

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes — November 23, 2004**

Glenn Bailey chaired. Also attending were voting members John Holmes, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Rosemarie White and Melanie Winter, along with guests and non-voting members Sharon Brewer, Gene Greene, Joyce MacKinnon, Paul O'Connor, Dan Preece, Kristin Sabo (ksabo@wildwildwest.org), Anne Waisgerber, and James Ward. The meeting began with self introductions. Glenn indicated he has received letters of appointments of representatives from California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and San Fernando Valley Audubon (SFVAS). Muriel is to look for one received earlier from Southwestern Herpetology Society which she may have lost. Steve Hartman announced that Snowdy Dodson will be the CNPS alternate.

Minutes of 10/26/04 Meeting: Page 2 "Status of Gene Arias..." The first sentence should be changed from "Gene A explained" to "Gene A said." Rosemarie requested a clarification of the second sentence to indicate that the board of directors of the Canada Goose Project no longer wants Gene A. to represent them.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer requested signs to not feed the birds or animals with the reasons for not doing it be placed at the Wildlife Lake and Lake Balboa. Discussion followed. Rec & Parks will put up some signs.

The new General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri will attend a December meeting if we have one. Rosemarie will contact his office.

Proposed Transfer of Park Rangers to General Services: Senior Park Ranger Anne Waisgerber appearing as a private citizen and Griffith Park volunteer Kristin Sabo. Kristin wants dedicated parks personnel as rangers which are not clearly provided for in the new plan. General Services Department (GS) has no public oversight, even though its employees may use deadly force. There would be loss of services. Rangers acting as naturalists should be able to continue peace officer functions in non-deadly situations. Rangers need to be paid commensurate with their education and training, otherwise there is a retention problem. The Public Safety Committee has not yet taken up the issue. Afterwards it goes to City Council.

Anne said that General Services is not taking all the rangers, even experienced supervisors like Tom Cotter. Those who stay behind in Recreation and Parks Department (R&P) will not be allowed to keep peace officer status. The rangers want to retain the park ranger look rather than take the blue uniform of GS. There is great concern that comments and suggestions from the rangers and public are not being heard. James thinks the situation is still very dynamic. Anne said that's because of outcry from the public and community councils.

Rosemarie thinks what Tom LaBonge's approach to have separate rangers in the regional parks is important. She suggests we adopt the position of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council and be sure that our agencies support this.

*** It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee, advisory to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, supports the development and implementation of a Park Ranger deployment system whereby each of the City's largest regional parks will have dedicated coverage, as appropriate, in the recreational, environmental, and security areas. ***

Implementing Committee Position Supporting Restrictions of Fishing at Lake

Balboa: We passed a motion 3/25/03 that the City establish a specific area around Lake Balboa where fishing would be allowed and that a pilot educational program be implemented by agencies and the community. James said that about 1/3 of the lake has been labeled as "no fishing." There are some new signs. The city is primarily trying to educate people about fishing line and hooks and picking up fishing line and hooks. Steve Moe's aquatic staff will comment to people who are misbehaving. The city is not going to further restrict fishing on the lake. The Staff at Balboa Recreation Center would be willing to work with us on any flyers we wish to develop. The Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game has not given any fishing lessons there for years since the lake is no longer stocked. This committee could develop signage and flyers, with collaboration from Rec & Parks, perhaps including kids Ranger Anne works with.

Update on Firebreaks: The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) phoned James. Carvel Bass is working with the city fire department. ACOE is also working with Fish and Game on what might be done. Any actions being considered will be brought to this committee before implementation. Carvel is the key contact on this matter. We probably will get a presentation at the next meeting.

*** Moved, Seconded and unanimously Passed that the committee communicate to ACOE, R&P, other city departments and representatives, and US Fish and Wildlife Service that we would not like any agency to arbitrarily negatively impact the natural qualities of the area without an Environmental Assessment and the full participation of this committee, and requesting to participate in any walk-through.

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*** Glenn will send a letter after e-mailing committee members to check on the wording.

Mailing list update: It was requested that Snowdy Dodson, Dexter Kelly, Dan Preece and Hal Sullivan be added to the mailing list. Some names were suggested for removal: Mike Aubrey, Lois Goodman, Sarah Stone, and Rebecca Barkin.

Bull Creek Project: James said construction may start next month, starting in the overflow parking area. Benches around L. Balboa will be replaced on new concrete pads and a driveway to a future restroom built. The restoration of the creek has not seemed to be proceeding since Lois Goodman retired. James will try to get the name and phone number of her replacement. We should put ACOE's Carvel Bass and Katie Parks on our mailing lists. (They are already. MSK)

Location of these Meetings: We may move to the Sepulveda Garden Center when it opens, which hopefully will be very soon. Maybe February 2005's meeting will be there. We should look at the building once it opens to evaluate its appropriateness.

Access to these Meetings during Flood Closures: James proposed we cancel the meeting if the basin is closed. We can phone R & P and they can phone us. (KFWB announces if it's closed.)

Establishment of Wildlife Area / Park Volunteer Representative as a Voting Position: Muriel withdrew this suggestion after discussion of the ramifications. Volunteers are welcome to attend as Sharon does.

Consideration of need for Committee Standing Rules: This item will be discussed later.

Reports: Glenn introduced Dan Preece, the new District Manager of The Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mts. The River Project will have 100 kids on the LA River from Balboa to the busway Monday. James said there will be a movie shoot off of Woodley with a car tumbled into corn maze next week. Gene G reported the electric cart is fixed.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie pointed out the general plan says no feeding of the birds. She feels that is very important because of a growing resident flock of geese which causes a public problem.

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Southwestern Herpetology Society: John Holmes introduced Paul O'Connor who presented a Draft Proposal for a Survey of Reptiles and Amphibians in Sepulveda Basin. The committee is favorably inclined and looks forward to getting the data.

Consortium: The Consortium met. *** It was moved, seconded and passed 4-0 that the consortium's funds should be transferred to San Fernando Valley Audubon Society from Los Angeles Audubon Society to act as custodian of those funds. ***

Next Steering Committee Meeting will be Jan 25, 2005.

Submitted by

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