

**Friends of Lake Balboa  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
City of Los Angeles**

**Minutes of May 28, 2009 Meeting  
Valley Region Headquarters, 6335 Woodley Avenue**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Glenn Bailey. In attendance were: Anne Abramson, Patrick Aubuchon, Glenn Bailey, Jack Baird, Bonnie Baron, Jeff Barton, Kerri Barton, Leonard Beder, Renie Beder, Mary Bingham (Citywide Aquatics), Sharon Brewer, Dale Gefre, Lorraine Gimlin, Richard Godino (Citywide Aquatics), Tim Johnson (Recreation and Parks), Steve Leffert, Martin Light, Stanley Marcus, Ron Morita, Allen Nelson, Rick Pederson, Michael Peratis, Linda Pruett, Evelyn Rabuchin, Mike Shanto, Maria St. Hilaire, Ginger Vallery, Georgia Yamamura, and Frances Zamir.
2. The minutes from the March 26, 2009 meeting were reviewed and no corrections were necessary. It was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.
3. Principal Recreation Supervisor Mary Bingham introduced herself, Aquatic Director Richard Godino and Aquatic Facility Manager Mike Shanto. Richard said the primary duty of the Aquatics Division is the safety of the patrons at the lake and the surrounding area. This is done by truck, boat and walking patrols. The truck patrol and boat patrols are done every three hours and the foot patrol is done once a day. They will patrol the Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project to the west, but it is not specifically their jurisdiction. The Aquatics Division is responsible for rescues and for rendering medical aid. They also try to answer questions about the park. They try to enforce the rules, but they can only ask the offender to comply. If the offender does not comply, they refer the matter to LAPD or other departments. Their other duties include maintenance and cleaning of equipment and docks. They try to pick up trash around the docks and some large items in the lake, but that is principally the duty of Recreation and Parks (RAP).
4. Richard said that the staff on weekdays consists of two lifeguards and a supervisor. On weekends and holidays the staff consists of four lifeguards, a supervisor, two boat attendants and a clerk. For special events more personnel is scheduled. Their hours are 9:00 am to sunset. Aquatics cannot be at the park earlier. The hours are already budgeted. Every year Aquatics requests increases for hours and staff. If there are any issues that need to be addressed before Aquatics is at the park, Tim said we can call the main office at (818)756-8190.
5. In April, Aquatics' revenue for Lake Balboa was \$9,000 and expenses were \$4,000 (which includes direct pedal boat salaries). At the beginning of the fiscal year (July 2008), the account was \$18,000. Revenue to date is \$43,000, labor is \$42,000, boat repair is \$3,000 and dock repairs are \$2,300. The ending balance is \$13,000. Aquatics would like to purchase new docks, which will cost about \$60,000. Full-time lifeguards and

supervisors are part of the budgeted salary and are not included in the labor expenses. The labor included in these figures is for the boat attendants and clerks.

6. Mike Shanto and Ivan Rodriguez (Aquatic Facility Manager) are the ranking supervisors. They can be contacted at (818)756-9743. The telephone number in the lifeguard hut is (818)756-9744. Mary Bingham's telephone number is (323)906-7953.

7. The Aquatics staff opens, updates and cleans the display boards. Friends of Lake Balboa and RAP can have access to the keys. The display boards should be opened earlier, because many people leave the park before 9:00 am. We need to contact Mike Shanto about the keys.

8. The lifeguards do not wear name tags, because it may be a hazard to the employees. They may elect to embroider their names, however it is not mandatory and it is done so at the employees' expense. The lifeguards are issued two t-shirts as uniforms and one more per year.

9. Mike Shanto has the stencils for the "No feeding the birds" signs. He does not have the stencil for "No fishing" sign. He did do some repainting about two months ago and added additional ones. Mike feels that violations have decreased over the last three years. He does try to explain the impact of feeding the birds and most people appreciate it. He usually only has two lifeguards on duty and notifying people about their infractions is not his primary duty. It is not his duty to repaint the sidewalks, but he will try to help as he has in the past. Mike needs to be notified where the signs should be repainted.

10. Animal Services referred the problem of the aggressive geese to the lifeguards. Richard said that is not their duty. He said the telephone number for Animal Services is (888)452-7381. The telephone number for the Sanitation is (213)473-4180 for dead animal pick up. Or you can let the lifeguards know where there is a dead animal and they will contact the proper authorities.

