

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

Minutes April 22, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 0710 pm by Chair Muriel Kotin and attended by Cindy Wood, Mark Van Gesel, Rosemarie White, Devon Brown, Glen Bailey, Sandy Wohlgenuth, Steve Hartman, James Ward, Gene Greene, Judith McCurdy, Kathleen Sanchez, Lois Goodman, Sharon Brewer, Melanie Winter, Anne Waisgerber, and Joyce Mac Kinnon. After self introductions, the minutes of the March 25, 2003 meeting were approved.

Public Comment: Judith McCurdy Lake Balboa user stated that fishing was not appropriate at Lake Balboa.

MTA Representatives on Valley Bus Rapid Transit Project: Mark VanGesel reported that the project had been funded and work would begin now. Steve Hartman requested that only native plants be used. Devon Brown, the community relations person gave a report and presented some visual pictures of the stations and the sound walls. The construction should be completed in 27 months or July 2005. Reclaimed water would be used for irrigation. There had been North South traffic studies done in the valley and the 10ft. walls would end 50 feet before a street crossing. Valley Village requested that a non native plant package be used at their station. Rosemarie questioned this statement. Melanie asked how native plants were introduced. Glen questioned the size of the trees, i.e. Liquid Amber and Crepe Myrtle. He also stated that the MTA were not considerate of the people who requested a White Oak Ave. stop. Rosemarie seconded Glen's statement. Steve suggested a buy-in to native plants. This was a golden opportunity to educate people. Melanie stated that there was money out there for such projects. Cindy Wood said another source of money was prosecution money. Muriel added that Encino was named for oak trees. Make beautiful drawing of native plants and present them to the public. Sharon Brewer suggested taking living examples of native plants to meetings. Gene Greene suggested making a video of native plants. Rosemarie suggested that they listen to Steve because they cannot do a canned presentation on natives. Melanie stated that natives reduce storm water drainage and this project is an excellent model for sustainability.

Calif. Department Fish & Game report on Human Wildlife issues at Lake Balboa: Cindy Wood, Fish and Game Warden was introduced to the S.B.W.A.S.C. recommendation to limit the fishing areas at Lake Balboa. and asked if she had suggestions to improve the area. Cindy stated that there are only 3 Game Wardens for all of LA County. Their main focus is to protect habitat, control pollution, prevent losing wild life, and preserving exotic species. She suggested that the only way to enforce and improve the area is to hire a full time person to enforce the rules. Unfortunately no agency has the funding to do this. She stated that she spends ¼ of her time at Lake Balboa and writes ¼ of her tickets there. A fishing license is required for anyone over 16 years. Fishing without a license 1st violation is \$250.00 and with added court costs is approx. \$750.00. The second violation is \$500.00 and the third is \$1000.00. James Ward stated that all the fishing lakes in the city

have the same line and hook problems. Ann Waisgerber, City Ranger asked if Fish and Game could help train Rangers. She also stated that there are only 85 Rangers for 365 City Parks. Judy Mc Clure asked about the barriers of not permitting fishing. The problem is that there is no one to enforce it.

Bull Creek Project: Lois Goodman reported that the study for the 28 acre Bull Creek report will be out in a month. Steve suggested that we should schedule a walk through after the report is out. There will be a 30 day review of the project.

Construction site at Golf Course: James Ward said that they are landscaping the putting greens at Woodley Golf Course.

Spring Time in the Garden: Gene announced that The Japanese Garden is having its event April 24, 2003.

Sunshine Canyon / B.F.I. Project Sandy brought up the enlargement of the dump site and that the company proposed to bulldoze two creeks. Rosemarie added that the mayor is against this plan. There are two wetlands in the area. The mitigation for this project might be used to restore the Chatsworth Nature Preserve.


Conference Re-Enchanting The City II Rosemarie stated this would be held May 17, 2003 at the LA Zoo.

Red Tail Hawk Rescue Cindy reported a successful rescue of a Red Tail Hawk and it had good chances of being returned to the wild.

Water Shed Boot Camp Melanie stated she had attended a two week program at the camp. She will give a report next month.

Our Next Meeting will be in May.

Submitted by,



Joyce Mackinnon

Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee