

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
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Sharon Ford chaired the meeting which was attended by other voting members Glenn Bailey, Snowdy Dodson, Dexter Kelley, Muriel Kotin, and Rosemarie White; and non-voting members, alternates and guests Ranger Pat Aceves, Patrick Aubuchan, Sharon Brewer, Deanie Kennedy, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, Robert Munsey, Michelle Nosco, Katie Parks, Abel Perez, Michael Tou, and Roy Wells.

Minutes of the August 28, 2007 meeting were approved after correcting the spelling of Kosinski (of Caltrans) in the last paragraph (p. 3) and changing the 2nd sentence under public comment (p. 1) to begin "She wants the committee to attempt again to restrict the area where fishing is allowed..."

Congressman Brad Sherman's Office: Michael Tou reported that yesterday the Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act which the president has threatened to veto; fortunately it is veto proof. This bill authorizes \$25M for the LA River. Perhaps some 1/3 of this will come to the SFV. Glenn asked for any insight Michael may have on the 405-101 interchange: no change to his knowledge.

Public Comment: Regarding a Park Advisory Board (PAB) for Lake Balboa Park (see 4/24/07 minutes), Sharon Brewer asked the committee to send a letter expressing our stance to Ron Berkowitz.

Michelle Nosco would like to present a 5-10 minute slide show on her Arts for Earth project at our next meeting.

Parking on Woodley Ave: Abel said No Parking signs are going to go up on both sides of Woodley Ave. Muriel indicated she would prefer to plant trees instead. Abel said big rigs parking along Woodley and in its median have been knocking down trees, changing their oil and dumping used oil into the Wildlife Reserve. Joyce said the WVN/Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council strongly supports No Parking signs. Roy from Arts for Earth mentioned a weight limit on vehicles would result in greater fines for big rigs parking on Woodley. (See below.)



Park Rangers: Ranger Pat Aceves said they have been removing homeless encampments and individuals over and over, making considerable progress.

He brought in signs for our review before they are posted. For the various viewing areas, green Please NO wading, swimming, private boats or any floatable objects. No Fishing will be on the big entryway blue and white signs, for which they are waiting for accurate municipal code information. Bilingual red and white sign: CAUTION Please do not enter wetlands habitat/lake. Swimming or wading is Prohibited (in English and Spanish.) Pat's e-mail is pat.aceves@lacity.org. In white and red: PARA SU PROTECCION This area is patrolled by undercover officials of the LAPD... (in English and Spanish). Abel will advise us when the signs are ready to go up.

Chief Torres has asked Pat to look into remedying that we have no official handicapped access anywhere in LA city parks. Joyce suggested L Balboa or Bull Creek. They are thinking Griffith Park and the Wildlife Reserve. They are looking for help. [Muriel should phone him.]

At Glenn's request Ranger Pat will ask Chief Ranger Torres about the Wildlife Way street signs.

Update on Bull Creek Restoration Project: Nedenia (Denie) Kennedy and Katie Parks. The contract will be awarded at the end of week. Happily all optional items are included. The project should be complete within 16 months. Contractor: CW Crosser. The ACOE project manager will be Ed Louie. Katie Parks should be our main ACOE contact however. Steve Moe will be the city's main contact for us and has the final plans which he is reviewing.

No Parking on Woodley: Lynda said homeless RV's are parking on Woodley and big rigs are running over trees on the sides of Woodley and the median. A weight limit on Woodley cannot be enforced because it is a major thoroughfare. Lynda is working to get No Parking or No Overnight Parking signs, but it involves several departments. They're also working on a barrier at the curve where vehicles keep sailing through the fence into the WR.

It was **moved and passed** unanimously that this committee send a letter complaining of the truck and transient parking on Woodley Avenue from Burbank to the Orange Line to Lynda Levitan for Tony Cardenas. Muriel is to e-mail a draft letter to the committee for Sharon Ford to send in after we agree on wording.

Moved and passed that this committee have a booth at the Senior Health Fair on 10/13. Sharon will staff the booth, others will help.

Update on Proposed Memorial to Cesar Chavez: Abel will probably move the proposed location north to the picnic area near the flight field entrance.

October tour of the reserve on 10/23/07: Meet 4:00 sharp at amphitheater. Invite rangers. Rain cancels. Bring brown bag supper.

Recreation and Parks Report: Abel does not know when the L Balboa playground will open. Muriel asked about a recent incident where she encountered an older man named Clifford setting up a large rectangular area north of the Reserve parking with specially low trimmed grass, apparently for lawn bowling. Clifford claimed to have permission from James Ward (who now heads the golf section and has nothing to do with the Wildlife Reserve any more).

California Native Plant Society: Snowdy announced that the native plant sale will be held October 6 & 7, 10am-4pm.

Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mtns.: Glenn asked Muriel to e-mail the committee the training schedule for SBEEP.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society: Muriel announced October 13 will be the first family walk of the season. These will continue on second Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. through March. The Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP) begins in late October.

Sierra Club: Sharon Ford would like to agendize for next month a Spring Festival similar to last year's Fall Festival.

The meeting was adjourned to a brief meeting of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Consortium.

Submitted by

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