

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting May 28, 2019 – Approved Minutes**

2019 Chair George Waddell called the meeting to order at 6:45PM. Introductions were made. Voting members, in addition to George Waddell, were Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, and Muriel Kotin. Non-voting members were Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee, and Jorge DeLoera. Alternates were Barb Heidemann, Cindy Kurland and David Troy. Guests were Anne Abramson, Tessa Charnofsky (office of Sheila Kuehl) and Zachary Pompa (LA City Park Rangers).

Minutes of the March 2019 meeting were approved without change. Jan 2019 minutes approved as submitted.

Announcements:

- Recreation Director Kathryn Penny could not attend the meeting, but she is concerned about homeless encampment at Sepulveda Sports Complex north of LAR.
- A homeless alliance meeting for West Valley Neighborhood Council Saturday June 1.
- Sierra Club dinner in West Hills.
- Tessa Charnofsky: County Board of Supervisor's ban on glyphosphate being used by county workers; they are looking for alternatives. LAR master plan is being looked at for updating, including Sepulveda Basin. What would this committee like to see?
 - A path crossing Bull Creek on north side of river (between Burbank and Balboa Blvd.).
 - Security issues.
 - A bike path along the river.
 - Need to house homeless.
 - Make the areas of the north WR more hospitable to wildlife where it is now neglected mustard and other weeds.
 - Beach Bus from Canoga Park to Santa Monica beach/pier \$1, is available daily, year around. Comment that it would be helpful if the bus could make more stops.
- Information is available at larivermasterplan.org: please submit thoughts. Tessa suggested we might submit comments as a committee.

Cleanup of Haskell Creek April 13: Muriel said this joint effort of SFVAS, FoLAR and RCD was very successful. There will be another cleanup in September, with SFVAS and Heal the Bay.

SBWASC Membership List: Muriel reported that this committee has only 5 voting organizations now: San Fernando Valley Audubon, California Native Plant Society, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Sierra Club Angelus Chapter, and Sierra Club San Fernando Valley Group. LA Audubon doesn't have a rep. FoLAR is helpful but doesn't have a representative.

Encino NC Homelessness Committee: Pat Bates reported they did their own homeless count for Sep Basin, including south of Burbank, Haskell Creek north, Bull Creek and Sepulveda Sports Center. Very unsanitary. Easily 500 people living in SB. Trying to get dumpsters, one hazmat

needed. Trying to get Sanitation to pick up shopping carts filled with trash. Bridge ho, supportive housing needed. Encino NC is working to help homeless with Northridge Beautification Foundation's whose program slogan is "Clean Streets Clean Starts".

Walkthrough This Afternoon. George reported that 13 participants walked all the way around the Wildlife Lake.

- Pollinator habitat could be developed north and east of the lake.
- Vehicles park on the grass between Reserve fence and amphitheater. Tailgate parties, even on weekday afternoon.
- RAP will put up some signs so that they can enforce the no-parking rules.
- Need more park ranger presence.

Application for Xerces Pollinator Kit: George is applying for a grant on behalf of the SBWASC for Xerces Pollinator Kit. The kit includes 1,500 plugs of native prairie pollinator plants.

Moved, Seconded and Passed to support application for above grant.

City Park Ranger Zachary Pompa: Homelessness problem. Little staffing. Work with LAPD and Bureau of Sanitation and ACOE. Captain Albert Torres is the main contact. UHRC (Unified Homeless Response Center) another source of mitigation that provides information like LAHSA does. Trying to keep parks as parks. How do we get a dedicated ranger? 14 rangers have been hired, but still in training process. 26 to 40 rangers are hoped for. What about flood events and danger of drownings? They removed 2 dump trucks of stuff around the Wildlife Lake recently.

Reports from Committee Members:

- Emails between George and others: ACOE wants to put cameras in Libbit Park.
- Robert Moreno is new senior park ranger for ACOE. His info is in agenda: Robert.moreno@usace.army.mil, Office 626.401-4055, Mobile 626.720-2475.
- Cindy Kurland's email resulted in a big rave on March 20 being stopped by rangers.
- For next meeting, Terrie will do research on alternatives to glyphosate for a letter to be sent by this committee.
- Muriel will coordinate developing a planting plan for parking strips of Wildlife Reserve: kind of plants, who will pay for, who will maintain.
- Consortium account has \$17,353. Last year spent \$280 for website and around \$100 for weeding supplies.
- Officer Solano emailed George about homeless issues and motor homes problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, San Fernando Valley Audubon's Representative to the SBWASC