



**EQUESTRIAN COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.
245 E. Bonita Avenue
Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order and Flag Salute

Equestrian Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cravin at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Renee Cravin
Vice Chairperson Menyoun Andrade
Commissioner Siri Jespersen
Commissioner George Yniguez

Also Present:
Scott Wasserman, Director, Parks & Recreation
Councilmember John Ebiner

Absent: Eric Weber, Councilmember

3. Consent Calendar

Commissioner Cravin moved to approve the Equestrian Commission meeting minutes of January 3, 2023, seconded by **Commissioner Andrade** and approved unanimously.

4. Director's Report

Mr. Wasserman reported that the Rodeo Arena currently has temporary signs of hours and permanent signs will be placed soon. **Mr. Wasserman** reviewed the Rodeo Arena's hours and the potential closures of the arena due to inclement weather for safety purposes with the footing being unsafe.

Commissioner Jespersen asked if the Rodeo Arena hours are permanent and states that the current hours make it difficult especially the early 5:00 p.m. closure and asks if staff who close the dog park can also close the Rodeo Arena.

Mr. Wasserman confirms that the hours of the Rodeo Arena are permanent due to the current contract in place that requires 60 hours a week for the Rodeo Arena to be open and the contractor's staff availability. **Mr. Wasserman** will look into **Commissioner Jespersen's** request.

5. Chair's Report

No Chair's report presented at this time.

6. Commissioner's Reports

Commissioner Yniguez asked to confirm if the current hours are set by the contractor or by the City.

Mr. Wasserman confirms that the contractor sets the hours for the Rodeo Arena based on the contract's requirements.

Commissioner Cravin asked if the hours can be adjusted especially in the Summer time when it gets dark at a later time.

Mr. Wasserman will look into **Commissioner Cravin's** request.

7. Council Liaison Report

Councilmember John Ebner reported on the upcoming event scheduled on Sunday, April 23rd, an open-street event coming through the City of San Dimas, the Heart of the Foothills. **Councilmember Ebner** asked if the riders with horses would be interested in participating, they are welcome.

Commissioner Andrade mentioned the Sheriff's Posse maybe interested because the horses are trained for those occasions.

Councilmember John Ebner reported on the City Council revisiting the commissions and policies, the length of terms, amount of commissioner's per commission and the process of electing commissioners were discussed on Saturday, February 4, 2023.

Councilmember Ebner recommends for Commissioners to attend City Council meeting that will discuss the Commissions to provide input on the topics.

Mr. Wasserman will email the Commission the details of the upcoming City Council meeting that will discuss in detail the Commissions.

Councilmember John Ebner reported of the upcoming changes that will occur in the next 10 years in Downtown San Dimas due to the State's requirements of having more housing in certain proximities within the City. A community meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at the Senior Center for the Downtown Specific Plan for further discussion and input.

Commissioner Andrade enquired if any businesses in Downtown will be affected by the changes. **Councilmember John Ebner** states possibly the area near the Chevron gas station corner may be affected but for the most part there are 11 sites identified as possible housing.

Commissioner Cravin asked if City Council are looking into taking away any equestrian properties. **Councilmember John Ebner** explained that City Council has nothing in place right now and they do not want to see any equestrian properties go at this time.

8. Oral Communications or Items not on the Agenda

“Members of the audience are invited to address the Equestrian Commission on any item on this agenda or not on this agenda. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the legislative body is prohibited from engaging in discussion on any item not appearing on the posted meeting agenda. However, your concerns may be forwarded to staff or set for discussion at a later date. Each speaker will be limited to speaking once for up to (3) three minutes.”

Community Member Lexi Danielson is concerned with the Rodeo Arena hours. It is hard for people she knows to leave work and make it during the new hours of the Rodeo Arena. Ms. Danielson also stated that the lights should also stay on later around the Rodeo Arena and housing sections for safety. She also commented on adding signs around the park to have dogs leashed when outside the dog park due to an incident that occurred to her last year and she was attacked by a dog and the owner told the Sheriff's that she did not know because there are no visible signs are posted.

Community Member Cindy Stine inquired about the recent leasing process and what and who was the deciding factor for the Craig & Lisa Iwai application to take over the lease.

Mr. Wasserman explained that if the lease operator wants to sell then the parties interested must be reviewed by City Manager.

Community Member Jane Ols inquired if anyone has ever heard of anyone being hurt at the Rodeo Arena due to rain. She states the footing is much better than it has ever been and there is never been an injury and it should be up to the public to decide if they want to ride in the rain. Ms. Ols also asked where does the 60 hours come from and can the contract be looked at to fix the hours to help the community who works and can only ride at night.

Mr. Wasserman explained that due to the preservation of the current material, wear-and-tear and safety concerns the Rodeo Arena closure is important and to keep policies consistent throughout the City, using the field-facility usage as an example. **Mr. Wasserman** restated that the number of hours is in the contract of the contractor.

Community Member Mary stated that the contractor is still not maintaining the arena.

Community Member Lauree Adair comments on how she attends City Council meetings regularly and recalls where City Council mentions that they wanted the Rodeo Arena to be available to the community as much as possible. Ms. Adair also states how she does not understand why a contractor can control the hours when in the past the Rodeo Arena hours were better for the community. She asks that it be looked into.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by **Chairperson Cravin** at 6:40 p.m. and second by **Commissioner Andrade**. The next meeting will be on May 2, 2023 at 6:00 pm.