

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
Minutes of May 28, 1996 Meeting

(please note: numbers correspond to Agenda numbers)

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 PM. by Acting Chair, Muriel Kotin.

1. **Self-introductions** were made. Members and guests present:
Muriel Kotin (San Fernando Valley Audubon Society); **Rosemarie White** (Goose Project); **Glenn Bailey**, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains); **Melanie Ingalls** (Ex. Director, Regional Office, National Audubon Society); **Jean Dillingham** (Education Coordinator, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mts.); **James Ward**, (Dept. of Recreation and Parks, City of L.A.); **Peter Ireland** (Coalition to Save the Sepulveda Basin); **Steve Hartman** (Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, California Native Plant Society); **Jill Swift** (San Fernando Valley Group of the Sierra Club).
2. **The Minutes** (Apr. 23, 1996) were approved with one correction (change "witch" to "switch").
3. **Request for Agenda Additions** as follows:
 8. PTA Oaks (Hartman)
 9. Baseball Bird Sanctuary (Kotin)
 10. Roller Drby (Swift)
 11. Balboa Park Trees (Swift)
 12. Dog Park Plantings (Swift)
 13. Marvin Braude June 8 event (Bailey)
 14. City/Tillman Berm Planting (Hartman)
 15. Detachment (SF Valley) from City (Ireland)
 16. L.A. River Project (bridge)

4. Environmental Education Program

Melanie Ingalls presented an update and slide program on the four year program in the Wildlife Areas, emphasizing what the area is and can be. Two training workshops for 60 teachers (Monlux school and the Basin), linking the approach to recycling water, etc., emphasizing a "hands on" approach. The actual day of the student tour, the bus is met by an RCD naturalist; participants break into small groups, are given binoculars, and have opportunities to observe bird behavior, adaptation, habitat, etc. After the tour of the west end of the Wildlife Area students are shown how to test and observe the water quality at the microscope station. Finally, materials are passed out for them to take home and to the classroom for further study.

Jean Dillingham thanked the California Native Plant Society, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, Los Angeles Audubon Society and Melanie Ingalls for outstanding support, recognizing the field trip opportunity and relevant materials as a very important tool. As a result of the teacher workshops the teachers have really prepared the children for the field trip, making it a more meaningful experience. Ms. Dillingham elaborated on the funding pledges for the 1996-1997 programs: \$5,000 from L.A. Audubon Society; \$5,000. from California Native Plant Society; \$1,024 Los Angeles Unified School District ; \$4,000. from the Johnny Mercer Foundation; as well as funds requested from the Ormsby Hill Trust (\$5,000.) and the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (\$3,000.).

It is hoped that the Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership will increase the funding this year. The upgrading of the program will provide 15 additional repeat tours (Jan. 1997); a new post-site training manual. The request of LAURP is for \$25,000. (1996-1997 (previous year it was \$15,000.)

It was moved and seconded that the Wildlife Areas Steering Committee address letters to President Soboroff inviting the City Rec. and Parks Department's financial partnership support for ongoing conservation education programs of at least \$10,000. and that the request be made to as many elected officials as appropriate. Passed with one abstention (White). Melanie Ingalls will coordinate other letters to council district

It was moved and seconded that we support the grant application and program. Passed with one abstention. Glenn Bailey suggested that James Ward recommend to Jim Andervich the department's support.

16. Re vegetation of the Los Angeles River (Bridge Project) Jean Dillingham stated that the RCD had been asked to submit a proposal. Their understanding was that the bank was to be left "as is"; instead the planning was for the upper area. The contractor is still there; states he will put up some money; that they will "rip" the soil (to get water into the soil/better penetration). The reality is: there is still no "ripped soil"; there is debris (although Jean believes that not all the debris is the contractor's). Kathleen Bullard has asked for money to be put into a holding account. The amount is unknown at this time but is considered @ \$30,000-35,000.

There appears to be a policy issue: the Tree People were to be involved.

6. Consortium Funds Monthly Update: no report this month (Sandy Wohlgemuth absent)

9. Baseball/Bird Sanctuary: James Ward is to meet with proposers this week. A draft is being prepared by the proposer. Environmental aspect is unknown. Suggestion has been made for cash or donation to existing wildlife area. Glenn Bailey stated he had flown over the area but is still not clear how much is being proposed. This matter may be discussed at the **June 13th Users' Meeting at the Balboa Recreation Center.**

4. Hummingbird Hill Update: There are still some unknowns. Discussion next month on the June 25 (5 PM at intersection of Burbank and Woodley Aves.) Field Trip. Chairman Kotin felt we should take a good look at the area south of the reserve, probably entering via the tunnel, etc.

8. PTA Oak Planting: Sandy Hill called Steve Hartman re a commemoration for the 100th anniversary of PTA, planting 100 oak trees on north side of the trail. It appears to conflict with the EDAW palette.

It was moved and seconded that we support in concept their generous offer to plant 100 oak trees in the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin Wildlife Area but we need more information. Approved by consensus.

7. **Prop. A "Competitive Grants":** It was felt to be premature to discuss this item until we have the field trip; further, that we recommend staff join us to provide information at that time and then we can make our decision (August, 1996, deadline).

Prop. A2 (County measure): would provide \$270 million (\$100 million to the City of L.A., \$12 million discretionary; Sepulveda Basin and Bikeway s: \$3 million).

Prop. K (City assessment): It was reported that there was only a five day window for writing up projects (which were "taken off the shelf" and therefore it is a rough document which is "in house" only (i.e., not available to public including the Advisory Committee!). Two dates of some consequence: **June 4: City Council** (public may have opportunity to speak at this public meeting and **July 9th, a public hearing.** Both meetings to be held rm. 340 (Council Chambers).

After much discussion it was suggested that individual members the Advisory Committee be encouraged to write/fax a letter to various council members regarding concerns.

10. **Roller Derby:** James Ward reported that nothing more had come in.

11. **Balboa Community Center Trees:** James Ward announced that the Rec. & Parks Commission had approved the King Palm trees; that planning staff wants "statement trees". He will have the planting plan for the project at the next Users' Meeting (June 13).

12. **Dog Park:** The non-natives lining the Los Angeles River portion of the Dog Park have been changed.

13. **June 8th Tour of the Japanese Garden:** Glenn Bailey circulated an invitation from Councilman Braude's office.

14. **Tillman Berm Plantings:** Steve Hartman asked that Gene Greene be invited to discuss the plantings at the next Wildlife Areas Steering Cmte. meeting. He was concerned that they haven't cleaned the areas around the basins; didn't do all the plantings; and in general, it looks very badly.

15. **Detachment (SF Valley from City):** to be on next agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Swift