

Draft City Stables Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Montclair Recreation Center

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Chair, Rebekah Everson.

Present: Council Members: Judi Bank, Kathy Dunn, Rebekah Everson, Merrilee Mitchell and Kitty Moore. Staff: Brenda Roberts and Karis Griffin. Concessionaire: Melanie Diamond. Public: Chris Bearden, R.J. Allen, Sierra Berride, Hollis Brock, Alma Cadwalader, Michelle Delphey, John Delphey, Chris Foster, Angie Gonzales, Sher Hickerson, Gordan Jones, Jerry Kuroda, Maria Thorne and Mercedes Thorne.

Review of discussion 7 PM – 7:30:

1. Notification of meetings to be displayed on City website and at City Stables.
2. Approved minutes posted on the City website.
3. Discussion of frequency of meetings: Agreed to meet alternate months starting in September.
4. Next meeting to appoint additional members to the Council. Several attendees expressed interest.

Concessionaire's Report:

There are 15 Horses at City Stables: 9 Boarding horses and 6 program horses.

"We Love Horses" Camp started in June and ran for two weeks.

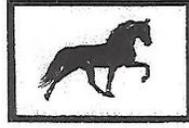
- > OPR Youth outreach/summer program served 43 youth. Michelle Doppelt coordinated transportation for the "Junior Explorers" from Dimond recreation center and brought up to 18 children per week on Mondays from 10am to 1pm. They learned about the history of the ranch, nature, arts and crafts, safety and horsemanship, grooming and horse care, feeding, handling, anatomy and colors of the horse and beginning riding skills. This is part of an inclusion program
- > Diamond Equine Services continues an ongoing inclusion program with horsemanship, grooming, handling for 3 autistic children and 1 child with down syndrome.
- > Diamond Equine Services continues an ongoing program for children and adults dealing with anxiety, PTSD, depression and personal loss with horsemanship and handling, grooming and care.

> 40 volunteers participated in Earth Day projects in Affiliation with the Student Conservation Assoc and sponsor volunteers from Southwest Airlines and Blackhawk Financial. They worked on leveling the sand in the outdoor arena and invasive removal of the juniper.

> Fire prevention: Fire extinguishers were recertified, 700 goats from Goats R US did weed abatement. We continue to remove weeds around the property. The stables passed the fire inspection visit. Kim Greene donated two (2) fire hoses and connections for our hydrants. There are 4 working students two new sponsors are Southwest Airlines and Black Hawk Financial

Maintenance: G G Lorick has done a structural evaluation of the buildings. The Meeting Room needs electrical work and additional work at the entrance to become ADA compliant. The renovation of the Main House and the Apartment are no longer the responsibility of the concessionaire, according to the contract. The \$140,000 that was originally meant for pest work on the caretakers unit has been transferred to the stables and the city is responsible for carrying out the work. The Concessionaire is working with Dana Riley on this. There cannot be any work continued on the renovation of the barns until the pest work is completed.

Next Meeting: September 12 (Change to 2nd Wednesday of the month.) November 14.
Respectfully Submitted,



Diamond Equine Services Concessionaire's Report

September 12, 2018

Horse Boarding

There are 15 horses at City stables: Nine boarded horses and six program horses.

Outreach Programs:

OPR Youth Outreach Summer Program continued through July and served 60 K-12 inner city children. Michelle Doppelt coordinated transportation for the "Junior Explorers" from Dimond Recreation Center and brought up to 18 children per week from 10am to 1pm. They learned about the history of the Ranch, Nature, Arts and Crafts, Safety and Horsemanship, grooming and horse care, feeding, handling, anatomy, colors of the horses and introduction to riding. This is part of an inclusion program.

Inclusion Program for children with autism and Down syndrome

Diamond Equine Services continues an ongoing inclusion program on a weekly basis which includes horsemanship, grooming, handling and introduction to riding. Currently there are 4 autistic children and 2 children with down syndrome participating.