11. Richard does not want his employees to get into a confrontation with the offenders of the rules. He has them contact Office of Public Safety (OPS) or other departments. Evelyn Solano said at a prior meeting that she encourages calls, because it will help her justify having more of a presence at the park. Richard said he will issue a directive to his employees to call on infractions and to log it. He also noted that they have done that in the past with parking violations, but it did not seem to help.

12. Stanley noted that more signs need to be posted about "No bikes on the walk path." Tim should be notified where the signs should be posted. It was suggested to have a sign at each entrance to the walk path. He will issue a work order, when he gets the L.A. Municipal Code section. The four-wheel, rental bikes have been a problem on the walk path. Richard said he did speak to the concessionaire, but the problem has worsened over time. Aquatics will contact him again. Mike has also reminded him to display the signs regarding the rules. Tim will speak to the RAP concession department and look into to fining the bike rental company for infractions. It was suggested that restrictions can be posted on the rental bikes. It was also suggested that the rental agreement should include a clause that allows penalization for infractions.

13. Georgia (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Watch) mentioned that there were a couple of attempted attacks on women at or around the park. One attempt, she was told was in the middle of the day. Both women were able to get away.
14. Ginger suggested that bird food could be sold at the park to try to generate revenue. Mike said we should not feed the birds, because it influences their migratory patterns, increases the number of birds at the park and increases the amount of bird droppings.
15. Richard said there was a plan to dredge the lake, but there is nothing in the process. At Echo Park, it took over two years to start the process and it was at a cost of millions of dollars.
16. There was a plan to build a lifeguard tower in the north cove, because the current tower does not have a view of the cove. However, due to budget constraints it was not done.
17. It was suggested that the park may be able to generate revenue. Glenn noted that in order to keep the funds at the park, we would have to have a park advisory board (PAB). A PAB typically has a park director and a park facility (for example, a gym), both of which Lake Balboa lacks.
18. Tim said the additional boulders in the Bull Creek area came from the Army Corps of Engineers. He will try to redistribute the boulders throughout the park. His goal is to have this done by the end of the summer. It was noted on the agenda that boulders need to be placed on the south side of road by the Balboa entrance. White wood replacement posts are in stock. Tim needs to get some labor time to install them. He also noted that they continually get knocked down. Tim would like to plant more trees to prevent some of the parallel parking. He said that Evelyn Solano (OPS.) told him to let her know when parking areas are full, and she can have the entrance closed. She requested the help of RAP to help control the parking issue.
19. Tim said the transition to recycled water is in the process. There cannot be any standing water, due to health concerns to dogs, wildlife, and children. Also there could be a mosquito issue.
20. Tim said he spoke to an Evelyn at RAP about the kiosk. She is contacting multiple vendors. She is looking into getting several kiosks for Lake Balboa (at least two), Woodley Park, and other areas. The approximate cost per kiosk is \$300 each. Steve Leffert mentioned that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council (LBNC) could help with funding. Ron Morita noted that Sierra Pacific Flyfishers could also help with funding.
21. Tim said that most of the dead cherry trees have been removed and the stumps have been ground down. There were about 150 – 170 dead cherry trees. Tim is supposed to get the actual number of dead trees. Their life expectancy is about 25 years. Our warmer climate contributes to their shorter lifespan. These trees have been grafted from the root stock of the original tree. As the trees get older, they are more susceptible to the bore beetle. These beetles drill into the tree and these holes surrounds the tree. Tim is trying to get additional, donated trees. His goal is to plant 100 cherry trees a year. He noted that there is a program “Trees in Tribute,” where the public can contribute about \$175 to plant a tree.

