

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THIS FILE


Submissions by the public in compliance with the Commission Rules and Operating Procedures (ROPs), Rule 4.3, are distributed to the Commission and uploaded online. Please note that “compliance” means that the submission complies with deadline, delivery method (hard copy and/or electronic) AND the number of copies. Please review the Commission ROPs to ensure that you meet the submission requirements. The ROPs can be accessed at <http://planning.lacity.org>, by selecting “Commissions & Hearings” and selecting the specific Commission.

All compliant submissions may be accessed as follows:

- **“Initial Submissions”**: Compliant submissions received no later than by 4:00 p.m. Thursday of the week prior to the meeting, which are not integrated by reference or exhibit in the Staff Report.
- **“Secondary Submissions”**: Compliant submissions received after the Initial Submission deadline up to 24-hours prior to the Commission meeting are contained in this file and bookmarked by the case number.
- **“Day of Hearing Submissions”**: Compliant submissions after the Secondary Submission deadline up to and including the day of the Commission meeting will be uploaded to this file within two business days after the Commission meeting.

Material which does not comply with the submission rules is not distributed to the Commission.

### ENABLE BOOKMARKS ONLINE:

**\*\*If you are using Explorer, you will need to enable the Acrobat  toolbar to see the bookmarks on the left side of the screen.**

If you are using Chrome, the bookmarks are on the upper right-side of the screen. If you do not want to use the bookmarks, simply scroll through the file.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 978-1300.


# INITIAL SUBMISSIONS

The following submissions by the public are in compliance with the Commission Rules and Operating Procedures (ROPs), Rule 4.3a. Please note that “compliance” means that the submission complies with deadline, delivery method (hard copy and/or electronic) AND the number of copies. The Commission’s ROPs can be accessed at <http://planning.lacity.org>, by selecting “Commissions & Hearings” and selecting the specific Commission.

The following submissions are not integrated or addressed in the Staff Report but have been distributed to the Commission.

Material which does not comply with the submission rules is not distributed to the Commission.

## ENABLE BOOKMARKS ONLINE:

\*\*If you are using Explorer, you will need to enable the Acrobat  toolbar to see the bookmarks on the left side of the screen.

If you are using Chrome, the bookmarks are on the upper right-side of the screen. If you do not want to use the bookmarks, simply scroll through the file.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 978-1300.

# **SECONDARY SUBMISSIONS**



Planning CHC &lt;chc@lacity.org&gt;

---

## 1/9/23 Regular Meeting of the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage, Agenda Item 2, Griffith Park Pony Rides

1 message

---

**ROBERT TORRES** <roberthtorres@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:07 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

re: 1/9/23 Regular Meeting of the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage, Agenda Item 2, Griffith Park Pony Rides

Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission,

As an advisory body to the Los Angeles City Council, I asked that you consider recommending continued utilization of the historic Griffith Park Pony Ride facilities for their intended equestrian use.

Often, historical preservation is solely viewed through a physical/structural lens, with little consideration given to the conservation of the historical uses/activities.

With this in mind, it is absolutely necessary to ensure that any future use utilizing or surrounding the Griffith Park Pony Ride structures is equestrian related.

This is an achievable task and has the potential to garner support from all stakeholders.

Here are some possible future uses to consider:

- Equestrian classes
- Petting Farm
- Annual or semi-annual pony ride events
- Cultural equestrian performances from community groups
  - Dressage exhibits
  - Escamuzasexhibits
- Horse sanctuary facility

Uses such as those listed above would not only honor the historic equestrian use of the Griffith Park Pony Ride facility, but it will also provide an amazing cultural amenity to the public.

Please consider all the above information when evaluating the future use of the Griffith Park Pony Rides facility.

Sincerely,  
Robert H Torres



Planning CHC &lt;chc@lacity.org&gt;

---

**Please SAVE HISTORIC GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES-Jan 19th agenda item report**1 message

---

**Lisa Baca** <cli.baca@gmail.com>  
To: chc@lacity.org  
Cc: Lisa Baca <cli.baca@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:26 AM

Hi Ms. Armstrong

The Griffith Park Pony Rides has been a treasure in the City of Los Angeles for generations of families for over 74 years.

The equestrian community of Southern California is asking for the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission to SUPPORT the RETURN of the live pony rides back to their forever home.

Enclosed please find the front page article of yesterday's, Sunday, January 8, 2023, Daily News documenting the historic designation of buildings and pony ride.

<https://www.dailynews.com/2023/01/08/historic-structures-at-griffith-park-pony-ride-may-hamper-citys-plans>

Please share this article with each Commission member prior to the meeting and enter it into the public record for the upcoming January 19th meeting file as part of the agenda report.

I am urging the members of the Cultural Heritage Commission to save this historic one of a kind City of Los Angeles treasure.