Outreach Programs

Inner-City Youth Program

Spurred Up is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating inner-city youth about Black American Cowboy History and teaching respect and responsibility and through the "four E's" offering Education, Expectation, Experience and Entertainment. Their goal is to provide youth the opportunity to learn and enjoy the equine world, the western culture, past and present and become a part of the thriving world of horsemanship if they choose. They will be continuing to offer their riding program to inner-city children on an ongoing basis to be determined.

Therapeutic Programs

A new collaboration with the California School for the Deaf in Fremont is in the works. We are working with educator Leah Bornstein to introduce children K-12 to the world of horses. They will learn about horse care, safety, horsemanship, grooming and beginning riding. This is a section of the community that is very underserved in the community so DEQS is very happy to be providing a platform for kids from the deaf community to enjoy many benefits of being with horses.

Diamond Equine Services continues an ongoing program for children and adults dealing with anxiety, depression, PTSD and personal loss with horsemanship, handling, grooming and care and beginning riding skills.

Project Hope

Diamond Equine Services and Project Hope are in talks to begin a new Equine Program for Veterans.

Community Service and Horses:

Lessons

We have a small lesson program provided by Melanie Diamond and Lindsay Hassell. Most of our focus at this time is on serving the underserved population of the community. Our lesson program is focused on inclusion in order to provide diverse accessibility to the Oakland community. We are in the process of interviewing other lesson and program providers to broaden the lesson program.

Field Trips

In an effort to provide a horse experience to as many kids as possible, we are creating partnerships with local public schools.

For example, Burkhalter school is bringing between 30 to 40 children every other Wednesday. The kids learn about the history of the stables, enjoy riding demos such as barrel racing and dressage and /or jumping, art and nature. Last week we met with 38 fifth graders from Burkhalter.

Alameda County Probation Department

Diamond Equine Services is working with Erin Guess from the Probation Department to provide a platform for young men on probation ages 13 to 17 to work off community service hours. They are scheduled to be up again on October 13th from 9am to 2pm. There will be from 8 to 10 boys.

Working Student Initiative

There are 7 working students at this time. They are at the barn on a weekly basis and help with barn chores, turn outs, grooming, riding in exchange for both community service hours and riding time.

Upcoming Clinics:

Chris Ellsworth will be offering a Clinic October 20-21, 2018

Chelsea Sibley, Dressage Trainer will be offering clinics beginning in October. Dates TBD

Project Partnerships: (what does this mean? Say Facility Maintenance or something like that)

Adopt a Spot

Creek to Bay Day: September 15th from 10am to 2pm

Volunteers will be helping with weed abatement and invasive species removal (juniper)

Beautification Day September 22nd, 2018

- Eagle Scouts: Sebastian Morales and his troop will be working on a beautification project that will be completed on September 22nd. They are building 4 raised beds in front of the tack store with a small fence around it. Flowers, veggies and herbs will be planted.
- We are partnering with Rebuilding Together Oakland and DPR Construction. They will be finishing the removal of juniper roots on the slope adjacent to the stall row. They will be installing planters, planting drought resistant plants (lavender, rosemary and sage) and fruit trees down the middle of the slope. They will also install an ADA compliant 3-rail fence at the top and bottom of the slope to protect the planters. In addition, they will be continuing the work needed on the room set to be used as a meeting room. Their team will be painting the ceiling and walls, installing new LED lights, and sealing and painting the floor. They will be bringing in 30 of their volunteers (Team building) on September 22nd.

- There has been no progress on the pest work on the barns from the City.

Open House:

There will be an Open House/ Community Outreach Day on October 7th, 2018 from 11am to 2pm
Pony/Horse Rides, Tack Sale, Riding Demonstrations. Join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Diamond
Diamond Equine Services

City Stables Journey

1948-1965 the Shrine Stable was owned by Fred Bemis, founder of the Shrine Rangers.

1965 the stable became owned by a group of men that were members of the Aahmes Mounted Shine Patrol. The contact person was Heber Brown.

