

## ***Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee Meeting Minutes for May 25, 1999***

Attending: Eric Lesser, Sierra Club; Rosemarie White, Canada Goose Project; Glenn Bailey, RCD of Santa Monica Mountains; Steve Hartman, CNPS; James N. Ward, L.A. Rec & Parks; Gene Greene, Sanitation & Japanese Garden; Robert Gutierrez, L.A. Rec & Parks; Andy Lopez, Corps of Eng.; Susan Little, Congressman Sherman's office; Ken Morris, Corps of Eng.; Chad Cecil, Collins/Piña; Patton Stang, Eagle Scout.

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 by acting chair Eric Lesser. Minutes were approved as corrected (regarding coots, the State Agriculture Commission or Dept. of Fish and Game would be responsible party).

Susan Little presented "Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition" to CNPS, Sierra Club, RCD, Goose Project, LA & SFV Audubon, and Folar. She then announced that former congressman Tony Bolen strongly objects to the proposal to use the area west of Bull Creek as a overflow parking lot, and recommends that the City look into expanding parking near the Dept. of Transportation's Park and Ride lot north of railway line along Victory Blvd. Other concerns voiced by the former congressman were to maximize shade trees, move cherry trees to below ridge of mounds (so that they are visible mostly from Victory and Balboa Blvds.), adding public artwork, a children's playground, and perhaps a large amphitheatre.

Glen Bailey recommended that shuttle service be provided to serve outside communities, and to use existing parking outside of the basin such as that available at Birmingham High School. Glen mentioned the historic problem of having the road go through the park, rather than on the perimeter.

There was a lively discussion of having a large amphitheatre in that vicinity. James noted that the low hills were initially made for that purpose, but the constant aircraft noise makes it an undesirable place for an amphitheatre. Even though it could hold thousands of persons, electronic amplification would be necessary, and when jets roar overhead, even amplification would be insufficient. It would also require the proposed "oxbow" to be moved to the south, which has its own problems.

Douglas "Patton" Stang presented information on his proposed bat box project. He met with the Corps of Eng. and they showed him 2 telephone poles near the wildlife area where he could put bat boxes, one box on each pole. 3 more boxes could be put up in the eucalyptus trees west of the north entrance, 2 on poles and 1 on a tree. Also 2 more could be attached to fences along the Tillmann reclamation plant, for a total of 7 boxes, subject to City and Corps. approval. Patton also wants to prepare an informative flyer. The committee members voted to approve the project.

Steve H. volunteered to take care of replacing Rick Parker plant name signs. Eric reported on the successful Christian Olano Eagle Scout project along Hummingbird Hill which included planting and weeding.

Andy Lopez reported on the scoping meeting held on May 12 for the Bull Creek project, and outlined the project planning process. By the second week of July, the initial design will be completed as part of the 60 day preliminary restoration report. Chad Cecil, project manager for the Collins/Peña design firm, presented the preliminary design and noted that the goal was to all the planning for the enhancement to Bielenso Park and the Bull Creek environmental restoration in one phase. There was a full discussion of plan possibilities. Chad noted that he had incorporated Steve's idea for an oxbow which would expand riparian habitat and create an island with a trail, along with Muriel's suggestion for a viewing area on the hill to the northwest of Bull Creek. There will be a 15 day review period for the "Preliminary Restoration Plan" (PRP).

James suggested charging the Oxbow with reclaimed water, in a way that wouldn't charge the upper portion of Bull Creek, and noted that there has been a proposal to further improve Tillman water quality (removing excess nutrients) so that Lake Balboa might stay "reclaimed water." There was a discussion about trails, fences and gates. Steve recommended the following native plant communities as segregated components of the project: Native grassland, riparian woodland, valley oak/sycamore woodland, live oak savannah, and walnut woodland. It was recommended not to apply hydro-seed mixtures, as these haven't appeared to be successful in previous projects in the basin. However, scattering poppy, lupine and fiddleneck seeds might be appropriate.

Steve handed out a draft letter being sent to Bob Kennedy, Assistant Director, Bureau of Street Services (final copy attached), regarding native plantings in the basin in median strips. Gene says that Tillman could provide funding and staff time to improve median strips along Woodley and Burbank, given that they are an eyesore and do not provide a good "first impression" when people visit the Japanese Gardens.

Rosemarie brought up the confusion in Valley Rec & Parks regarding scheduling of activities in the wildlife area and amphitheatre, and James said he would review procedures with his staff and get back to us.

James reported that his staff is very busy. Restrooms are under construction at Hjelte Fields. The Basin is going to have overflow parking for the air show. Downtown is working to get street signs and street name approved. He would like to hang a sign under the Japanese Garden sign (at the entrance road off Woodley) saying "Wildlife Area." This will be coordinated between Rec & Parks, Sanitation, and Japanese Garden. Ellen Oppenheim has been designated as the new general manager of Rec & Parks. Muriel's letter to James asking about signage (discussed at last meeting) is being addressed, as is need for a break in the fence at Woodley near Burbank.

Glen requests that within the Committee, if we can improve communication regarding meetings on Bull Creek plan, it would be more convenient. The committee might want to have an ad hoc meeting before the monthly meeting with the Corps of Eng and Rec & Parks. James says committee should stay involved with Bull Creek project.

minutes by Steve Hartman and Rosemarie White

attachments: Letter to Bob Kennedy, Letter to James Ward (about weeds)