Thank you,  
Lisa Baca, Member  
Los Angeles  
Equestrian Coalition



Planning CHC &lt;chc@lacity.org&gt;

## Pony Rides

1 message

Sharla <sharla711@gmail.com>  
To: chc@lacity.org

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 1:46 PM

I saw Zora screaming at the birthday parties one day so I stopped and I told her she was scaring the children and at least one kid was crying.

This was after the vet check passed so I didn't understand why she was still out there screaming her lies.

The vet check debunked her false animal abuse accusations yet she continues to smear his name.  
And Then somehow she won?

She screamed at me that I was an animal abuser and owning horses was slavery. She said I was a slave owner.

I tried to explain to her that she should be down at the auction where they sell the overpopulated horses to kill factories.

I asked her if she knew about the mustangs problem?

I asked her where will the horses go?

Sanctuary's s? I asked her if she knew how much it cost to keep a horse... who's going to pay....

A person on a horses back a kid on a pony's back is like a person carrying a backpack.  
They think when a pony's head is down it's sad but that's how they relax or rest...or look for food

A simple Google search can tell you this.

Quote. A dropped head is **a sign your horse is relaxed and feeling good**. If he's standing in his stall or pasture with a lowered head, he's probably either resting, relaxing or asleep.

They have no knowledge.

They have no facts.

They have no solutions.

Griffith Park Pony Rides have been there for 73 years. Packed every weekend with happy little kids.

I've met two and three generations there. Family traditions.

When the ponies retire they get to stay with their herd and receive life and care until they pass.

They have rehomed numerous ponies into our community and I'm sure have been used by the studios over the years.

Her complaints had been addressed and resolved.

A vet came out and inspected and passed. So what changed?

What facts have been presented?

What were the new legitimate complaints?

I think we deserve to know.

I haven't heard a valid reason yet so my suspicion is they were sick of her coming to their offices screaming so they caved to a loud obnoxious extremist activist child abuser who is uninformed and has zero evidence of anything that supports this action.

Who is fighting for the Equestrian community because I keep reaching out and get crickets and we're losing ground every day.

They don't understand and obviously the politicians don't understand that many horses/ponies without jobs or a purpose are often sold for meat or glue or euthanized. They don't understand the relationship between people and their beloved horses since their beginning of time.

These people call horse owners slave owners.

There are places all over this country where horses work. You going after the ranchers next?  
Dogs? Dogs work...dogs would rather be free in a pack than sit and stay for people.

Do they want to set the horses free?

Read up on BLM roundups and the overpopulation problem.

Sanctuaries? Good luck. Who's paying? Where?

Or maybe they just want to eradicate horses.

This is ridiculous.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/318876296806949?mibextid=0NULKw&fs=e&s=TleQ9V>



Planning CHC &lt;chc@lacity.org&gt;

---

## Support the pony rides!

1 message

---

**Grace Yee** <grace.s.ih@gmail.com>  
To: chc@lacity.org

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 7:28 PM

Dear LA City Council,

I am writing in regards to the Griffith Park pony rides.

As an equine veterinary technician and an equestrian of over 30 years, I can assure you that Steve and his staff take very good care of the ponies. In fact, they are very well taken care of. These ponies are well feed, rotated so they can rest, and handled with care.

I've ridden there as a child, and I am a responsible equestrian and have owned horses, and a **veterinarian technician professional** who can honestly tell you that these ponies ARE NOT abused.

The protesters have no knowledge of horses or ponies. They are neither veterinarians nor veterinary technicians. They only see what they want to see. The pony rides are no different than someone owning a horse and riding it. The pony rides are in important establishment to the Griffith Park community, as well as the equestrian community. The Griffith Park Pony Rides brings incredible amounts of joy to kids, and give them an opportunity that they **would otherwise never have**. Please do not take this away, because of a few people who scream and yell, and have no validity to their argument.

Thank you for your time and reading this.

Sincerely,

Grace Ih





## Thank you !!!! Griffith Park pony rides are irreplaceable!

1 message

ida dizon <idadizon@yahoo.com>  
To: Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Sat, Jan 7, 2023 at 10:55 AM

Hello CHC Commissioners,

We came across this Section: b) seems self evident that ONLY pony rides can occupy the space ??

Thank you.

Savegriffthparkponyrides

10:49 AM Sat Jan 7
73%

Done
AA
codelibrary.amlegal.com

Search
Login
Select Language
Resources

CA > Los Angeles > Los Angeles Charte... > Sec. 595. Lease of Facilities.