Brief history of the last 51 years of the City Stable Journey

1967 Don Lawrence leased it and renamed it Bay View Stables. Still had cattle roping and cattle chutes in the outdoor arena. Ron York leased it and renamed it Rancho San Antonio.

1973 purchased by Harry & Mary Dunn, named it Vista Madera Stables

all roofs leaked, stalls had dirt floors with deep holes in the middle of each one, the ten horse there were skinny and dehydrated, stalls had two plus feet of packed manure in them (it took about six hours to strip each one), manure pile covered a very large portion of the flat area between the barn and where the restrooms/snack shack is now, between 400 & 500 cubic yards of compost/manure.

Mary Dunn ran the business part of the barn, her business plan was to lose money for 1 year, break even for 1 year & start making a profit in the third year. the barn lost money for 2 years, broke even the next 2 years and started making a profit in the fifth year.

1974 to 1984 improvements made: roofs repaired/replaced, bathrooms and kitchens in the house and adjacent apartment remodeled, foundation installed under the front of the barn leading to the houses, electrical upgraded, house and apartment connected to sewer, stall/barns repaired and painted, stall floors leveled and matted, barnyard and roads paved, bunkhouse for barn help was upgraded, arena fence replaced, large arena footing changed from manure to sand, sand added to lunging area near large area, second lunging area on point was graded and had sand added for footing, long dressage court was graded & sand was added for footing, short court was covered (short court equals about 2/3rds of the arena), additional paddocks and shelters were constructed.

Boarders increased to 70 horse (plus 2 of mine), 3 trainers giving lessons, Pony Club meeting regularly, vaulting program, and hosted field trips for the schools.

1984 Harry Dunn died, the number of boarded horses was reduced to about 50, Mary wanted to retire, investigated building condos for horse owners on the point but did not have the capital.

1990 Mary was considering selling property for development, in the 1980's a church was interested in purchasing the property and had soil samples tested, over 95% of the property is buildable & it was zoned for housing as dense as the neighborhood behind.

Citizens for Oakland's Open Space members including Judi Bank, Anne Woodell, Bill Patterson, Lisa Stamphli-Torme, Harlan Kessel led a grass roots campaign to form Measure K to include several properties they felt were important to add to our park system to save them from development

COOS approached Mary and she agreed to have the Vista Madera Stables included in measure K.

With very little funding they got Measure K on the ballot and then passed

the City agreed to buy the stable for the highest land use value. When the appraisal was much higher than the City expected, Mary agreed to sell it for about 2/3 of its' value so it would stay a stable forever.

1991/1992 city issued a Request For Qualifications, Wildcat Youth Riding Program responded.

1992 City issued a Request For Proposals, they had no qualified responses

1993 Metropolitan Equine Preservation Society was formed by Judi Bank, Anne Woodell, Lisa Stamphli-Torme, Bill Patterson to encourage saving barns and making riding programs accessible to the public.

1994 Wildcat Canyon Youth program was chosen to run the barn and a riding program for an intermittent time.

1995 Wildcat signed a 5 year contract.

1999 City made some improvements including installing fire hydrants, ADA accessible restrooms/snack shack, dust control.

2004 Wild Cat lost their contract, City absorbed their outstanding debt and ran the boarding stable for a short time before deciding it was too expensive to operate and closed the stable.

New RFP issued, chosen concessionaire entered contract negotiations with OPR, as the negotiations were being finalized with the park, councilperson Brooks demanded changes be made and negotiations start over, potential concessionaire declined.

2005 another RFQ was issued.

2006 another RFP was issued, MEPS responded and was chosen to enter contract negotiations, they had extensive plans and promised funding for extensive upgrades, new construction, outreach/youth ring programs.

OPR negotiated contract was approved by Life Enrichment Committee and sent to full Council for approval. Councilperson Brooks objected and council denied approval of the contract.

City administrator Deborah Edgerly recommended to permanently close the stable.