22. Tim said the wisteria vines have been planted. There are a few more needed. He knows they need to be pruned, but due to staff reductions it is taking some time.
23. Tim noted that RAP employees may have to take 26 days off a year as unpaid leave. Volunteers may help fill the void.
24. No smoking is allowed in public parks. Tim has some "No Smoking" signs. He is trying to get some more before he posts the new signs.
25. For the next meeting we may need to get a larger conference room. We may possibly meet at the Garden Center or another room at the Valley Region Headquarters. A representative of Department of Transportation will be invited to the next meeting. Possibly Evelyn Solano (OPS.) will be invited also. Friends of Lake Balboa meets bi-monthly on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
26. The Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council's website needs to update the name of our committee from Make a Difference Committee to Friends of Lake Balboa. The link to the flyer should be changed to include the meeting dates and Glenn and Kerri's e-mail addresses. We will get that flyer to Linda Pruett (Vice President of the LBNC). LBNC will add our meeting information to their newsletter.
27. Steve Moe (RAP) is aware of the algae in the lake and is working on it. Lake Balboa is a living lake and there will always be issues. It is a natural process. We will see if Steve can write-up something about the problem, what is being done to solve it, and we can forward this to the FOLB.
28. There have been several car break-ins in the parking lot. LAPD posts a notice in the display case about parking lot precautions to remind us not to leave valuables in the car.
29. The horses at the lake are reportedly ridden by off-duty (retired) LAPD volunteers. They can only observe and report. They have no authority to write tickets. Their duty is to do public relations for LAPD. Tim is contacting Evelyn Solano (OPS) to find out what division they are working from. The horse droppings they leave behind is a health issue. They need to clean up after themselves. They are not easily identifiable from a distance. We would like their affiliation to be more obvious.
30. Tim would like to train volunteers to help with pruning the trees and plants. It was also suggested that clean-ups can be done, possibly soliciting the help of schools, Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. Tim also suggested something similar to adopt-a-highway may be helpful.
31. Anne asked if there will be benches at Bull Creek. Tim said that there is nothing planned.
32. Michael Peratis of Sierra Pacific Flyfishers noted that the fly casting area adjacent to the lake has deteriorated. The berm along the lake has receded. There are gaps between the concrete and the dirt that are several inches wide. The area has many holes and weeds. The bird droppings need to be cleaned-up also. They would like to install concrete pads, fix the gaps under the concrete, and do a clean-up of the area. They have tried to contact

Abel Perez (RAP) and they have not gotten a response. Michael said Sierra Pacific would finance this project and even offered to pay for one kiosk. They also offered to provide instructional classes. Tim will speak to his supervisors about this project. 818) 713-3741

33. The Persian New Year Event (Nooruz) took place on April 5, 2009. Evelyn Solano is soliciting comments and suggestions about the event, which can be e-mailed to Glenn Bailey at [GlennBaileySFV@yahoo.com](mailto:GlennBaileySFV@yahoo.com) or Kerri Barton at [kjwb@hotmail.com](mailto:kjwb@hotmail.com). It was noted again that it would have been beneficial to the park if some of the proceeds could be used at the park. RAP decided not to charge the event the full fees. The permit was only \$1,000, which is for 100-200 people. The event drew thousands of people. The event only paid the fees for 20 booths but there were actually about 80 booths.

34. Kerri spoke to Paul Davis, Environmental Specialist with RAP about the Dodger Dream Field Complex Project. He said the comments are under review and the Board of RAP Commissioners will meet on the issue within the next two months. This will be a public meeting. As soon as we get the date, we will e-mail the information. Everyone who sent comments to RAP is supposed to receive a notice about the meeting. Paul said he would have the date on the website.

35. The Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Issues about Bull Creek will be addressed at the next meeting. Upper management of RAP decided to remove the chain link fence and install the orange, plastic fences. Please notify Tim about maintenance issues and OPS about rules violations. (At the last meeting, Evelyn said the dispatch telephone number is (213)978-4670 and her cell number is (213)305-9223.)

36. Steve (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council) made a public comment that due to the fencing at Bull Creek dogs must remain on the path. The LBNC and the Encino Neighborhood Council would like biodegradable bags available along the path. They are currently looking for vendors. Tim will seek approval from RAP.

37. Steve also noted that on Memorial Day, May 25, 2009 the park was in poor condition: trash and algae in the lake, restrooms were filthy, and there was a lack of supplies in the restrooms. It was noted that the restrooms are only cleaned twice a day and due to budget cuts they may only be cleaned once a day in the future.

38. If there are any concerns, please e-mail Glenn, Kerri or Tim Johnson. Tim's e-mail address is [Timothy.Johnson@lacity.org](mailto:Timothy.Johnson@lacity.org). His office number is (818)756-7667 and his cell number is (818)422-3832. The main office number is (818)756-8190.

39. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kerri Barton