

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting July 27, 2021 — Approved Minutes

The meeting was by Zoom and called to order at 6:33PM by Chair Nurit Katz. The meeting was recorded (with brief hiccups due to internet interruptions). Quorum established. Voting members: Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Muriel Kotin, Nurit Katz, George Waddell, Melanie Winter. Non-voting members Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee, Maria Gomez (RAP). Non-voting alternates and guests: Anne Abramson, Shelly Backlar, Tessa Charnofsky, Richard and Marianne Davis, Kira Durbin, Barb Heidemann, Marilyn Brody French, Alex Garay, Jonah Glickman, Park Ranger Jerry Haro, Jan Kidwell, Antoine Kunsch, Park Ranger Mauck Bill Neil, Mark Osokow, Richard Rachman, Clark Stevens.

Meeting recording: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vLV3R9IYsh5538Z3h0eDVhJ-qQClypBO/view?usp=sharing>

Minutes of the meeting May 25, 2021 were approved without change.

Governmental Agency Reports:

- Tessa Charnofsky for County Supervisor Kuehl: County Public Works will hold a virtual meeting on Los Angeles River (LAR) Headwaters in Canoga Park on August 18 at 6PM to discuss a plan for restoration. Community input is sought.
- Jonah Glickman for CD-6: Update. Sepulveda Basin (SB) is a major concern. RAP has addressed encampments around WR (Wildlife Reserve) and Apollo Airfield. They're bringing people indoors. 30 people accepted housing in the last 6 weeks, probably over 100 since Project Roomkey began. They're now addressing the LAR between the golf courses and Bull Creek. There are only 12 persons unhoused in SB now. Many agencies involved. There was a recent, small fire north of Bull Creek restoration that is being investigated. Angel is still next to the WR in Woodley Park. Jonah will follow up with LAHSA and requested Pat to send him Angel's exact location, as LAHSA thought they got everyone in SBWR. Trash in Encino Creek between Hayvenhurst and the LAR — is a cleanup possible? Jonah will contact Bureau of Sanitation.
- Maria Gomez for RAP, attending for Cesar Lomeli: Trees have been assessed and marked for a contractor to remove. It was unclear how recent her information is and whether a contractor is about to start cutting. We need to contact Steve Dunlap for follow up. Maria will put the request for more ranger patrols on her agenda for tomorrow's management meeting. There have been several management changes. Robert Buenrostro has been replaced by Brian Yamasaki as Acting Maintenance Supervisor, Therman Calloway has retired and has been replaced by Wayne Neal. (This follows Paola Jaramillo being replaced by Cesar Lomeli.)
- Will there be permanent structures for Olympics? Jonah has contacted LA28 and is asking their availability to attend one of these meetings. Nurit will check also. Pat met with them last week but has little to report. All 3 venues for the Olympics are in the north part of SB. The organizers are probably not ready to engage with the community yet.

Walkthrough June 22: Muriel summarized the walkthrough that was east of Haskell Creek.

- Destroyed bench at outlet from lake: Royce Wince whose family installed the original as a memorial is interested in providing a replacement. — Nurit will reach out to the family.
- Path on east and north sides of lake: Glenn is concerned about the consequences of opening a path on the east and north and emphasized that people should be kept out of the riparian zone. Mark is

working on a conceptual design that considers breeding birds, etc. George wants installation of signs or other indicators to show people where they should walk and not.

- Lake is undercutting concrete of Viewing Area #3 (flood monument).
- Discussion of ideas from walkthrough that will be discussed at the priority committee 8/9, including planned pathways and habitat in the East Field.

Grants:

- Marianne and Richard Davis, SFVAS: Presentation discussed “Birdability,” making birding more accessible for people with challenges.
 - References for Birdability: www.guidebycell.com. Outdoor Creations (bench provider). Darryl Ford, RAP. Ray Bloom, NPS Special Needs Coordinator. Birdability coordinator Freya McGregor. Hope to develop 2 training modules to make SBWR more accessible, one for naturalists and one for birders.
 - SBWR benches are too far apart for many people. There should be 1 bench every 300 – 500 ft. They suggest 10 benches, 4 on west side of lake and 6 on east.
 - Supervisor Kuehl’s office awarded discretionary funds for \$11,500 for QR info signs.
 - Need group to finalize and develop content for the signs. Minimal infrastructure for signs. Content can be easily improved after the fact. \$3K subscription for the QR.
 - Nurit will send email requesting volunteers to work on specific content areas.
- They have other grants applied for that they haven’t heard about yet. RAP has a grant process for major grants, \$50K - \$1M. Oct due date. Shelly offered to help write grant.
- Resource Conservation Dist of the Sta. Monica Mts. (RCD-SMM), Clark Stevens and Antoine Kunsch. Marilyn Brody French (who attended) is their new Education Coordinator.
- Cal Firesafe Council awarded RCD a federal grant for where high wildfire risk overlaps socially vulnerable communities. Possibly a chance to work with the UCLA practicum — students researching the background useful for conceptual master plans. This an upland, almost flat landscape providing more accessibility than most wildlands. Would the committee like the students to document conceptual alternatives for a master plan? How do we increase habitat while reducing flammability? Budget is at least \$50K. Entire task is \$150K, but they hope to spend some of that elsewhere. Emphasis on the area running east from the lake.
- SBWASC doesn’t speak for LA City or ACOE. It is just advisory to city. The consensus was that the committee would very much like to see the study which will result in master plan concept alternatives and recommendations.

Member Reports:

Sierra Club: reopening is gradual and Zoom meetings remain an option.

Encino NC: National Lands Appreciation Day 9/25 – a cleanup planned for South Reserve with ACOE.

Lake Balboa NC voted to support FoLAR’s June cleanups with a \$1K grant on 5/29.

Redistricting Process is underway (Glenn), meetings through September. It is unclear what City Council district will include the Basin.

CNPS is making great progress along the creek. 540 weeding hours on Saturdays so far this year. A good Samaritan rescued a duck on the freeway and brought to the Wildlife Lake. They wish RAP could mow the West Field for weed control. People have been seen creating a raven sculpture in the WR.

There was no Public Comment.

Adjourned at 8:30PM. Chat from the meeting follows.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin

San Fernando Valley Audubon's Representative to the SBWASC

From NURIT KATZ : https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmWJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:34:10 From marilyn brody french : hi all - marilyn here. new education coordinator at the RCD

18:34:30 From NURIT KATZ : Thank you Marilyn!

18:38:00 From NURIT KATZ : August 18th, 6pm, Virtual

18:47:53 From Bill Neill : Angel is camped near northwest corner of west field.

18:48:34 From Jonah Glickman CD6 : Jonah.glickman@lacity.org

19:01:33 From Pat Bates Encino NC : I met with LA 28 last week

19:04:49 From Pat Bates Encino NC : <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-0989>

19:05:04 From NURIT KATZ : Thank you Pat!

19:06:55 From theresa brady : can someone post the minutes from the walkthrough here? i searched my email for them and they dont come up

19:07:57 From NURIT KATZ : I'll forward them to you Terrie

19:08:25 From theresa brady : ok thx

19:09:28 From R. Doxsee, LBNC : I didn't receive the walkthrough minutes.

19:09:55 From Bill Neill : Nor I.

19:21:24 From Richard Rachman (He/Him/His) : Hi! Quick question. Is this in regards to the north social path, or the east social path?

19:21:39 From NURIT KATZ : east and north

19:21:52 From NURIT KATZ : mainly east

01:07:52 George Waddell CNPS: If east side is to be riparian then it prob needs to be regraded since the ground is rather dry even fairly near the lake.

01:23:39 Glenn Bailey: The primary Council File associated with the 2028 Olympic Games is 15-0989 however there are many subfiles (S1 on up...). Here is the link to 15-0989: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-0989>

01:30:59 Shelly Backlar: I'm willing to help you write this grant if you decide to pursue it.

01:47:41 Shelly Backlar: We can use these grant funds and projects to leverage other funding, especially with the Measure A grant opportunity.

01:55:03 Antoine Kunsch - Santa Monica Mountains RCD: I can take note of questions and try to answer

02:09:51 marilyn brody french: thank you all :)