

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

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Dexter Kelly chaired. Also attending were voting members Glenn Bailey, Snowdy Dodson, Sharon Ford, Muriel Kotin, and Rosemarie White; non-voting members, alternates and guests Carvel Bass, Sharon Brewer, Laurie Cohn, David Honda, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, Daryl DeMos, Bob Munsey, and Abel Perez.

After introductions, minutes of the November 2006 meeting were accepted as sent. The minutes of the January 2007 meeting were accepted with the change to the last paragraph of the first page: add to "Sharon Ford said" that "she had heard that" TreePeople....

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer spoke on continuing problems with dogs at Lake Balboa, interface between people and birds, model boats being used to deliberately chase birds.

San Fernando Valley Fair: David Honda said the fair has received restrictions from the city, such as shutting down at 7pm, no loud entertainment after 6pm, no impedence to park uses including the Japanese Garden, Wildlife Reserve, Model Airplane Field, and free tickets for low income people. The city has asked them to go back to Hansen Dam, but they have already printed materials saying Woodley Park. They feel they cannot return to Hansen Dam. Their board may decide to cancel the fair altogether at their meeting tomorrow. He thanked the committee for their courtesy.

Public Comment, Continued: Laurie Cohn and Daryl DeMos from Save Studio City Golf and Tennis and the Studio City Residents Assn. feel the 16-acre Studio City Golf and Tennis property should be saved to tie in to the LAR Revitalization Plan, perhaps as a water quality facility.

Wildlife Issues at Lake Balboa: Bob Munsey has not heard back from the Isaak Walton League. He brought some issues of their publication, including one with an article on a city teaching fishing through a CA Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) program in coordination with a local non-profit organization. Perhaps the fly fishing organization that gives some lessons at Lake Balboa could participate in such a program at L. Balboa. Sharon and Bob think there is a need to separate the

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model boats from the birds, especially where people feed the birds. Abel said R&P doesn't have the resources to do anything about this. Glenn suggested that the lifeguards act as the department's eyes and ears for such problems, that when the lifeguards can't handle a situation they phone the public safety department. Glenn suggested that the lifeguards seem to have time free that they might use to reduce the problems at L. Balboa, some involving wildlife, some involving public safety. He suggested an ad hoc committee of R&P, Public Safety Office, DFG, non-governmental organizations (NGO's) like Audubon.

Snowdy commented that Lake Balboa is suffering from pressures of the city being park poor. She would like to see fishing eliminated. Bob would like to see an organizational chart and job descriptions. Abel commented that if a park employee sees something illegal happening, that does not fall in their purview but they do phone the public safety office. Abel suggested that we invite the lifeguards and safety office representatives to a committee meeting.

Muriel said fishing is in the general plan for L. Balboa. Rosemarie said times have changed and suggested we invite Jon Kirk Mukri to this meeting to discuss problems we are having. The committee thought meeting with him would be a good idea. We should invite a lifeguard representative and Office of Public Safety (OPS) representative to an earlier meeting, hopefully the next one. Glenn suggested we send these people a list of what we want to discuss; he'll send an e-mail with initial ideas to the committee for their input.

LA River Master Plan and Proposition 84 Ideas: This should be on next month's agenda when Melanie Winter won't be at a conflicting meeting on the LAR. Carvel said the LAR Revitalization meetings are the places to make suggestions. The ACOE is interested in ideas for the Sepulveda Basin.

Designation of a New Rotating Chair: It was moved to rotate by alphabetical name of organization, Calif. Native Plant Society, Canada Goose Project, Los Angeles Audubon, Resource Conservation District, River Project, San Fernando Valley Audubon, Sierra Club, Southwest Herpetologists. Passed unanimously. The next chair will be the Resource Conservation District, Glenn Bailey. He will chair through July.

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SFV Fair and Other Events: Glenn will attend the Valley Fair board meeting tomorrow. He feels public comment is crucial in instances of huge events being considered for the Basin, that there needs to be a process involving representatives from the various organizations including the Japanese Garden.

Abel will bring a calendar of events next month. He'll try to get it e-mailed to us sooner. There will be a Persian and Israeli Festival.

US Army Corps of Engineers: Carvel pointed out that the 405-101 interchange planning that threatens the Wildlife Reserve hasn't been mentioned in the recent flap about widening the northbound 101. He met with Bill Neill and Melanie Winter about the area along the LAR from the bus bridge east to Balboa Blvd. The Corps is looking at removing some of the exotic palm trees that were killed by girdling. Carvel is writing an EA on trimming some of the vegetation to increase water capacity primarily and also for environmental purposes in the same area. Carvel showed four line drawings of the wildlife lake from around when the wildlife lake was built. He would like to know how to get them copied.

He reminded the committee that March 19 is deadline on comments on LAR Revitalization.

Fire Department Road: Lynda is waiting for a letter from the fire captain. She wants any fire road to be done right if it is to be done, and she would look for funding. It can't be done between March 15 and the end of vireo nesting season.

LA Dept. of Recreation and Parks: Abel said the LAR Revitalization planning between Balboa and White Oak is in the planning stage. They are running into a problem with the design of the entrance to the new sports center west of Balboa Blvd. on the sod field, and need to locate the entrance farther from the national guard facility.

The young pepper trees along the LAR will be removed. The magnolia tree in the WA will stay. Persian New Year will be at Lake Balboa, April 1. A portion of Lake Balboa Park will be closed that day.

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City Council District 6: Lynda is planning a Deaf Festival in Woodley 1 in October and a Senior Health Fair at the Japanese Garden in September.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel will e-mail a flyer to the committee members for the Wildlife Reserve cleanup SFVAS will sponsor on April 14, the 2nd Saturday.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie reported that the geese are migrating now. There were up to 200 at Chatsworth Nature Preserve this winter. At L. Balboa she was startled recently at the number of people feeding the birds. She has enlisted a young couple who were feeding the birds as a member of the Goose Project. There is a very messy area around L. Balboa where bird excrement is causing a safety problem. She invited our organizations to help her at her table at the Garden Center Fair in May and will e-mail info.

Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mts.: Glenn reported the RCD has moved to Peter Strauss Ranch. The new phone is 818.597-8627. The mailing address is P.O. Box 638, Agoura Hills, CA 91376.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, Member

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