

## **SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE**

Meeting Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at Balboa Park Sports Center - Approved Minutes

Committee members present - Terrie Brady, 2018 Chair, Glenn Bailey, George Waddell, Dave Weeshoff (Alternate for Muriel Kotin who was absent) and Joe Phillips

Audience members present - Barbara Heidemann, David Troy, Walt Young, MRCA, Jim Hanlon, Ann Abramson, Jessica Ethrig, Terry Koosed, Michael Bowman, Genelle Koosed, and Anh Nguyen.

Terri called the meeting to order at 6:40PM and a quorum (5 of 7) was established.

The minutes from the previous meeting on November 28 were approved as submitted by Muriel Kotin.

There was no representative present from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Paola Jaramillo briefly stated at the beginning of the meeting that she would not attend because of a funeral. No applications for new membership on the committee were presented.

UPCOMING EVENTS    Sunday, February 11 Haskell Creek clean up. Tuesday February 13 9-3:00 Soda Crackers Box in Woodley One. Saturday, April 14 8:30-12:00 Audubon Spring clean up with tools provided; meet at the amphitheater. Saturday, April 21, 5/10 K benefitting Northridge Hospital. Outside of the Sepulveda Basin will be the Chatsworth Nature Preserve open house on Saturday, April 7 9:00-3:00

BAI Live made a scheduled presentation about a proposed two day, family friendly, carnival & music festival in the heart of the SF Valley - Woodley One section of the Sepulveda Basin. The group is expecting 25,000-30,000 people per day. The festival would be exclusively in Woodley One. Food & beverages would be served including alcohol. Food trucks and food tents would be used. Discussion regarding alcohol sales and confinement in a possible separate area. During the two day festival, the wildlife area would be completely open and accessible - possibly off Woodley via Burbank, with the intersection of Victory and Woodley being closed to through traffic. The group stated that they are very green and sustainable. The festival would last two days and the Sepulveda Basin area would be affected for a TOTAL of seven days including the two days of the festival. Seven days for set up, festival, and breakdown. The times that are being projected are 12:00-10:00pm on Saturday and 12:00-7:00pm on Sunday. The projected dates would be in the first week of October. Discussion ensued regarding decibel levels, transportation & parking options, conflicts with ongoing facilities – esp. the Japanese Gardens. BAI Live representatives then described a brief history of their organization which they stated is heavily invested in testing reliability of Wi-Fi signals and gathering addresses of users.

Walt Young, MRCA, addressed the committee and spoke about the homeless situation in the basin. More specifically, Walt spoke about the homeless moving within the area into very

dangerous areas. There appears to be several camps of homeless around and actually in the LA River. The specific location is West of Balboa.

Dave Weeshoff spoke about the walkthrough with USACE that occurred on January 17. Those present on the walk through were Biologist Chris, Mike Ferris & Phil Serpa from USACE, Terrie, David, Muriel, Tina, Ann, and George. Removal of non-native trees, trimming native trees up to eight feet, and NO heavy equipment on the walkway were discussed.

Jim Hanlon spoke at length about the negative influence that fighter kites and their string that is left behind creates in the area. He presented three different varieties of the string which is very strong, creating a public nuisance by littering trees & bushes, grass & trails, and especially the bike path. This string which is more like fishing line can cause serious physical damage to someone as they walk, run, or bike through such a hazard. These fighter kite flyers appear to be a group of about five to seven individuals around the cricket fields. He is hoping to get more support to combat this activity from the City police, Park rangers, and the LA City itself.

**Moved by Glenn, seconded by Joe and unanimously passed was a motion** that reads as follows: We the wildlife areas steering committee express our concern about this fighter kite string and lack of enforcement of kite flying littering. It is more than littering. It is a danger to all users of the park, wildlife, motorcyclists, and bicyclists to name a few. We encourage legislation that increases fines for littering and outlaws this hazardous kite line that is in some cases as strong as fishing line and is left in trees.

Jim stated that APPROXIMATELY 20% of kite string is lost and never recovered - causing litter and potential for danger to wildlife and humans. Some of these kite strings stretch out to more than a mile long. There was discussion that might be a municipal code prohibiting more than 100 feet of kite string. Additionally, there was discussion regarding the municipal code fining people \$250 for littering. The huge problem is catching someone in the act and being able to cite them. Discussion ensued about which LA City department is responsible for the problem and who would be liable for this ongoing problem that is not close to being resolved.

It was also discussed that fishing in the wildlife area and the lake is prohibited. Glenn brought up a report that someone was in Reseda Park with what equated to a cage in the bed of a truck to capture ducks and ducklings illegally. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/> 1-888-334-2258 is the website and phone number to report poaching.

Important phone numbers were presented:  
323 644-6661 for LA City Ranger services. 213 978-4670 for LAPD Park Police.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 by consensus of members present.

Respectfully taken and submitted by Joe Phillips

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