

January 16, 2023

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Board
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear MRCA Board Members:

This letter is regarding my interest in representing MRCA, on the Board of the SCPA. My dedication to preserving this bucolic open space for horses and riders in perpetuity is paramount in my mind. Keeping the current number of horses and access for people who want to enjoy a peaceful moment is so important to me. I am filled with gratitude for MRCA's partnership with the SCPA. I want to give back and be a custodian of our treasured site by serving on the SCPA Board.

As a former President and Board member of SCPA, I understand the organization, which will allow me to immediately participate in various procedures, organization guidelines and bylaws. While I was the President of the Board, my responsibilities were: setting the yearly budget with our accountant, gathering agenda items from directors, overseeing meetings, interfacing with the Site Manager, talking with attorneys as well as making sure Board meetings had prepared questions for the attorney to stay on topic and not waste money. The goals accomplished while I was the President: updating the rule book (that was a huge project), meeting with the attorney and finalizing the Trainer Agreement. Staying on budget!!

Most importantly, was to make sure everyone was heard and votes were taken on everything. I wasn't a dictator, my job was to communicate and make sure everyone's ideas were heard and to come up with the best resolution for solving problems. We also followed Robert's Rules.

Lastly, I grew up on Old Ranch Road, the canyon literally raised me. As a young girl I rode horses in the canyon, I climbed the trees and had many (many) adventures in the mountains. Point being, the canyon and the Santa Monica mountains made me who I am today, and they are my heart. Today I live in the house I was raised in, which I also raised my girls in. And, I still ride at the SCPA (I currently lease a horse). This all provides me with a unique understanding of both the equestrian and neighborhood community, and I can bridge the gap between the two.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me regarding any question you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Debbie Tomasi
1768 Old Ranch Rd
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Cell: 310-487-1434

Debbie Tomasi

Los Angeles, CA 90049

(310) 487-1434

email: debtomasi@outlook.com

SUMMARY

Enthusiastic individual with superior skills in working on a team and communicating ideas while working well with others. Previous Board experience over the years has given me organizational skills to accommodate helping to achieve goals. As an administrator on Boards, and in the office, enables me to work well with staff, oversee budgets, and monitor the impact of decisions, rules, and policy on members of the organization. With an education in communications and a passion for art, as well as previous work experience in Advertising and Public Relations in the early on in my career allows for a great perspective. A life learner always looking for the angle and specific actions of projects to benefit the organization limiting unintended consequences.

SKILLS

Understanding an organization both financially and emotionally.

Creating procedures, that increase the value and understanding of the organization

Staying on budget and interfacing with staff and other Board members.

Fundraising and planning programs.

Meeting with others outside the organization to update to give or gain insight to benefit the organization. This may include writing reports, meeting with various attorney's or motivational speakers to inspire the group.

EXPERIENCE

Board Member, Brentwood Garden Club 2018-current

Nominated President 2022(declined)

Program Chair; responsible for interviewing speakers and setting up programs and meeting with team to coordinate speakers for luncheons.

Board Member, President 2012-2016 (President 2016)

Sullivan Canyon Preservation Association, Los Angeles

Accomplished goal of SCPA Rulebook update.

Interface with Site Manager and Employees, and others who helped maintain the site.

Set the agenda, gathering ideas and topics of concern from fellow Board members, overseeing that meetings were productive and making sure to weigh in with Anne Dobkin, the MRCA representative at the time.

Met with Accountant to set the budget and stayed on budget.

Interfaced with attorney's regarding and the Trainer Agreement was an accomplished goal.

Meeting goals of planning programs for the School Kids to come visit the site.

James Yeramian

From: john hecreman.com <john@hecreman.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 11:01 AM
To: James Yeramian
Subject: replacement of Anne Dobkin to SCPA

Good morning,

I just heard that the MRCA is in the process of replacing Anne Dobkin as our representative on the SCPA board, I have lived in Sullivan canyon for 50 years, when we approved the MRCA and the SCPA for the field I was told that the homeowners on Old Ranch Rd. would always have a seat on the board to protect our interests, the ring has become very commercialized and the person who is picked is as important as every to help control this to protect our neighborhood, so I would recommend Debbie Tomasi, she was born and raised here and it is my understanding that Anne Dobkin has been training her to take over the position, and she is not part of the commercial operation of the ring, and that she will represent the homeowners interest.

Thank you,

John Taylor
1840 Old Ranch Rd.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90049

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

January 26, 2023

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Board
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear MRCA Board Members:

I feel that there is a problem with the SCPA Board.

I am a resident of Sullivan Canyon, the president of the SCPOA (Sullivan Canyon Property Owners' Association) and a member on the SCDRB (San Vicente Scenic Corridor Design Review Board).