### Sec. 595. Lease of Facilities.

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners may lease for recreational purposes any municipal auditoriums, arenas, sports centers or related facilities subject to the following conditions:

- The term of the lease shall not exceed 35 years. Leases in excess of five years shall be approved by the Council by ordinance.
- The public must be entitled to use and enjoy the property or facility for the purposes for which it was acquired, constructed or completed and any lease shall require the lessee to operate the property or facility so as to furnish the public with that use and enjoyment.
- The board may enter into the lease without inviting bids and may prescribe other terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

### Sec. 596. Leasing of Subsurface Space.

- Notwithstanding the provisions of Section [595](#), the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners may lease, to the highest responsive and responsible bidder in accordance with Section [371](#), subsurface space under any public park or public grounds under its control subject to the following conditions:
  - The use will not breach the conditions under which the land has been deeded to the City.

Previous Doc
Next Doc

January 17, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

In November 2022, the decision to close GPPR was abruptly made by RAP General Manager, Jimmy Kim, a recent appointee. For five years I ran the pony rides with no complaints from the City of Los Angeles. Our relationship was excellent. The reason given for non-renewal of my contract was "lack of transparency regarding the natural deaths of four retired ponies". I was never required to report the death of any pony. Nor has any other city equestrian center tenant been required to do so. Jimmy Kim's statement said that Steve Weeks "did not report the passing of these ponies. **However**, Steve Weeks was not required to report these deaths". What kind of a contradiction is that? I was instructed that my contract would end on December 21, 2022. I have rehomed 40 ponies and the property will be completely vacated very soon.

What needs to be evaluated here is a matter of process and what happens next deserves very careful consideration. It is apparent at this point that Mr. Kim did not do his homework. The Cultural Heritage Commission wasn't consulted. The Friends of Griffith Park were left out of the process as was the city's appointed Equine Advisory Commission. Everyone appeared to be blindsided, including me. I was negotiating a new contract with RAP up until a few days before I was told my contract would not be renewed.

Last week the Los Angeles City Council moved to hear the matter of GPPR in committee. This is encouraging news. We should task this new committee to find answers as to why the city has failed the children and families of Los Angeles. The issue here is twofold. Firstly, to save the historical buildings and designated resources that compose the pony rides and secondly, to reopen the pony rides to the benefit of the children of Los Angeles under a new operator. This 74-year-old iconic venue in Griffith Park is filled with the echoes of over ten million Angeleno children who have ridden the ponies over the decades.... many of whom are underprivileged. It should also be considered how the loss of the pony rides will affect the park in general. Several hundred thousand people (annually) spent their weekends riding the ponies, the train and picnicking in the area. I believe this will have a profound effect on Griffith Park. The train operator has expressed that he expects to lose 1/3 to 1/2 of his volume. The snack bar will likely will not reopen at all.

With your help I am hopeful that we can move forward on the first of these two objectives. I would like to personally thank you for your involvement in highlighting the injustice of this process to date.

Thank you,  
Steve Weeks





## Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573

Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573

friendsofgriffithpark.org

January 10, 2023

Board of Recreation and Park Commission  
Attn: President Sylvia Patsaouras  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: The abrupt and unexpected Pony Rides concession termination

Dear Commissioners,

In 1946, Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department (RAP) employee, young Tommy Taylor Wright, opened a low-budget pony rides operation in Lincoln Park, East Los Angeles, using ponies rented from an El Monte stable. He was then approached by RAP to start a pony ride concession in Griffith Park, and since 1947, this has been one of the most enduring, popular rides in the City's park system.

Along the way, Wright was able to take advantage of surplus Quonset huts that had been used in Griffith Park to house returning WWII veterans and families. These huts were turned into pony barns for his concession which became incredibly successful. Wright took great pride in his ponies, while also giving LA children the opportunity to enjoy a low-cost pony ride in the beautiful outdoors. Unfortunately, he retired in 1979, due to poor health.

Hank Bronk, a pony ride devotee, and his family took over the operation. He was trusted by both Wright and RAP. The Bronks continued to introduce children from all walks of life to the joys of a pony ride in the Park, even through hard times. RAP came to his aid to provide temporary liability coverage once, without an interruption in providing pony and carriage rides. The Griffith Park pony rides tradition continued, as concessionaire, Steven Weeks, next accepted the reins.

Until now.

The LA Historic-Cultural Monument #942 designates the Griffith Park Pony Rides as a contributing element for its City designation. Mapping shows the Pony Rides as item #4, Historically Sensitive Resource and Area. So what will become of Griffith Park if we don't respect and protect the core of its historic past?

### Friends of Griffith Park Position:

1. FoGP is tasked with preserving the Park's natural and historic resources as its mission. The spirit and the entitlement set down by the Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) would be violated by both a change of use for this area or, at least, by altering any structures named as contributing elements of the dedication. Specifically, *"The original fenced path for the Pony Rides, its waiting canopy and ticket kiosk are all still present and unaltered."* (HMC Application, 2008, Reference A below)

2. City Code Section 595, pertaining to Department of Recreation and Parks "Lease of Facilities" (See Reference B below) legalese essentially states that RAP is not obligated to lease the facility created in 1947. However, if they do lease it, the City is subject to limitations. If RAP is considering another use for the facility on a lease basis, they'd have to stay within the purposes for which it was built. The historic documentation makes it very clear: this facility was created for riding ponies.