2007 January 9, committee meeting to discuss permanent closure of City Stables, over 100 neighbors and equestrians spoke passionately against closing the stables, councilperson Brooks denied they wanted to close the stable and presented her plan to keep it. Of the 3 versions of her 12M plans, only 1 kept any part of the equestrian facility intact, the covered arena and adjacent turnout paddock. All other versions razed all existing buildings and other facilities. All versions were to turn the property into a corporate retreat/wedding site. The large arena would be a parking lot, wedding kiosk on the knoll overlooking the bay, cabins for overnight retreats would replace the barns. One version included an amphitheater in the large area in front of the house.

Full council approved a trial plan to reopen the stables. an out of the area family was chosen to implement the 6 month trial. It failed quickly.

2007 to 2012 more improvements made. new foundation on one side of the middle barn, mare motel and hay barn constructed.

OPR had three different individuals/groups run summer camp programs.

2012 another RFP, 4 respondents. Diamond Equine Services was chosen to negotiate a contract.

2014 council approves contract.

2015 contract signed.

City of Oakland
Life Enrichment Agency, Office of Parks and Recreation

CITY STABLES

ADVISORY COUNCIL APPLICATION



Typically meets 2nd or 3rd Wednesday every other month

7 p.m.

Montclair Recreations Center
6300 Moraga Avenue, Oakland, CA 94619

Name (print) _____

Address _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

Fax _____ e-mail _____

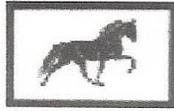
Represented area of interest:

- Youth Boarder Arena User
 Neighbor Metro-Horseman Assoc. Teacher
 Volunteer Equestrian Organization _____

Why do you want to be on the Oakland City Stables Advisory Council?

Equestrian Experience: ___ Yes ___ No If Yes, please describe: _____

Federal and City of Oakland regulations strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, handicap, or sexual orientation. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by the Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation should contact the Director at 1520 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612 or call (510) 238-3092.



DIAMOND EQUINE SERVICES CONCESSIONAIRE'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 14, 2018

Horse Boarding

There are 14 horses at City stables: 8 boarded horses and six program horses.

Outreach Programs:

OPR Outreach

OPR Dimond Recreation Equestrian Class by Diamond Equine Services continues on an ongoing basis every other Wednesday. Serving 4th and 5th grade inner-city children. Michelle Doppelt has coordinated transportation from Dimond Recreation Center and brought up to 10 children per week from 3:30 pm to 6pm. They learn about the history of the ranch, nature, arts and crafts, safety and horsemanship, horse care, feeding, handling, anatomy, colors of the horses and introduction to riding. This is part of an inclusion program. 58 children have participated this fall. We look forward to continuing through December of this year and expanding into next year.

Inner City Youth Program

Spurred up is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating inner city youth about Black Cowboy History and teaching respect and responsibility through the Four E's...offering Education, Expectation, Experience and Entertainment. Their goal is to provide youth the opportunity to learn and enjoy the equine world, western culture, past and present and become a part of the thriving world of horsemanship if they choose. They have been on hiatus recently due to family concerns. We are working with Dr. Sherilynn Cooke to begin again soon.

Inclusion Program for Children with Autism and Down Syndrome

Diamond Equine Services continues an ongoing inclusion program on a weekly basis which includes horsemanship, grooming, handling and introduction to riding. Currently there are four autistic children and two children with down syndrome participating.

Therapeutic Programs

A new collaboration with the California School for the Deaf in Fremont has begun. We are working with educator Leah Bornstein to introduce K-12 children to the world of horses. They are learning about horse care, safety, horsemanship, grooming and beginning riding. This is a section of the community that is under served so DEQS is very happy to be providing a platform for kids from the deaf community to enjoy the many benefits of being with horses. On November 6th we had five 4th and 5th graders along with their instructor and an interpreter from 10am to 2pm at the stables. The children participating had never seen horses before or had any riding experience. We had a wonderful time introducing them to the minis, teaching them to groom and handle them and sharing their unbridled joy with their first riding experience. We are very excited to be embarking on this journey with them and are looking forward to continuing and expanding this program over time.

