

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting November 24, 2020 -- Approved Minutes**

Joe Phillips chaired the 6:30 PM meeting held by Zoom. Voting members attending were Glenn Bailey (RCD), Terrie Brady (SC Valley Group), Muriel Kotin (SFVAS), Joe Phillips (SC Angeles Ch), George Waddell (CNPS). Non-voting members were Shelly Backlar (FoLAR), Pat Bates (Enc NC), Robert Buenrostro (RAP), Ruth Doxsee (LBNC), Nurit Katz (LAAS), and Melanie Winter (River Proj). Guests and alternates not voting tonight were Valeria Amy (Risk Manager RAP), AnneAbramson (CNPS), Linda Babcock (ACOE Ranger), Sheri Blumenthal (private citizen), Tessa Charnofsky (for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl), Steve Dunlap (RAP Forestry), Jonah Glickman (CD-6), Jerry Haro (RAP Ranger), Barb Heidemann (SFVAS), Jan Kidwell (SC Valley Group), Bill Neill (CNPS), Wendy Shulik, Dave Weeshoff (SFVAS), Jason Hector (Porter Ranch NC), and Kira Durban (SO NC).

Introductions. Quorum was established. Minutes of Oct approved without major corrections. ***recording started***. This is LAAS's 4th meeting; they will be a voting member at our next meeting. FoLAR and River Project will become voting members after attending the Dec or Jan meeting.

Updated Master Plan, Jonah Glickman: The motion for this was heard on floor of council and passed on Nov 10, the start of the process. There will be public input moving forward — community engagement. Potentially an update from city departments before Dec 15, the last City Council meeting of this year, regarding funding of masterplan. We're welcome to contact Jonah with questions and comments. He will pass them on to CD-6 Planning Director Max Podemski.

When safety permits, the committee would like to give the council member a tour of the Wildlife Reserve.

The number of homeless living in the basin is greatly reduced to around 50. They're still working on further reducing the number of homeless, hopefully to zero.

Concern was expressed about reduction in opportunity for public input by waving the motion from committee — a town hall was suggested. The need for public engagement from the beginning in the master planning process was stressed.

The individual responsible for the 9/6 fire remains in custody as is another who set several other fires. Safety concerns were discussed. Jonah is still trying to learn more about the small fire over the weekend. Trash pickup along street is needed. There are still one or two encampments in Bull Creek. There is still a homeless person cutting down trees and setting fires out there near Odessa and Victory. Many outreach workers are going out the past 2 months — that person is being encouraged to take housing options offered to him. Suggestion of raising canopy and removing dead brush near Victory. Committee requested Jonah to let us know when the council will hear the motion.

City Park Rangers, Jerry Haro: Making almost daily visits to the Basin. Ticketing for parking on lawn on dog park. They're deterring people from parking on the grass near the WR amphitheater. Fewer fisherman at the Wildlife Lake, probably because of new signage. A lot of water lettuce has been removed. Bilingual signage is expected by the end of the year.

Remains of an abandoned encampment is being removed at NE corner of lake. Use M.laparks.org for making service requests.

ACOE Rangers, Linda Babcock: They cleaned up a large area in South Reserve with volunteers. They've identified another area next to it in "the bamboos", but there is someone still living in it. There are homeless people in the spillway area. They're trying to handle that area and are working on problems in the Basin. She welcomes emails.

RAP, Robert Buenrostro: They have removed about 16 tons of water lettuce. Also spraying during past 3 weeks. Mechanical removals again around Dec 9 or 10. Spraying is Tribune (diquat bromide 37.3%) which is broad leaf herbicide approved for use in bodies of water. Permit for CNPS is under review. Next week or so. Still waiting for planks for the south bridge — special wood. It will be installed as soon as it arrives.

RAP Forestry, Steve Dunlap: He believes they have a good plan going forward and are awaiting report from SFVAS's arborist. They'll monitor trees in WR monthly — Arthur Flores. Request to consult Committee before trees are removed because of monitoring. Concern about liability. Valeria Amy, RAP Risk Manager, explained the concern about life altering injuries. Safety of visitors/park users. Question to Steve D: when will branches overhanging paths be removed? Some before spring. Snags will be left to the greatest extent possible. They will work with us as much as possible. WR is unique. We should have adequate signage from the city and enhanced enforcement to keep people out of places they should not be. Valeria doesn't have detailed information about the WR. She is working closely with Steve. Discussion of the special circumstances of a wildlife reserve ensued. Discussion about the extent of what trees and what part of them can be saved. Tree over north bridge will not be removed; it will have a limb removed. Discussion of shothole borer and sycamores. Fallen wood question as to whether it will be removed was discussed, considering impact on dam in a flood and flammability. When Muriel is notified of trees to be removed or pruned, she will let the rest of the committee know.

Next meeting will be a special meeting on Tuesday December 29 on Fire Recovery only.

An amendment using Glenn's wording at January meeting. For vice chair. Moved. Seconded. To be voted on at our Jan 2021 meeting.

We will vote on amendment to have a vice chair at the January meeting. The Standing Rules now read in part:

4. CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

4.1 Each organization in good standing shall be obligated to have its representative serve as a rotating Committee chairperson for a term of office of a calendar year effective January 2011.

4.2 The chairperson shall be responsible for preparing the meeting agendas, conducting the meetings, and other matters delegated by the Committee.

The addition of the following section will be voted on at our next regular meeting which will be in January, 2021:

4.3 A Committee vice-chairperson shall also be selected for a term of office of a calendar year effective January 2021. The vice-chairperson shall assist the chairperson as needed and shall fulfill the responsibilities of the chairperson in their absence or unavailability.

It was **Moved, Seconded and Passed** that the committee chair for 2021 will be Nurit Katz for LAAS, effective January 2021.

CNPS has an influx of new volunteers.

Concern expressed about fallen trees and limbs blocking water flow in Haskell Creek. Linda Babcock will bring to the attention of ACOE biologists. 2011 masterplan appendices have map showing responsibilities in the basin. Pat will research who is responsible.

ACOE still working on masterplan update.

The **River Project's LA River charrette will be Sat Dec 12 at 10AM!!!**

Next meeting will be Tuesday **December 29 at 6:30PM – a special meeting on Fire Recovery only!**

Adjourned at 9:02PM.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin
SFVAS Representative to SBWASC