

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting 9/27/2022 -- Minutes – Approved

The meeting, chaired by Melanie Winter, was held by Zoom. It was called to order at 6:33PM and recorded. Quorum established. Minutes of the meeting 7/26/2022 were approved as submitted.

Voting Members: Glenn Bailey, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, David Troy, George Waddell, Melanie Winter. *Non-voting Members:* Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee, Brian Yamasaki. *Guests and Alternates not voting tonight:* Anne Abramson, Tessa Charnofsky, Dan Cooper, Richard Davis, Ranger Jerry Haro, Barb Heidemann, Ranger Jesse Mauck, Bill Neill, Mark Osokow, Viana Parra CD6, Gregory Stewart, Amanda Thompson. Diana Weynand joined toward end of meeting.

Governmental Agencies:

Tessa Charnofsky for Sheila Kuehl's office: Enhancing biodiversity with native plants. A motion passed consent calendar to study converting landscaping of county facilities to at least 75% Cal native plants over time.

Viana Parra CD6: Jonah is now district director. She did not have any information to provide at this meeting. Glenn requested an update about the master planning effort for Sepulveda Basin, perhaps something emailed to chair Melanie before our next meeting. Viana said she'll check in with the district planning director and see what is happening.

Glenn Bailey RCD: reported that LA County (and perhaps Ventura County) has approved expanding the RCD's sphere of influence to virtually include the entire upper Los Angeles watershed. Melanie suggested that council districts could establish an overlapping climate resiliency district.

Recreation and Parks -- Brian Yamasaki: Regarding dead trees and damaged parts of other trees in Woodley IV: Forestry hopes to visit WR once or twice a month for pruning, etc. A challenge due to personnel shortage and changes.

Old Wood Crete fencing will be replaced with Sequoia fencing. Four dead trees in lawn will be removed before the fencing is replaced. They will NOT remove the sycamore. Within the next couple of weeks! It's ready to go.

Mechanically clearing weeds in West Field: Brian will talk to Wayne Neal and hopes to do the same thing as in the overflow parking.

Opening Viewing Areas: So far they're working on the fourth and fifth areas. Should be done by Oct 3. He'll arrange for the two bridges to be trimmed too.

He can't comment on goats. He'll find out who in environmental we should contact for permission. Request to Viana to check on progress of city council motions.

Break-in of educational storeroom. Regarding roll up window option, he'll discuss with Joe Mendoza, construction maintenance supervisor for the valley. And security door. Burglary with break-in of early this month explained and the history of break-ins. Security systems

discussed. RAP occasionally does, but only for MAJOR losses. Muriel requested a security door to replace the padlocked one that faces the parking lot. SFVAS might purchase a door if RAP will install it.

Zumba classes: Can they be moved to a place where the amplified music and announcements are less disruptive? Ranger Mauck will address amplified sound issue, hopefully early next Tuesday morning.

Openings in fencing along Woodley Ave: Brian is working on behavior signs: getting them made and will put them up gradually.

Regarding alarm system, did Rio have alarm system? Yes, but rangers and LAPD patrolled a lot too.

RCD — Dan Cooper: Conceptual Plan for fire mitigation. Clark Stevens is at RCD board meeting, so Dan, an RCD senior conservation biologist is standing in. RCD's fire resilience coordinator left for another job and RCD is working to get the report done and trying to hire someone to restart it. RCD would like to hear what SBWASC says about habitat, etc. Aware the student report seems to reflect largely the fire department's take and not consider historical ecology, sensitive species, environmental impacts. Pat suggested zero tolerance by the city of encampments in WR. Truly dangerous situation. (Hansen Dam too.). Tessa compared the county's zero tolerance of encampments in the SMM because of fires. If it can happen in the county, it can happen in the city. Committee would be happy to work with the RCD regarding plans and fires. Melanie mentioned that TRP's feasibility study suggests solutions that would reduce areas appealing to the unhoused and amount of flammable areas. Glenn mentioned that the city's deputy fire chief made a presentation to the LA Neighborhood Council Coalition. Sepulveda Basin was to be looked at. Goats were discussed in that conversation.

