

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting April 25, 2016 Minutes

Joe Phillips chaired the special meeting which was held at the Balboa Sports Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:05. Quorum established. Attending were voting members Glenn Bailey, William Bowling, Terrie Brady, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey and Joe Phillips. Non-voting members were Juan Villasenor. Guests and alternates were Pat Bates, Brian Gavidia, Kris Ohlenkamp, Mark Osokow, Evelyn Solano, Chris Trent, David Troy and Dave Weeshoff,

Introductions. Joe asked for people to let him know if he has their email addresses wrong. Minutes of March approved with a correction at top of page 2.

AngelFest: There will be a public meeting here in the gymnasium at 6:00PM in 2 weeks, May 10. Joe spoke to George Watland who told him the Sierra Club Angelus Chapter is going neutral on AngelFest. Joe is unhappy about having to withhold his vote on this. The decision appears to involve Melissa Sun in their National Office. Terrie is unhappy to learn this and especially at the last moment.

LAPD Report, Officer Evelyn Solano: Drone signs are up and drone activity is down. Kite fighting continues. Offices of City Councilmembers Koretz and Martinez are working on amending the LAMC's on this. Amphitheater activities (gangs and large items from homeless) are greatly reduced. Activities always pick up for spring and summer, so they're increasing patrols. Muriel mentioned continuing attempts to break the lock of the educational storeroom. Evelyn will let Jeremy Thomas know. Chris Trent described seeing the kite flyers: the kites go sailing for long distances, perhaps to the freeway when the strings break. Evelyn has suggested to RAP setting aside a dedicated place. Charles Singer told her RAP doesn't condone kite fighting. The type of string is the main thing that the MC's should limit.

Homeless encampment issues continue. She sees the evidence of them. She had various services out about 2 weeks ago, but only one person took services. Glenn has noticed encampments near the Orange Line and the back of the Sepulveda Sports Center.

Glenn asked about a Ranger Station or Substation: what staffing level would be needed to serve Sepulveda Basin and this part of the valley? She thinks it would be a great help, with at least 3 rangers with staggered shifts.

Mark Osokow asked about the impacts of A/F on the police staffing in the valley. It is a great concern even using off duty police because it is a 3 day event. We could talk to West Valley Division, Captain Rodriguez.

AngelFest (continued): Sierra Club's stance was discussed further. Joe reiterated that the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter is neutral on A/F.

Comment on VMP deadline is May 19. On A/F is May 27.

The RCD has expressed concerns about the impacts of A/F on the wildlife. Glenn does not feel the May 10 public meeting is necessarily important to the member committees. He said that when A/F came to Encino NC they did not have full info about money or about fireworks or pyrotechnics.

Dave W says it will be important for this committee to have a position so we can show it at the public meeting. The format of the public meeting was described to the extent anyone knows. Bill suggested hearing what the audience members want to say about their concerns.

Terrie noted that the EA shows that stages 2, 3 and 4 are adjacent to the Wildlife Reserve. Too much of an impact on wildlife. She has global warming concerns about the great number of car trips.

Muriel **moved**: that the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee opposes holding in Woodley Park the special event known as AngelFest or any special event of that scale; that no events with over 120 people should take place in Woodley III; that no events at all should take place within the Wildlife Reserve fence; and that no events of over 1,000 people or with artificial lighting or amplified music should take place in Woodley II or in the overflow parking area along Woodley Avenue between the Wildlife Reserve and Woodley II, because of the impacts of noise, lights and proximity on wildlife and loss of access to use of the park by the public, as well as safety concerns. The motion was **not seconded**.

Robert Munsey says LAAS wants a continuance, that the extended comment period gives them time. They have not decided on a position yet. He would discuss each item individually.

Sound: Mark said sound attenuated with distance. The EA treats sound inadequately. 83dB near north end of Wildlife Lake. The background levels need to be added as a factor to the dB level from the stages.

Glenn and Joe were worried about pyrotechnics and fireworks. Dave W said MGG told him and Muriel that they can't tell a big star exactly what they can use.

Glenn explained how Woodley I became an event venue with some spill over into Woodley II. Now it's extending eastward.

Joe is against the numbers of people, the number of stages, not against music festivals.

Kris O suggested objecting into any physical intrusion into the Wildlife Reserve or into any sensitive habitat, such as Woodley III. He has torn apart the EA's claim that Woodley III does not hold any but common resident birds. The memorial grove area is going to be the backstage area; the best mature oak woodlands in the WR. The model airplane field areas are sensitive and are going to be parking. Osprey is not just seasonal bird: annual and breeding somewhere in or near Sep Bas. 60-some bird species use Woodley II and III in October, some of them endangered, threatened or species of concern. The EA does not indicate by far how often the Basin is closed because of flood threat. Noise impacts on birds are huge. Thresholds of

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significance: interference with movement of species and wildlife corridors and substantial increase in ambient noise levels for birds of prey, including Swainson's Hawk.

Robert Munsey **Moved**: that we continue the discussion of tonight and that we focus on one or two points per meeting. **Seconded** by Bill Bowling. Reminder about RAP's need for money. Kris pointed out that there is no public record of any contract as per our public information request. Permit was a work in progress according to Charles Singer at our last meeting according to Glenn. Dave W said we've been working with our attorney; there was not permit until attorney phoned the city and a NOE was signed the next day. We are fairly certain there are violations of CEQA and Brown Act.

Glenn wants to vote on parts of Muriel's motion. Suggests we vote down Munsey's motion.

Vote: 2 ayes, 4 nays. The motion **failed**.

Glenn **moved** that: **the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee opposes holding in Woodley III any special events with over 500 people other than cleanup and habitat restoration activities and that no special events at all should take place within the wildlife reserve fence because of the impacts of noise, lights and proximity on wildlife and loss of access to use of the park by the public, as well as safety concerns.** Motion **seconded** by Joe. **5 ayes. 1 opposed (Bowling).** The motion passed.

Glenn would like to have pyrotechnics and fireworks on next agenda. Mark said MGG doesn't know, lots of uncertainty.

David Troy commented that he doesn't see why the committee doesn't sign onto Kris's comments.

Glenn asked if Kris's comments pertain only to Woodley III and the WR. Kris said the more sensitive species depend on the WR proper but also Woodley III. Woodley II is important to sensitive species like GH Owl and Cooper's Hawk. Chris Trent said the memorial grove area (which is within the Reserve fence) is very important foraging area for the owls.

Bill B **moved**: to extend VMP deadline to May 31. **Unanimously approved.** Joe will make request to Corps. [Note: deadline was extended to June 3. MSK]

Website discussions postponed one or two meetings hence.

Tomorrow evening is Encino NC at Encino Community Center. Charles Singer will be there and will speak during public agency reports section.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Submitted by

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