

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes -- April 28, 2009**

Rosemarie White chaired the meeting which was attended by other voting members Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey. Non-voting members, alternates and guests attending were Ranger Pat Aceves, Sharon Brewer, Kerri Barton, Tim Johnson, Joyce MacKinnon, Jenny Price.

A quorum was established, followed by self introductions. Minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted. Announcements were made.

Public Commentary: Joyce announced the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council had a successful event renaming the community with over 500 attendees last Saturday.

Journalist/nature guide Jenny Price spoke of her concern that parking restrictions on Woodley Avenue not restrict access to appropriate users. It is close to a River access point that she uses for giving tours and that many others use appropriately as well. She feels that loss of access to the public turns over an area to inappropriate users.

Woodley Avenue Parking: Steve H explained that the committee supports eliminating overnight parking but keeping daytime parking. Jenny Price has no objection to that restriction.

Muriel asked about the army of earth carrying trucks that keeps parking in the mornings along Woodley Ave. Several in attendance had seen the trucks, but nobody had any idea of how they can be eliminated. It will be agendized under ongoing business.

Dog Policy: Rosemarie toured the WR last Wednesday with 3 Rec & Parks staff, Ramon Barajas, Steve Moe and Abel Peres. She observed a large number of people with off leash dogs in the WR. Today Ramon Barajas called another meeting with Albert Torres, Steve Moe, Tim Johnson and Kathleen Hanover. They discussed the possibility of a junior rangers group from the Zoo Magnet. Rosemarie told them this committee would like to be involved in the planning. The starting date of the group will be around August.

Rosemarie played a portion of the 1993 Canada Goose Project video in which Dick Ginevan who represented Rec & Parks on this committee until his retirement said "We [Rec & Parks] don't permit pets like dogs to come into the [Wildlife Reserve]

area to impact wildlife." Rosemarie will loan the tape to Steve H who will put it on YouTube with a link from [www.sepulvedabasinwildlife.org](http://www.sepulvedabasinwildlife.org).

Ranger Pat Aceves said handling the issue of dogs in the Wildlife Reserve is each ranger's call. If he sees a dog off leash, he will cite. If he sees a dog on leash, he will educate the owners. There are signs about "no dogs allowed" only at some access points. Pat is going to try to educate the OPS rangers and LAPD to also enforce no dogs allowed rules, but such matters are not priorities of those other agencies.

**We should keep calling OPS 323.913-7390 for off leash dogs! And for dogs period!**

The rangers are now aware of ordinance CRR 251.1 Harassment of Animals, which will allow them to cite for feeding wildlife, including at Lake Balboa.

Russian Thistle in Tillman WRP Contractor's Laydown Yard: Steve said this has been pretty well removed. Gene Greene will provide Steve with a map of ownership in Sepulveda Basin. Rosemarie asked about the thistles she saw growing behind the model airplane field. Steve said this is probably bull thistle, not a priority problem.

Update on Bull Creek: Muriel described how the project looks. At the recent community meeting about how to protect the new plantings in the Bull Creek Restoration Project, the community favored keeping up a fence for a year to give the plantings a chance to grow. Tim said they want to take down the contractor's fence for the ribbon cutting ceremony May 26. Then a lower fence will be put in place by R&P. The contractor ran out of money. Rosemarie will talk to Michael Tou.

Dodger Dream Field: Tim has heard nothing new.

Native Trees/Shrubs North of Wildlife Area Parking: Muriel suggest discussion be held after next month's tour at 4:00, starting at Stonehenge.

Haskell Creek Cleanups: Muriel reported on the various cleanups of Haskell Creek, including the one organized by San Fernando Valley Audubon on April 18 which was quite successful with 40 participants. This followed a cleanup by 120 10<sup>th</sup> grade students from Brentwood School. The creek is looking good, although significant

amounts of trash remain. Muriel asked for more involvement from the other member organizations next year.

Special Walkthrough 5/26/09: Prior to next month's meeting, there will be a special tour at 4:00 of areas for potential mitigation projects and/or planting of Native Trees and Shrubs north of the Wildlife Reserve parking. Rosemarie will invite Caltrans biologist Paul Caron to the walkthrough and meeting.

We will start at Stonehenge at 4:00. Bring food to share in a quick picnic after the walkthrough so we can get to the Steering Committee meeting at 6:30.

Submitted by

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