



Town Council Agenda Report

Date: June 11, 2019 Item # 12

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

Subject: DISCUSSION ON FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE EQUESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

From: Douglas Robertson, Town Manager

Submitted by: Douglas Robertson, Town Manager

Budgeted Item: Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Town Manager and staff recommend that the Town Council give direction to eliminate the Equestrian Committee as a Brown Act committee of the Council and provide Town support of the formation of an Equestrian User Group.

BACKGROUND

The Equestrian Committee is a Brown Act committee of the Town Council. Similar to the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Committee, there are five seats with each Council member allowed one appointment. The Equestrian Committee has limited authority to make recommendations on the equestrian features of certain types of developments. Over the years, the Equestrian Committee has struggled to remain effective due to a lack of items for their review and a difficulty in scheduling those items, at times, due to their infrequent meetings. Members of the Equestrian Committee have been interested in expanding their role to offer equestrian programming and events. Such an action would require a code amendment and would allow for a much larger group, with no limit on membership size. The code could allow for review and comment from the new user group, similar to what currently exists, or could cede those responsibilities to the Planning Commission who regularly acts as a quasi-judicial body for other elements of the development code.

ANALYSIS

The Town Manager and staff met with the Equestrian Committee earlier this year to discuss their interest in becoming more active at Horsemen's Center. During those discussions, it became clear a majority of the members were interested in expanding their role in offering programming and events. Staff discussed the possibility of adding these roles, however, they are not typical of a Brown Act committee. These roles would be more appropriate as a user group or club.