

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES – JULY 23, 1996**

The meeting was chaired by Jill Swift. Others attending were Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Peter Ireland, Muriel Kotin, James Ward, and Sandy Wohlgemuth. Guests were Sandy Lee of the 31st District PTSA and Dorian Keyser of Santa Susana Mountains Park Association.

Minutes of the June 25, 1996 meeting were approved after corrections. Number 11 should be changed to begin "Some persons spoke in favor of keeping meetings where they are." Delete the word "relocating" with "if relocated." No decision or vote occurred on this item.

Possible Grant for Oak Trees: Dorian Keyser announced that there is about \$326 sitting unused in the treasury of an environmental coalition that celebrated the 25th EarthDay at CSUN and the Basin. They want it used to plant acorns to grow oaks in the Basin. The Consortium/Steering Committee would be interested in planting oak trees but would want discussion as to how to manage any oak grove planting. It was Moved, Seconded and Passed that the Consortium receive with thanks a grant of around \$326 from the SFV Environmental Coalition for oak tree plantings within the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area with the understanding that the funds would be judiciously stewarded for projects that maximize the value of the gift. (The check will be payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society if the coalition makes the grant.)

Consortium Treasury Update was submitted by Sandy Wohlgemuth. \$29,307 remains in the treasury. See handout.

Committee Priorities: Members should check their files for any priority lists to be sure we have met our original priorities.

Field Trip to Site of Two Proposed Baseball Fields East of White Oak: Muriel reported that if the fields are built, it is important the cottonwoods and mulberries be left and that there be appropriate plantings between the ball fields and the L.A. River. Sandy agreed. Peter pointed out that this area was used by Canada geese when planted in corn, that a broad wildlife management plan is needed for the entire Sepulveda Basin. Glenn requested that this committee be kept current on all actions considered or happening in the Basin. James Ward assured us we will be kept posted.

PTSA Oaks Projects: Steve Hartman and Sandy Lee described the PTSA's proposal for an Urban Resources Partnership grant that we discussed at the previous meeting. After some discussion of the best location for the project, it was Moved, Seconded and Passed that the Steering Committee support the 31st District PTSA's grant application for 100 oaks just north of the oak/walnut woodland section of Hummingbird Hill. (1 abstention, the rest in favor.)

Planting Plan for Balboa Community Center: The contractor is about to begin work. The ball fields will be closed while piping goes in. Plantings will include 30 non-native King palms (*Nandina domestica*). Jill asked how we can avoid non-native plants being used in plantings in the Basin in the future.

Letter to R & P Commission re Partnership for Education Programs: Muriel has yet to attend to this.

EDAW Palette and Downsizing: Ted Carr did not attend. Jill read a 7/19/96 letter from Andy Lopez of the COE, indicating that we will be included in planning. Glenn asked how we can improve communication with the COE with timely interchanges.

Hummingbird Hill: Steve and Sandy haven't gotten a report yet from the contractor. Contractor hasn't given R & P the key to the water controller. Steve will call the contractor to get status and determine the maintenance period. James feels the contractors are doing a great job and they are still doing some maintenance.

Revegetation of L.A. River Bridge: Planning is proceeding. Glenn was uncertain as to whether a contract has been signed yet.

Bull Creek Protection Zone: James said there is no such zone; the Lake Balboa plans just don't go all the way to the creek, leaving about 200 feet untouched. James will provide a map for the next meeting.

Arts Park Revival and its Effect on Bull Creek: Great concern was expressed by several committee members.

FOLAR and Arundo: a copy of an article from FOLAR's newsletter was distributed indicating that the COE's procedures for allowing removal of invasive exotic plants by mechanical means are being eased.

Politicians to be at Farmers' Market: Laura Chick and Zev Yaroslavsky will be at the ONE Farmers' Market at 10 a.m. next Sunday to thank the National Charity League for paving their parking.

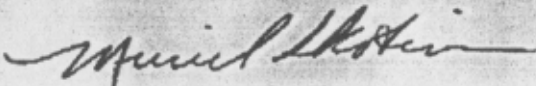
Press Release from Representative Beilenson: How much of the \$3.2 million approved by the House Appropriations Committee will go to the Wildlife Reserve is unknown as yet. Sandy should call Beilenson's office for the committee. R & P and the COE have not discussed these funds which had not previously been expected. It is likely this will enable us to fully fund expansion of the Wildlife Reserve.

Municipal Wildlife Management Plans: Will be discussed at our next meeting. A copy of the article from the Urban Open Space Manager should be sent out with these minutes.

1996 Proposition A: The committee will postpone taking a position until we have seen the new wording. The city's measure (Prop K) will be on the ballot. James will let the committee know what will be funded by this for the Basin at our next meeting.

MTA Park and Ride: Glenn indicated there is a proposal for a new park and ride lot on Victory, east of Balboa and a year-round farm and market from Balboa to Bull Creek. This should be on the next agenda of the Basin Users' Group.

Submitted by,



Muriel S. Kotin, Steering Committee Member