be pruned back or removed. She added that not only are oleanders toxic to horses but they are also blocking the trail for pedestrians. Commissioner Humphreys added that trimming them back may also help with the transient problem in the park.

Gogie Morales asked when the wood horse trail along San Dimas Canyon Road would be replaced with the white vinyl. Mr. Duran responded that trail fence replacement project is over multi-years starting with the oldest fence first. He stated that next year the fence along Via Verde Ave. is scheduled for replacement.

Steve Chico commented that he heard that the City may ban barrel racing and gymkhana from the community arena. He commented that there is a need to allow these types of uses and that more people are using the arena now for a variety of uses. Chair Feola responded that they have not discussed banning the uses but there has been concern that the apparatus is being left in the arena. Commissioner Humphreys added that another concern is that ruts are being left in the arena from the turning. She suggested that they take a rake and smooth out the ruts when they are finished.

Mr. Adair commented on the weeds and ruts along the face trail. Mr. Duran responded that now that the rains are over crews will be doing maintenance on the trail.

Virginia Nichols commented that she rented the arena recently and that dragging of the arena before rentals needs to be coordinated with Mr. Adair. She also commented about conflicting uses of the community arena. She suggested that

maybe there needs to be a specific time limit on use of the arena. Chair Feola responded that there are rules in place and it should be self policing.

Ms. Nichols also commented that the California Horseman's Association insurance carrier does not require helmets for minors. There was discussion on helmet requirements.

Ms. Nichols suggested another hitching post on the south side of the restrooms.

Gary Enderle commented that the bleachers at the community arena should be installed within two weeks. He also inquired whether barrel racing was allowed in the arena. Mr. Duran responded that it is not excluded. Mr. Enderle suggested that maybe collapsible barrels could be used.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Nichols commented about ponding water on the trail on Via Verde east of Covina Hills Road. Mr. Enderle responded that it is ground water run off from the Hill and that Eric Beilstein from the building department has looked at it. Ms. Nichols also commented on the danger of the large boulders adjacent to the trail.

Commissioner Humphreys thanked the members of the audience for their comments. She suggested signs be installed on the arena bleachers warning people not to tie their horse to them. She also suggested that users of the arena should be reminded not to use the Sycamore Ranch porta potties.

Mr. Duran distributed an e-mail from Commissioner McGrady that she wanted to be part of the record for the meeting. In her e-mail she questioned why there is no hitching rail at the new gazebo at the park, she is in favor of allowing barrel racing and gymkhana in the arena, that it should be a parental choice as to whether their children should wear a helmet in the arena and that she is in favor of an ordinance that would fine riders that consistently ignore the arena rules.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comment the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.