LA28 Advisory Committees: How can we ensure participation? Sustainability is one advisory committee. Nurit will probably represent UCLA on it. She'll try to see if we can apply "late" or otherwise arrange for them to meet with us. She'll ask about how they plan to engage with neighborhood councils. Olympics should be a standing agenda item. Nurit will be happy to share our most pressing concerns with LA28 — send her an email if we have any. Glenn hopes that a legacy of 2028 Olympics will include critical needs such as improving tree canopy in underserved areas, possibly even the entire city.

Member Organizations:

*CNPS — George: Weeding is continuing and very successful. FoLAR very helpful in bringing volunteers. With 70 volunteers from FoLAR at the last event, they made 10K seedballs. Plantings to come. Removing dead weeds between Haskell Creek and pathway on the west side, to protect the riparian area from fire. Will ask for Consortium meeting next meeting. Want funding for 3 battery-operated pumps for watering new plantings with water from the creek. Volunteer Robert Grzesiak bought one, which is hugely useful. Thanks to RAP for piles of mulch and picking up bags of weeds. Lake level is still too high, 3rd viewing area (monument to floods) starting to crack and collapse. Making a bog of the milkweed area. Pat says better now, starting to dry out. George would like a measurement device so the water level can be known. Suggestion to clear screen at outlet routinely plus after heavy winds. Brian will have gardener

Bertha look at possibilities for reinstating very old irrigation pipes with George for establishing new plantings.

*SFVAS — Muriel Fall programs will start soon. Educator training 10/4. First LAUSD school group 10/7. 2nd Saturday walks start 10/8 and will run through March. Tours for the monthly habitat restoration volunteers continue.

*RCD — Glenn suggested reaching out to LA28. Contact info in chat, Corine Taylor.

*The River Project — Melanie: Presented her feasibility study in Sacramento to a conference of Flood Plain Managers. Received enthusiastically. It will be included in Al Gore's Climate Reality 24-hour event under natural solutions. Info in chat for signing up to attend remotely.

*Encino NC — Pat: Having difficulty dealing with SFVAS's insurance company because the Wildlife Reserve and its storeroom don't have a proper address. The other facilities in Woodley Park too. The park roads need names! The facilities need addresses! We need a city council motion! Pat requested that Viana to get this in motion.

*LBNC — Ruth D: Dedication 10/29 of Jesse Owens Park new playground structure.

*Filming request alert came today. It would close Woodley Ave. on Oct 14 and 18 which is a big problem with the detour for a Tillman project still in effect.

Public Comment:

*SFV Climate Reality Project — Diana Weynand: Local chapter was chosen to participate representing the USA in a global panel on 10/7, featuring The River Project under "Natural Solutions." Pat's photographs, 2-minute video.

*Melanie: Anything about health of the trees in the dog park and possibility of extending purple pipe to them? Brian said they needed to adjust watering. Now twice a week there, forestry deep watering trees monthly during this summer. Trees doing OK. CD6 has explored with DWP the possibility of using water trucks too. Glenn mentioned that Sanitation is thinking of opening a facility at the Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex where people can get reclaimed water for irrigation.

*Amanda Thompson mentioned her upcoming photography book on birds of the Sepulveda Basin.

Adjourned at 8:29PM. Chat follows my name

Submitted by Muriel S. Kotin, SFVAS's representative to SBWASC

The Chat:

18:44:00 From David Troy to Everyone:

I do not hear the meeting. The computer says my

18:44:14 From Tessa Charnofsky, Office of Supervisor Kuehl to Everyone:
<http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/172876.pdf>

18:44:22 From Tessa Charnofsky, Office of Supervisor Kuehl to Everyone:
Biodiversity motion.

18:46:57 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:

Thanks Tessa! Many of us know our way around City government, but County government not so much.

