

EQUESTRIAN COMMISSION  
MINUTES

Tuesday, July 5, 2005  
City Council Conference Room

PRESENT: Chair Sally Feola  
Vice-Chair Darlene McGrady  
Commissioner Debbie Humphreys  
Commissioner Misty Reiss

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Shari Nichols

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feola called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. by leading the flag salute.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2005

Vice-Chair McGrady made a motion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2005 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reiss and approved unanimously.

SYCAMORE CANYON EQUESTRIAN CENTER UPDATE

The Commission reviewed the Occupancy Reports for June and July which reflected occupancy of 96% and 95% respectively. Mrs. Adair commented that they lost some boarders who moved out of state but by the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> they will be back to full again. She reported that new sand was added to the lower arena.

Mr. Duran reported that City staff is still in discussions with the Adairs regarding the lease. Staff is awaiting a response back from the Adairs on some outstanding issues. He added that since the last report to the Commission nothing new has been presented to the City Council.

SYCAMORE CREEK TRAIL UPDATE

Mr. Duran reported that the Sycamore Creek trail project is moving forward again. He provided a history of the project for the benefit of the newer Commissioners. He also

presented photographs showing the alignment of the trail. He reported that the City finally has a permit from the Fish and Game Department and that staff has been working with Los Angeles County Parks Department on gaining permission to perform the necessary work on their portions of the trail. It was pointed out that it is unclear if the trail alignment goes along the creek behind the lower arena. Mr. Duran responded that he would clarify that part of the alignment. He added that the plan is go out to bid for the project this summer.

#### ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Duran reported that the community arena bleachers are ordered and the installation is being scheduled. He also reported that it appears the cell tower and arena lights project is dead. The City has not heard anything from the cell company for quite some time. The City is going to put the company on notice to remove the temporary tower before the rodeo.

#### MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Virginia Nichols asked about the development of Horsethief Canyon Park. She wanted to know how the plan was decided. Mr. Duran gave a history of the park including it's acquisition by the City and prior phases of development. He explained the public process that the City went through in developing the master plan.

#### COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Humphreys reported that there are broken sprinklers on the n.w. and s.w sides of the community arena. She also reported that the puncture vine around the arena is back. She added that she knows that the City contracted with the County to spray the area but they did a poor job and now the weeds need to be physically removed. She also reported that the water trough needs cleaning. She suggested contacting the County to get free mosquito fish. She also reported that the mounted posse has done a couple of patrols in Horsethief Canyon Park.

Commissioner Reiss inquired about the horse evacuation plan. There was discussion about the existing plan and its effectiveness. It was the consensus that the City should work with the Humane Society and review and revise the plan.

Commissioner McGrady reported that the Club has scheduled another Play Day for August 14<sup>th</sup>. She asked about the possibility of Boy Scouts who will be working on the Play Day camping out the in the park the night before. Mr. Duran responded that camping is not allowed in the park. She also suggested that maybe a multi-barn tack sale could be coordinated and held at the community arena. She also commented that she has agreed to do some research on arena rules from other cities.

Chair Feola shared an ad from the San Dimas Community News asking equestrians to protest the opening of Horsethief Canyon Park Phase Two because the park is losing its

equestrian focus. Mr. Duran responded that last week he became aware from Commissioner McGrady that a group of equestrians were planning to protest at the opening of the park because the improvements are not equestrian friendly. He added that he and Theresa Bruns met with Commissioner McGrady to discuss her concerns. It was agreed to add a hitching rail and water trough along the trail close to the picnic pavilion. Chair Feola asked if Commissioner McGrady was still planning to protest. She responded that she felt adding the rail and trough was a compromise and that they were planning on having a strong equestrian presence at the opening but not with protest signs.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. to the next regular scheduled meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.