

Present: Steve Hartman, Jill Swift, Peter Ireland, Ken Kendig,
Jean Dillingham, Carvel Bass, Sandy Wohlgemuth
Guests: Mima Parra-Szlij, Saundra Mandel (Beilenson's office),
Dick Ginevan, Mark Durham (Corps of Engineers)

Dick Ginevan announced that the City Council was expected to approve monitoring costs for reclaimed water in the wildlife lake. (This occurred and water (reclaimed) was put into lake and Haskell Channel Nov 1.)

Chairman reminded everyone that next year the lake would be drained in the spring and filled in the fall. It may be possible to prove to Regional Water Quality Board and Mosquito Abatement that a year-round lake in 1993 is desirable and possible.

An annual review meeting to evaluate the wildlife lake will be held on Nov 19 with Rec & Parks, the Corps, and Cal Fish & Game. We are invited.

Bill Principe said there is a need for clarification of responsibility for the entire 108 acres of wildlife area...before a plan can proceed.

Ginevan: Though city does have a lease for the southern section, the Colonel and Bob Joe (upper echelon of Corps) in a meeting with Jackie Tatum (Asst mgr, Rec & Parks) said that the Corps will retain operational responsibility for that southern section. However, there is as yet no document to that effect. City told Corps that if it did not want to proceed with the work in the future it should send R & P a letter to that effect and R & P will put in for funds for personnel. It may not get them.

Mima Parra-Szlij (former ecologist with Corps): Corps asked City to take responsibility for southern s. but apparently R & P did not respond. Corps went ahead with development there. Because contracting out was too expensive Corps set up its own nursery and staff, using Hartmut Walter's original plan of basic plant communities. Corps found that Walter's plan was not feasible for area: soil was too dry with water table 20 to 35 feet below the surface. Initial plantings failed. Went to experimental 1 to 3 acre plots with irrigation to obtain base-line information. Budget: \$150,000 to \$200,000/year...mostly labor. Money came from Corps operations budget. CCC: free labor - painting, maintenance

Ginevan: No reclaimed water for southern s. Can't tap off - no pipes available; must retrofit and satisfy Health Dept. x Potable water pipes in place. Cost: \$5000 for 3 acres

Mima: Sycamores slow-growing, need 5-year watering. Too hot for alders.

Steve Hartman: Should be a buffer zone west of Haskell. Ginevan: we want a buffer zone. R & P can request Corps to take portion of sod farm and lease to city and R & P would ask City Council to fund Steve agreed to write up a proposal for a buffer zone.

Discussion re \$2.5 million from Congress. Saundra said there was never any promise of \$500,000, that \$30,000 was in line item for x a "study." Most of the money will go for safety features in recreation lake which were in original plans but not enough money was available. Saundra said the \$2.5 million has not been spent - waiting for cost-sharing agreement. Bill Principe: Beilenson should be aware that all other interests in the Basin have been funded (golf, boating, archery, cricket) and that wildlife has been deprived; future funding should take this into consideration. Saundra: \$30,000 should be available in a month.

Mima: You must decide what kind of plantings you want around the wild-life lake, what kind of birds you want to attract, what habitat. Geese are very easy to provide for: plow, plant, irrigate, mow it down. Can be done in the field west of Haskell. Decide on high priority areas: riparian? circumference of the lake? Then budget for them.

Steve: Suggested using \$30,000 to manage weed problem.

Ginevan: wants a plan for maintenance or he can't accomplish anything. "For example, mowing is no problem for me...if grass is what is wanted we can put in an irrigation system, plant seed. I can do that. We have construction crews available..."
Concerning the lake: the Corps did the design, did all the biological studies and gave contracts. City assisted with their landscape architect

Jill made a motion that this group consider hiring Mima and Suzanne Good to come in with suggestions for immediate implementation of ~~the~~ beginning of specific work. Which plants will be successful and which will not.

Mima: You must decide what is ~~the~~ your intent of for the area. Then we can make recommendations.

Principe: What are the details of the transfer of money from R & P to the Corps? Who got the contracts and how was the money spent. These questions should be answered before biological (botanical) survey is ~~to~~ commenced.

Jill agreed to table her motion.

Meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: November 25th, 10 am, Conference room

Agenda

1. Report on Nov 19th annual review meeting with DFG. Corps, Rec & Parks and Mosquito Abatement District.
2. Reconsideration of motion to employ Mima and Suzanne Good for analysis of vegetation possibilities.
3. Steve Hartman: buffer zone.
4. Letter to Beilenson re: \$30,000.
5. Update on educational program of Topanga-Las Virgenes RCD
6. County Park, Beach and Recreation Act of 1992.