18:48:20 From Tessa Charnofsky, Office of Supervisor Kuehl to Everyone:
Yes, County processes are different, for sure.

18:49:09 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Thank you to RAP for adjusting the water level at the Wildlife Lake !! It looks good now.

18:53:28 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Goats are also high priority for both Neighborhood councils.

18:55:27 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
80 Pairs of binoculars, 5 microscopes, odds + ends were stolen

18:55:29 From Ruth Doxsee to Everyone:
Wasn't it something like 75 pairs of binocs?

19:08:15 From Barb Heidemann - SFVAS to Everyone:
Daily 830-10 AM

19:08:18 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
why cant the Zumba ladies moved to the lot near the Japanese garden?
near entrance to Japanese garden but that entry road is closed due to construction

19:09:14 From George Waddell CNPS to Everyone:
perhaps there could be a sign up schedule for the mornings for music

19:10:02 From Ruth Doxsee to Everyone:
Amplified music is not appropriate at a wildlife area.

19:10:46 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
How about the model airplane facility for them?

19:11:45 From Barb Heidemann - SFVAS to Everyone:
PR Mauck: the music is very LOUD. They are physically between the bus parking and the restrooms, when kids arrive.

19:14:26 From Park Ranger Mauck to Everyone:
Senior Lead Park Ranger Jesse Mauck, LA City Park
Rangers jesse.mauck@lacity.org
Park Ranger Dispatch (323) 644-6661

19:15:23 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Yes do not do anything!!!!

19:16:45 From Glenn Bailey, RCDSMM Rep to Everyone:
Sign summary; Take only photos, leave only footprints....

19:17:46 From Barb Heidemann - SFVAS to Everyone:
Would it be cheaper to close up the new openings that were added in the fence, rather than put up that many additional signs?

19:18:09 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
I can't find the student report

19:18:56 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
I can resend it, Pat

19:27:28 From George Waddell CNPS to Everyone:
Someone set 4 trash cans on fire along the main path last Tuesday.

19:31:24 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Better pathways are super helpful!!!

19:33:09 From Gregory Stewart to Everyone:
Anecdotal, but more semi-authoritative "presence" seems to deter riff-raff or at least keeps hangers out moving along

19:33:45 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Thank you Dan!

19:34:06 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Trevor Richmond

19:36:05 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Everyone but LA uses goats!

19:38:36 From Glenn Bailey, RCDSMM Rep to Everyone:
WASC absolutely needs representation with the LA28 and a seat at the table.

19:47:06 From Glenn Bailey, RCDSMM Rep to Everyone:
LA 28 question: What are all of the Work Groups?

19:48:58 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Just curious - did LA 28 intend to not engage the SFV environmental groups at all?

19:56:46 From Gregory Stewart to Everyone:
BIG THANKS!!!

20:03:58 From Glenn Bailey, RCDSMM Rep to Everyone:
All: For LA28, here is someone who reached out regarding the recently held Congress of Neighborhoods event: Community Relations Manager: Corine Taylor 424-320-4511 Email: ctaylor@la28.org Perhaps we could invite her to the next WASC meeting or ???

20:07:39 From Gregory Stewart to Everyone:
<https://la28.org/en/games-plan.html>

20:08:56 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
<https://map.24hoursofreality.org/dialogues/natural-solutions>

20:12:11 From George Waddell CNPS to Everyone:
this problem of no address has come up before

20:13:02 From Glenn Bailey, RCDSMM Rep to Everyone:
Pat: Send the insurance rep the "What Three Words" location!

20:13:46 From Barb Heidemann - SFVAS to Everyone:
Address location is a huge problem for the education programs, too. School Bus drivers get totally lost!

20:15:17 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
rr LAPD refuses to use what 3 words!!!!

20:18:12 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
LAFD chief said they use maps - well, I had to go find THEM!!

20:22:18 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
THIS IS COOL!!

20:24:00 From Diana Weynand to Everyone:
Pat your pictures look great in the video.