Additionally, Diamond Equine Services continues an ongoing program for children and adults dealing with anxiety, depression, PTSD and personal loss with horsemanship, handling, grooming and care and beginning riding skills.

A new Veterans Program with "Project Hope" began using Equine Assisted Therapy on October 12th. They are providing support for veterans and their spouses through a therapeutic program with horses. Diamond Equine Services is providing the horses any no cost. Their first session included work with five spouses of veterans and was very successful. We look forward to continuing after the Holidays.

Community Service and Horses:

Lessons

We have a small lesson program provided by Melanie Diamond and Lindsay Hassell. Most of our focus at this time is on serving the underserved population of the community. Our lesson program is focused on inclusion in order to provide diverse accessibility to the Oakland community. We are in the process of interviewing other lesson and program providers to broaden the lesson program.

Field Trips

In an effort to provide a horse experience to as many kids as possible, we are creating partnerships with local public schools. We have had 180 plus kids visit Oakland City Stables this fall. Burkhalter School and Carl B. Munck School brought between 30 to 40 K-5 children every other Wednesday. The kids learn about the history of the stables, enjoy riding demos such as barrel racing and dressage and /or jumping, art and nature. Last week we met with 40 first graders from Burkhalter and Carl B Munck. We also enjoyed hosting the Oakland Police Departments' Mounted Patrol Unit for the first time and it was a huge success.

Alameda County Probation Department

Diamond Equine Services is working with Erin Guess from the Probation Department to provide a platform for young men on probation ages 13 to 17 to work off community service hours. They enjoyed coming up on October 13th from 9am to 2pm. When they arrived in the morning, they were very hesitant to be around the horses. By the end of the day, they were laughing, talking, enjoying meeting and learning about them and worked together as a team beautifully.

Working Student Initiative

There are seven working students at this time. They are at the barn on a weekly basis and help with barn chores, turn outs, grooming and riding in exchange for both community service hours and riding time.

Clinics:

Chris Ellsworth was cancelled October 20-21,2018. We hope to reschedule in the spring

Chelsea Sibley, Dressage Trainer will be offering clinics in the future. Dates to be determined.

Project Partnerships:

Adopt a Spot

Creek to Bay Day: September 15th from 10am to 2pm

Volunteers helped with weed abatement and invasive species removal (juniper)

Beautification Day September 22nd, 2018

- Eagle Scouts: Sebastian Morales and his troop worked on a beautification project that was completed on September 22nd. They built four beautiful raised beds in front of the tack store .

Flowers, veggies and herbs will be planted. It was great seeing how well they all worked together.

- We are partnered with Rebuilding Together Oakland and DPR Construction. They finished the removal of juniper roots on the slope adjacent to the stall row, graded the slope, dug holes for fruit trees and installed fence posts and planters. Drought resistant plants (lavender, rosemary) and fruit trees were planted and an ADA compliant 2-rail fence was constructed at the top and bottom of the slope to protect the planters. Work continued on the community meeting room, such as new paint on ceiling and walls, sealed and painted the floor and installed new LED lights. They brought a total 30 of team building volunteers on September 22nd. It was a huge success!
- There has been no progress on the pest work on the barns from the City.

Open House:

Open House/ Community Outreach Day on October 7th, 2018 from 11am to 2pm. There were Pony/ Horse Rides, a Tack Sale and Riding Demonstrations. There was approximately 35 in attendance.

Continued Work:

- Fire Prevention: Ongoing Weed abatement/
- Fire Hydrants were pressure tested again on November 6th, 2018.
- Covered Arena: Lights replaced with LEDs, Rain Gutters were repaired and drainage evaluated.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Diamond
Diamond Equine Services

Consider Certification

The **American Riding Instructors Association (ARIA)**'s certification process evaluates a potential teacher's instructional ability through written and oral tests as well as videos submitted by the candidate. The organization offers certification in fifteen specialties including western pleasure and equitation, dressage, side-saddle, show jumping, hunt seat, and riding to hounds. Tests are available in several levels of competency for each specialty.