My concerns are:

- 1) It is my opinion that the SCPA has increasingly changed their Rules to facilitate the growth of commercialization at the site.
- 2) It is my opinion that the president of the SCPA Tanya Stivers has aligned herself with what I would consider to be one of the most prolific commercial trainers at the site, Traci Brooks with Balmoral Farms. Traci never lets anyone keep their personal horse at her facility (let alone one that is not Hunter/Jumper as Tanya rides dressage) yet she lets Tanya keep her horse at 1781 Old Ranch Road (ORR) which I would consider to be a conflict of interest.
- 3) SCPA board member Larry Watts has continued to state that there is nothing the SCPOA can do to stop the increasing commercialization aspect of the SCPA, that it is just the new norm. He has stated that he feels that if we make it less commercial that the trainers will leave and the SCPA won't have enough money to operate.
- 4) It is my opinion that, by allowing the SPCA facility to be, in effect, run by the trainers, the trainers have taken up most of the corrals (even keeping them empty just to tie them up) making it difficult for independent riders to come in. They have caused to be created "feeder facilities" such as Ashley Kaplan's facility at 13160 Riviera Ranch Road (RRR), where future members ride until they're good enough to ride on site (Ashley's place is considered the "lower arena" and the SCPA is the "upper arena". The end result of this is making it extremely exclusive to people who don't have the means to retain the services of a private trainer and the horses they own in order to be able to ride at the SCPA facility.

That said, it concerns me that some of the people running for the lifetime position of the MRCA/SCPA liaison are either pro commercialization and/or tied to the commercial trainers, specifically, in my opinion, Ashley Kaplan. In my opinion, I would consider

Ashley's facility at 13160 RRR a commercial facility. FYI, Ashley doesn't live there, just the grooms. While Traci has her main facility at 1781 ORR (right in the heart of Sullivan Canyon) her clients are also at Ashley's facility at 13160 RRR (see Balmoral sign photos at Ashley's facility below as I zoomed in).



These equine facilities are all located within our residential areas. You can check them out on Google Earth.

I remember when the kids used to take care of their horses and walking them down the canyon. Now they aren't allowed inside of the facilities. Instead, the grooms with their ATVs and walkie-talkies shuttle the horses up and down the street and have them ready for the kids to jump on and take their lesson then leave. The entire aspect of caring for your horse is gone, it has just become an exclusive activity for a kid to do. This is what Larry keeps referring to as the new norm. Well, I don't buy it, that it has to be commercial so that the trainers won't leave, that we need to have the SCPA facility cater to the commercial trainers.

Despite what some SCPA board members have been preaching to the equine community, everyone in our residential community loves the equine aspect of our community and wants to preserve the number of horses currently in the canyon. That is why we chose to live here. This is why we all supported the SCPA when it was founded. As president of the SCPOA, I have never received a complaint about the horses (and yes I get a lot of complaints).

I feel that the MRCA needs to step back and really dig into what is going on with the SCPA Board and how their selection of the MRCA/SCPA liaison will have an impact on this. A fair and balanced board would be the ultimate goal: one that respects the surrounding community; one that is willing to return to the original Rules (before the trainers started having the SCPA board change them in their favor).

I feel that the commercialization of the SCPA facility is all easily solvable if the SCPA Board would implement the following rule changes:

- 1) Add no compete clause within a 500-yard radius. This would eliminate the trainers coming in and buying up property and creating these "feeder facilities".
- 2) Limit number of students per trainer.

- 3) Limit number exercise riders per trainer, as this allows them to have more horses and students.
- 4) Limit assistant trainer days. This will limit trainers who are on the show circuit and not here to train during shows.
- 5) SCPA can limit the number of corrals per trainer in order to free up space for independents to come and ride.

Furthermore, Anne Dobkin attended our SCPOA Board Meetings, not as a voting member of our board, but as the MRCA liaison. I believe that the MRCA made a commitment that our community would always be represented. That said, I feel that any nominee should live in our community and have the final selected person be under the condition that they have to regularly attend our board meetings. This is important to us as this is our only connection to the SCPA.

I know a lot of this isn't within your jurisdiction, but hopefully the new MRCA/SCPA liaison would be able to influence this as well as help implement the rule changes mentioned above. I hope you give the selection process for the MRCA/SCPA liaison position the attention it deserves. Who would have thought that such a minor position would have become so political but yet, here we are.

Please feel free to contact me by my email attomasi@outlook.com or cell at (310) 625-7496 regarding any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Tomasi
SCPOA President
1768 Old Ranch Rd
Los Angeles, CA 90049