

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting January 26, 2016 – Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Phillips at 6:35PM. A quorum was established. Self-introductions were made. Attending were other voting members Glenn Bailey, William Bowling, Theresa Brady, Snowdy Dodson, Muriel Kotin and Robert Munsey. Non-voting members were Debra George and Jesse Casillas. Guests and alternates were Robert McBroom, Jim Hanlon, Gurmet Khara, Councilmember Paul Koretz, Kris Ohlenkamp, Miriam Preissel, Susan Schalbe, David Troy, and Chris Trent.

Minutes of the Meeting 11/24/15 were approved without change.

Council Member Paul Koretz was welcomed to the meeting. Last month ordinance protecting wildlife finally got approved; thanks for our assistance, also Officer Solano, City Attorney, Park Rangers. He requested that Arts and Parks Committee take up a motion previously submitted (Council File 13-0024) to investigate habitat destruction in the South Reserve.

Drone Problem: New MC is not being enforced. CM Koretz said the administrative citation approach should be useful here. A copy of SFVAS resolution about drones from last night was given to the CM. Snowdy spoke to the unenforced laws. That is why the CM has pushed a middle ground: tickets starting at \$250, then doubling. How can we bring Officer Solano's enthusiasm to the other officers? Audience: there is nothing on internet about whether drone usage is allowed in Woodley Park, Apollo Model Airplane Field. Robert Munsey said that there are not firm federal rules about drones.

Kite Fighting: Jim Hanlon came with handfuls of string from fighting kites from last night and described the dangers of kite fighting. He would like to see it included in the municipal code. How can you define what kite flying should be banned? The CM will look at it. David Troy spoke to the problem of taking away the possessions of homeless people.

Ranger Station: Debra George suggested that Sepulveda Basin, over 2,000 acres, needs a staffed ranger station. The CM had been unaware that we do not have a ranger. He commented that the city is slowly restoring the 5,000 persons who had been laid off. He will add the need for a Sepulveda Basin Park Ranger as a supplement to his budget request.

Announcements:

- SFVAS Cleanup of Haskell Creek will be Saturday April 9.

- CNPS Native Plant Symposium will be at Garden Center April 16: Speakers, plant sale, book sale, flower show.
- Mar 6 CicLAvia in SFV.
- RAP cleaned Burbank Blvd. from Hayvenhurst to Balboa, finishing today. They will try to keep the median clean, they and Nury Martinez.
- FoLAR will hold LAR Cleanups on 4/16 in SB and Burbank locations, 4/23 in Glendale Narrows, 4/30 Compton Cr and Long Beach.

Army Corps did not attend. Glenn suggested that Joe contact the Corps before each meeting for a regular reporting. Debra thinks they removed some vegetation from the LAR on both sides of the Balboa Bl. Bridge.

Angelfest is proposed for Oct 7-9, 2016, a 3-day music festival. The CM was unfamiliar with the proposal. Debra asked for member organizations to advise her of requests for how some of the proceeds can best be used to benefit the Wildlife Reserve. Do we want them to close the WR during the 3 days of the event?

Snowdy **moved that the committee oppose the Angelfest.** Seconded. Kris O suggested that the organizer could clear out all exotic trees in Haskell Cr above Wildlife Way; put permanent fencing around the WR, 6 feet high that is open only certain hours during the daytime with volunteers during the open hours. Terrie asked would wildlife be trapped inside? Jim Hanlon thinks a permanent ranger would be a better solution. Glenn said that details could be worked out, but we don't really know how much money will be involved. The Corps says a draft EA will be available in a month or so. Glenn suggested we plan a meeting for 4th Tues of Feb. if the draft EA is available. Commenting on that draft EA is what we should do as the Steering Committee. Glenn pointed out that the recent email from Debbie Lamb asks us for our organizations' concerns. Debra said the Encino NC has approved the concept. Joe would like to hear from the city, CM Koretz. Nury Martinez's office supports the event. Bill suggests asking for a fence before the event. Debra says the funds will go to the Parks Foundation. **Snowdy withdrew her motion.** We will discuss it at the next meeting. Kris sees considerable short term wildlife impact but no long term impact. He and Susan S remarked that this is likely to be an annual event.

Terrie Brady **moved that: Regarding the presentation to us in November 2015 about AngelFest, we have serious concerns about impacts of noise and proximity on wildlife and current park users. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention from the RCD, the rest ayes.**

Signage: Muriel is to email her proposal to the committee for suggestions. When revised, email to Jeremy. So a Consortium meeting should be on the agenda for our next meeting.

Olympics for 2024: We should request of the Olympic Organizing Committee or Kevin Taylor of the mayor's office that they do a community presentation.

Goals for this Committee for 2016: Joe plans one Sierra Club walk every month at SBWR. Ask Steve H to add to the website a pull-down for hikes by all the various groups. Add this topic near top of next agenda. Muriel added getting new appreciators of the Wildlife Reserve, including events like recent plantings by schools and the Israeli community group tours last Sunday.

Lyme Disease is a huge problem according to Bob Munsey who distributed flyer.

Muriel is to forward Debbie Lamb's email to the committee ASAP!

The meeting was adjourned 8:43.

Submitted by

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