

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes September 28, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 by Chair Sharon Ford. The 4:00 walkthrough was cancelled due to severe heat. We will hold the walkthrough before next month's meeting instead. A quorum was established. After introductions, the minutes of the August 2010 meeting were reviewed. The spelling of Cynthia Weichelt's name was corrected and the minutes approved. Voting members present included Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey, Rosemarie White and the Chair. Non-voting members and Guests included Abel Perez, Trevor Roper, Paul Severn, and Cynthia Weichelt.

Public Comment:

Trevor Roper, member of LA Social Cricket Association, read a brief statement [which he said he will email to me but has not, MSK] about the history of what he called the social cricket field, "Village Green." Another member of the association, Paul Severn, spoke of their organization as part of the community.

Office of Public Safety/Rules Enforcement:

Glenn mentioned that some months ago OPS told Clifford he does not have the right to make the public move off the informal cricket field, violate the water regulations, etc. This is what the Social Cricket Assoc. calls "Village Green."

Regarding the missing presence of OPS in Sepulveda Basin, Glenn will draft a letter to be sent on behalf of the committee to the Mayor's Office, local City Council Members, and officials of relevant city departments.

The committee expressed frustration that the rules agreed on in the 1987 Public Recreational Use Plan cannot be enforced, such as no bikes. Glenn thinks the LA Municipal Code that bikes are illegal on designated trails may not pertain in the WR, as our paths are probably not designated as trails. Currently bikes are not a major problem in the WR. They stay on the trails, although they sometimes cause some level of hazard by speeding. We will keep bikes on the agenda.

Habitat and Wildlife Issues:

The Canada Goose Project has difficulty with people and bikes using the maintenance road on the east side of the lake. Rosemarie has encountered people on bikes and people with dogs there. The "NO sign" east of the Burbank Blvd. tunnel is missing. Abel pointed out the incredible shortage of park personnel. During next month's walkthrough, we will look at where to post signs.

Trimming at Viewing Areas: Saturday's Haskell Creek cleanup that was part of the Coastal Cleanup did an excellent job on the creek. SFVAS's College Conservation Committee will do remaining trimming from viewing areas and possibly eradicate some invasive exotic weeds on October 23.

Surveillance Cameras: Bob hasn't found anything appropriate so far.

Bull Creek: Steve H said it is probably time to resume watering when the heat wave is over. He recommended deep, infrequent soakings. He'll research a watering regime and advise Abel. The irrigation near the major erosion is still broken and is an ACOE issue. Steve requested to make a presentation next month on Bull Creek.

SFV Audubon will lead the first in a series of public Bull Creek Nature Walks 10/30/10 at 9:00 AM. Steve will lead a walk to train potential leaders on 10/20/10 at 9:30 AM.

Bilingual Sign or Flyer with Behavior Rules: Rec & Parks doesn't like flyers because they don't want their maintenance employees or volunteers risking their wellbeing. Maybe an Eagle Scout or Consortium could put up a kiosk at the main entrance to the WR. We'll look at the possibility during the walkthrough.

Army Corps of Engineers: Muriel will forward Carvel's email to the committee members. [Summarizing, it said "... trees removed from below the bridge and at the mouth of the creek, to expose the concrete structure which had been overgrown..., an operations job which

needed to be done. Trees not impacting the concrete were not removed. Trees impacting the concrete area had also obscured LAFire swift water rescue structures, below the bridge, which are now exposed as needed for the flood season. ...maintenance which must occur around concrete structures. It has been deferred for several years, but was able to be undertaken this year. Environmental review for this did occur, the work was conducted outside the bird nesting season, and it was accomplished per Corps flood control needs prior to the winter season."]

Department of Recreation and Parks:

We aren't getting Special Events Calendars. Glenn will send an email to Abel who will do what he can. The email will also include reminders about posting the agenda and emailing the minutes and agenda to the master list.

Construction has begun on the Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex west of Balboa Blvd.

Muriel asked about irrigation problems in Woodley 4, the buffer area. Abel suspects an irrigation problems and will check. Steve suggested taking pictures and emailing them to R&P. They should be emailed to Abel, now that he's back. Woodley is not yet on reclaimed water.

The Bull Creek weir has not been cleaned. Water management doesn't want to do it. R&P doesn't know how. Steve will follow up.

California Native Plant Society: The Annual Plant Sale is this coming weekend. Steve will start Tuesday and Thursday SB weeding around the first week of November with a cadre of volunteers together.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie began the goose count a couple of weeks ago. There are about 300 geese resident on golf course. There have been 3 or 4 attacks by coyotes on geese. Ron Kosinski of Caltrans will give an update to the Sierra Club Endangered Species Section on the widening of the 405 freeway Tuesday at 3:00. Rye grass seed has been planted east of the Wildlife Lake.

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mts.: Glenn mentioned the Rim of the Valley Corridor public meetings that are continuing.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society: Muriel announced the family/beginners bird walks, field trip programs, and teacher workshop will resume soon.

Sierra Club: Sharon Ford encouraged us to attend the Rim of the Valley meetings. NPS is studying creating a national recreation area or similar. Look it up on the web.

Cricket: Trevor asked what our concerns are about cricket being played in a recreation area. It was explained the area is Wildlife Reserve. He should look at our minutes and wait for the new SB Master Plan.

Next Meeting : A 4:00 walkthrough will precede the meeting, starting at the amphitheater. The agenda should include discussion of walkthrough findings.

Submitted by

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