

Minutes of the May 8, 2019 Meeting  
Chatsworth Neighborhood Council (CNC)  
Equestrian Committee (CNCEC)

The regular monthly meeting of the CNC Equestrian Committee was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at the Old Train Depot (Hal Bernson Community Room) in Chatsworth.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by chairperson, Steve Columbus.

Roll was taken and Committee Members present were: Dorothy Allison, Jeff Mackie, Marina Mackie, Summer Walters and Steven Columbus, Sandee Andrews, Jan Eddy-Languein, Eric Greeley, and Beverly Mills, Not present: Rudy Schultz.

The minutes from the prior meeting of April 10, 2019 were adopted unanimously without comment or objection.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Day of the Horse (“DOTH”). Jan Eddy-Languein discussed the binder full of information about vendors and presenters, for use at future DOTH events. Discussions about various matters related to DOTH included:

- Ribbons for stick horses and horseshoe events

- Better signage re – no public parking, other than for handicapped persons

- Use of a golf cart or similar vehicle to transport handicapped persons to event

Jody, the owner of Stoney Point Ranch and Riding the DOTH site, was pleased with the outcome of the event and is willing to host it again next year

Banners and fliers had the wrong address -- next year, perhaps the Nuns’ property at the intersection of Winnetka and Devonshire could post a couple of banners about the event.

The event requires incredible effort, and more volunteers and organizations – are needed for next year’s event

More advertising for next year’s event will ensure an even greater attendance; schools, the YMCA can send handouts home. Businesses can also hand out event flyers.

A date for next year's event should be selected by the July meeting so that health permits, event insurance and the like can be arranged. Also, we want to get our event on the public calendar early, so there are no conflicts with Easter, Palm Sunday or other dates. This year's event conflicted with Palm Sunday activities, a Meet the City Council Candidates event, and other previously scheduled events.

We should have a theme selected by early next year for the 2020 DOTH

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Deerlake Housing project – Steve Columbus and Sandee Andrews are meeting on May 9 with Robert Ettelman to discuss trails and Stone Bridge (scary bridge). They will show him trails of concern, and the railing issues of the “Scary Bridge”. Reinforced fencing on sharp turns of some trails would be very useful. Railings similar to those just past the 118 freeway on Canoga in certain places on the trails would provide safety to riders and horses. Steve Columbus is very encouraged by the support of the County trail planning staff, including Zach and Robert Ettelman, who have suggested a ribbon-cutting ceremony once the trails are ready to open. The City Council's office has been supportive as well.

Sandee Andrews requested that the Committee try to get Moonshine Canyon cleaned up; it has not been ridden for years. She will check into this possibility.

There was a discussion about Limekiln Canyon; horses and riders cannot safely ride under the bridge at Rinaldi due to round stones cemented into the underpass right of way. Steve will contact the Councilmember's office about a pathway for riders.

The Top of Topanga trail is closed near the condos, and the Hawaii trail (Roller Coster) is too much difficult for most riders. Steve Columbus will look into when this trail can be reopened again with the County of LA.

Sandee said Ms. Kelty was to have a crew clean Old Topanga in Stony Point Park so that riders could just cross the street to get into Devil's Canyon. The first part of the trail is City-owned.

The Councilman's ride will May 18 at 10:00 starting at Chatsworth Park South – The committee received an e-mail from Councilman Greig Smith personally

inviting the committee to join him on his ride. This event unfortunately conflicts with the CNC Board Retreat at the Radisson.

Evacuations – the Vulcan Project in Sunland, discussed at the prior meeting, is moving forward per Eric Greeley. Pierce College is a key player in the Valley horse evacuation process. We need more volunteers certified to haul horses, and coordination to ensure that all evacuation centers are utilized to the fullest where needed. Chatsworth High was asked for the use of its grounds as an evacuation center but rejected the request several year ago. We need locations, even tennis courts, in case of severe emergencies particularly where the lives of horses are at stake. Patty with Animal Services is going to be asked to have a class re volunteering at Pierce and certification for hauling and handling horses.

Barn owners should be invited to a meeting to speak with Committee Members about what we can do to help them and their boarders. Several years ago, a member of DWP spoke to the community about how to handle water bills and the tier rates on horse properties, and the Committee members discussed doing this again. We need horse owners to license their horses, to show the City and DWP that the properties are in fact housing horses, and thus the billing rates for those properties are not similar to typical residual properties. Eric Greeley has a contact at the DWP and will reach out to see if we can get someone to speak with the barn owners and committee.

Jan Eddy-Languen suggested a program to deal with those times a rider are tossed off a horse, and have no identification on the horse. She suggested that the Committee offer to provide clip/tags to horse owners who come to meetings, to attach to halters or bridles, providing information about the horse owners in case the horses become separated from the riders. The Committee could invite horse owners to meetings to get these types of ID tags, and information about licensing and micro-chipping. There is also the possibility of Velcro bracelets for horses with necessary information.

Motion brought by Beverly Mills to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Sandee, meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.