These two facts offer either a dilemma or an opportunity. We prefer the latter, with a forward-thinking model that continues to include animals and the existing historic resources.

**FoGP supports a commitment to continued use of this historic venue for the purpose for which it was built, pony rides, introducing children to animals and the equestrian world. Going forward, this could be achieved with a higher degree of sensitivity to animal care. This could become the compromise that benefits and satisfies all.**

Of the consultations by Dr. Rachael Sachar, DVM, CVA, the December 8, 2021 report states that animals for hire involved in the movie and entertainment industry, under higher public scrutiny, are provided care beyond legal obligations. She goes on to suggest that RAP adopt similar policies and fulfill the higher standard in a transparent and continually reviewed manner. ([See linked, p. 6, GRIFFITH PARK PONY RIDES POLICIES AND PRACTICES REPORT.](#))

FoGP does not dispute that Steve Weeks gave excellent care to these ponies, many of them elderly. However, setting the gold standard as a condition of operation may allow this beloved, low-cost amenity to continue into the future with transparency. Pony rides could also be supplemented with other animal education and animal contact experiences, as before.

Equestrians are considered the original user-group of Griffith Park. Along with hikers, picnickers, bicyclists and others, their standing is upheld by *A Vision for Griffith Park* and its backing, defending existing and historic park users. Protecting the activities of user-groups was an early fundamental principle endorsed by the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group, which led to the adoption of the Vision policy.

FoGP advocates for the humane treatment of animals, and hopes more important targets are considered by those activists who protested the Griffith Park pony rides. For example, FoGP has a ten-year record of educating people on the use of rodenticides, and we were successful in a Statewide effort for legislature, resulting in passage of AB 1788. Anticoagulant rodenticides cause a slow and agonizing death for animals that consume them directly; these poisons also travel up the food-chain to larger wildlife (e.g, bobcats, foxes, coyotes, and mountain lions) causing them the same senseless death sentence.

Throughout the last seven decades, the pony rides have provided an affordable opportunity for children from underserved communities to connect with animals, often for the first time. And a trip to Griffith Park for a pony ride is often the gateway for other experiences in the Park, such as hiking, picnicking, and appreciation of its nature.

We look to the Griffith Park equestrian community for their expertise and best advice to meet these above objections. FoGP supports a dialog with the Council District Office and RAP toward an acceptable continuance of activities utilizing the historic pony ride venue.

Our sincerest thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerry H", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerry Hans  
President

*About Friends of Griffith Park: Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) is a California non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to preserving and protecting Griffith Park's natural habitat, biodiversity, and historic features, for current and future generations. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles' largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.*

**Reference A:**  
**CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**Historic-Cultural Monument Application, Page 14**



Figure 17: Pony Rides, 1946. View N. Photo: ICF Jones & Stokes, August 2007

Due immediately east of this canopy is an oval-shaped pony track with wood plank fences. Due immediately west of the waiting canopy is a small, square-plan, single-story ticket kiosk with an asymmetrical, side-gabled roof (Figure 18).



Figure 18: Pony Rides Ticket Kiosk, c.1946. View NW. Photo: ICF Jones & Stokes, March 2008.

This kiosk features an open full-length ticket counter at its east elevation that is inset into a small porch supported by wood columns at its outer corners. The kiosk has a painted wood wainscot across the side and rear elevations, a door at its rear elevation, and a covered window at its south-side elevation. The gable ends are clad in scalloped vertical boards spaced slightly apart from one another. The service counter within this kiosk is covered by a pair of barn style board and batten shutters. The rear, west facing door of this kiosk also features this pattern upon its door. Immediately north of the waiting canopy and the pony track is a small, circular “pony-go-round” covered with a circular canvas canopy supporting a metal pipe framework. Just south of the waiting canopy and pony

***Reference B – Los Angeles Municipal Code, Recreation and Parks:***

**Sec. 595. Lease of Facilities.**

The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners may lease for recreational purposes any municipal auditoriums, arenas, sports centers or related facilities subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The term of the lease shall not exceed 35 years. Leases in excess of five years shall be approved by the Council by ordinance.
- (b) The public must be entitled to use and enjoy the property or facility for the purposes for which it was acquired, constructed or completed and any lease shall require the lessee to operate the property or facility so as to furnish the public with that use and enjoyment.
- (c) The board may enter into the lease without inviting bids and may prescribe other terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

# **DAY OF HEARING SUBMISSIONS**