The CHA requires prospective teachers to attend a 5-7 day clinic at an approved host facility. Expert clinicians evaluate the applicants as they teach practice lessons, participate in workshops, and take written tests. Students may become certified in a number of different specialties at levels ranging from assistant instructor to clinic instructor.

The **Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)** provides three levels of certification for those who wish to become therapeutic riding instructors. These professionals use horsemanship to provide unique therapies and activities that enrich the lives of children and adults suffering from illnesses, disabilities, or injuries.



★ **DETAILS** ★

We have facilities to serve veterans from San Francisco, Marin County, the East Bay and Sonoma County.

Weekday and weekends available. Please contact Project H.O.P.E. for scheduling options and locations.

All activities are ground based, non-riding and no horse experience is required.

There is no cost to veterans as funding is provided by the non-profit organization Project H.O.P.E.



★ **Confidentiality & Privacy** ★

Project H.O.P.E. respects the privacy of all veterans. We hold in the strictest confidence all information disclosed in the equine therapy process. No information will be released to any person or agency without written consent from the client, except in circumstances averting a crisis.



PROJECT HOPE

Honoring our veteran personnel with equine therapy

★ **CONTACT US** ★

Office

765 Atherton Avenue
Novato, CA 94945

★ **Telephone**

415 897 2904
cell 415 302 2109

★ **Email**

theprojecthope@comcast.net

★ **Web Address**

www.projecthope.center

PROJECT HOPE is a sponsored project of Social Good, a California non-profit corporation exempt from federal tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Information about EAGALA is supplied from www.eagala.org



PROJECT HOPE

Honoring our veteran personnel with equine therapy



Equine Assisted Therapy

A hands on approach for people that are used to action based results.



PTSD

Post Traumatic Stress is a normal set of reactions to a trauma such as war, which could be experienced by almost anyone. Sometimes, it becomes a Disorder (PTSD) with the passage of time when feelings or issues related to the trauma are not dealt with, but are suppressed by the individual. This can result in problems readjusting to community life following the trauma. A delayed stress reaction may surface after many years and include some or all of the following problems:

- anger, irritability and rage
- feeling nervous
- depression
- difficulty trusting others
- feeling guilt over acts committed or witnessed, the failure to prevent certain events, or merely having survived while others did not
- hyper alertness and startle reactions
- feeling grief or sadness
- having thoughts and memories that will not go away
- isolation and alienation from others
- loss of interest in pleasurable activities
- low tolerance to stress
- problems with authority
- problems feeling good about one self
- nightmares
- substance abuse
- trouble sleeping
- anxiety
- paranoia



Equine Assisted Therapy is:

For Everyone. Working with veterans, their families or groups of veterans Equine Assisted Therapy provides powerful opportunities to get to the heart of the issues and lead to improved communication, stronger partnerships, and healthier relationships.

For Any Problem. Whether treating addictions, trauma, social and behavioral disorders, depression or other issues, this therapy can help you find meaningful, lasting solutions.

Professional Therapy. Equine Assisted Therapy involves a team approach of a licensed Mental Health Professional, an experienced Equine Specialist, and Horses - working with you to reach your goals.



PROJECT H.O.P.E.

Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to provide a unique therapeutic environment including equine assisted therapy for our veterans and their families. We provide a place where they can learn and grow socially and emotionally to develop valuable life skills in a natural setting with professional support.



PROJECT H.O.P.E. is part of a network of more than 4,500 Mental Health Professionals and Equine Specialists in 50 countries.

Several equine programs have been working with veterans with great success. Equine Assisted Therapy is learning and experiencing activities with horses. People may begin to see their patterns of behavior and gain valuable insights about themselves. These activities are designed to reflect real life issues associated with anger and other strong emotions, goal setting around making different choices, exploring positive lifestyle changes and allowing individuals to find healthier solutions to life's challenges.