

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes April 27, 2004

Melanie Winter chaired. Also attending were Members Gene Arias, Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, John Holmes, Muriel Kotin, Joyce MacKinnon, Tom Parsons, and Rosemarie White and Non-voting Members Sharon Brewer, Gene Greene, Lynda Levitan, and Steve Moe. Lynda and Melanie are not getting their minutes or getting them late. The agenda received by those who did get the minutes is last month's, although an agenda was sent to Rec & Parks on time. Minutes of the March 23, 2004 meeting were approved without change.

Public Comment: Sharon is concerned about people harassing the waterfowl and the geese becoming aggressive in response at Lake Balboa. The possibility of signs about nesting season there was discussed until Steve Moe suggested the signs would likely to do more harm than good. Rosemarie suggested actually starting the long-discussed wildlife patrol to teach people to treat wildlife and the environment properly, perhaps involving the Users' Committee. Glenn said the fishing problems should be included. Rosemarie moved that we designate a small subcommittee to meet and decide on the first steps to developing a community corps. The motion passed. Melanie requested that the subcommittee report back monthly. John Holmes volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Gene Greene declined to be on the subcommittee but will be happy to advise it once it gets started.) Glenn is willing to help but his main concern is to get the city to adopt the policies and procedures we already have recommended. He is concerned that city employees such as lifeguards ignore much of what happens. Steve Moe said that his staff are not peace officers and are not authorized to act as such.

Informal update on constructed water treatment wetlands: Glenn spoke recently to Adel Hagekhalil. Sanitation is currently considering only the corn maze area for the proposal. They are doing an internal city review. It will be about 6 months before anything comes back to us.

Homeless: Steve Moe found another encampment (having a swing set) south of Burbank. Most of the homeless are staying close to the river where the city has no jurisdiction or under the Burbank Blvd. bridge where Rec & Parks has no jurisdiction. The ACOE may put in a ranger in about 6 months but the level of authority he will have is unknown. Muriel asked about a recent fire south of Burbank. Steve M said it was east of Haskell Creek near the Sanitation outflow ROW. Lynda will talk to the Army Corps of Engineers and to James Ward. She thinks R&P has done an outstanding job under the circumstances. We should let her know of any problems we encounter. Gene Arias sees the problems of prior to recent sweeps returning, with about 25 people sleeping under the bridge. He is starting to see homeless west of Woodley near the model airplane field, as well as sexual activity and hunting and plant picking in the Wildlife Area (WA) north of Burbank. He contacts the rangers or police as appropriate. He is keeping a log and will keep Lynda updated. Lynda will push harder

for the police to control the vice problem.

Communication Regarding Basin Events: Muriel complained about large events and lack of communications about relevant events. (1) Birdwatchers had problems on 4/13 getting in to cleanup because of a car show. Steve Moe read from the most recent schedule he had. There will be large events on first Sunday of May and in early June. Glenn suggested the council offices should not wave fees for these events. Steve Moe suggested the city construct a facility for events on one of the sod fields. (There were no objections expressed to this idea.) The committee feels it may need to go to the Rec & Parks Commission. (2) There was no communication to the committee from the city about a recent filming in Woodley Park and the Tillman plant. Muriel had 60 children coming to the WA for a field trip the same day and did not learn of the filming until getting an e-mail from a citizen the evening before.

Melanie would like to request Rec & Parks to e-mail the schedule to us the day before these meetings or that the city post them on a website. Consideration should be given to regularly scheduled events. The city could post our regularly-scheduled events. Melanie will e-mail us how to arrange this. Louie Loomis might be able to get our events on the event calendar. Persian New Year will be in early June, but exemplifying the need for written schedules, tonight's secretary did not get the dates of that event. Melanie will ask Kevin Regan to get the schedules e-mailed to us. Committee members E-mail our scheduled events for the next 12 months to Melanie. Lynda will be willing to help if that doesn't work. [5/13/04: Louie Loomis said the large June Persian Festival referred to above has been cancelled. He also agreed to e-mail me the schedule whenever it is updated but balked at doing so for the entire committee. So I will forward it when I receive it. MSK]

Glenn wants to make an ongoing list of what we request, such as restricting fishing, to figure out what to do about the large events and communication. Committee members should e-mail him their lists of these action items and he will compile them and send a copy to Lynda.

Recreation and Parks: Steve Moe said that a Bull Creek Project Dedication is tentatively scheduled for May 27 at 10am. The schedule he read to us is a month old. He thinks it likely the city could post the schedule on the website.

Japanese Garden: Gene Greene reported Springtime in the Garden went well. There will be an anniversary event May 15 at 3:00. Call Gene's office 818.756-5000 or 778-4134 to arrange to be on the entry list if we want to attend.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (SFVAS): Muriel reported that there were 27 volunteers at the April 13 cleanup despite intermittent light rain and at least one person being

deterred from getting to the WA by the car show blocking access. They were unable to clean all of the trash in Haskell Creek. Bridges Academy hopefully has finished the job. Steve Moe said the school had cancelled their cleanup. SFVAS has only one more school field trip scheduled for this school year (May 18).

Canada Goose Project: Gene Arias said he is finding increasing behavior problems in the WA. The little vehicle is still not working. If the city has problems getting it serviced, Lynda can contact Galpin Motors to arrange it.

California Native Plant Society: Steve Hartman said that Pat Harris, the temporary treasurer of LA Audubon (LAAS) asks if we want LAAS to continue to manage our Consortium funds or change to SFVAS and also whether we want to move it to their mutual fund. There was little interest in going to a mutual fund. [Muriel will see if SFVAS would be willing.] Bill Neill has been spraying weeds. There is yellow star thistle near the LAR that ACOE might mow. Steve H & Steve M. will contact the ACOE on this. Hummingbird Hill looks much better since the cleanup.

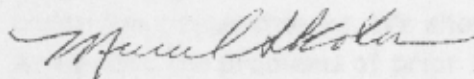
Sierra Club: Rosemarie reported that she met with John Muckrie, the new General Manager of R&P regarding the conference she is planning for the fall. He might be willing to visit this committee.

The River Project (TRP): Melanie Winter informed us that her computer was stolen, so she is struggling to re-create much crucial work she lost. There was a big dedication of the Valleyheart Greenway in Studio City recently. TRP will be marking storm drain openings on Saturday with "no dumping" signs. A subcommittee working on proposed improvements to the city landscaping ordinance to make it greener has completed their proposal.

Tree People: Tom Persons should be notified of any planting needs in connection with the recent wildfires. His new home tel. is 310.412-4986.

Southwestern Herpetologists Society: John Holmes will present plans for herpetology study of the Sepulveda Basin at our next meeting.

Submitted by



Muriel S. Kotin, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee