

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes for April 25, 1995

The new chairman, Peter Ireland led the meeting. In attendance were: Muriel Kotin, Sandy Wolgemuth, Judy Garris, James Ward, Stephen Moe, Rosemarie White, Steve Hartman, Debbie Lamb, Ted Carr, Dan Herman, and Peter Ireland.

WILDLIFE MASTER PLAN

Dan Herman, representing EDAW, presented a summary of changes in the Wildlife Area Conceptual Master Plan.

Area C would have little change, mostly clean up with little infill.

In Area (A), grassland will be increased by 40% to 50%. Areas (A) and (D) are missing a habitat. The design team has further explored siting of the parking lot which is presently on higher land that could be better utilized for an oak woodland plant community. They propose moving the parking lot to the upper end of Woodley Park. The buses will have a turn around area.

Area (B) has several graphic changes. Along the bike trail, landscaping would separate the trail from the street. Research is still needed on where and how to place the mid-block crossing since there are problems with safety. A loop will be created for the bike trail.

There was discussion of the path along the model airplane field. Ted noted that it would be unsafe due to the flight field. Ted pointed out the possibility of moving the trail further north utilizing the underpass beneath Woodly and using the existing dry landscape for interpretive walks.

The sod farmer wants to take his fence with him when he leaves. A barrier is needed for off-road vehicles. Possibly wood rail or recycled plastic. The bike path could go on one side of the fence and the pedestrian path on other side.

Area (D) More study is needed for siting restrooms. The class/storage areas will be located at point 18 on the map. The focus orientation will be on the oak woodland. Grassland will be brought up to the buildings giving a view of the lake. There will be a reduction in the alluvial sage scrub which will be redefined after the completion of the soil analysis.

Peter Ireland suggested we take a walk with the map to see these improvements.

The formalized trail was discussed. It would be made of recycled plastic and resemble a raised wooden deck, water or grasses could go underneath.

Muriel expressed concerns in areas A and D. The location of the interpretive center has Freeway noise. She suggested planting a

dense oak woodland as a noise buffer. She also suggested putting the nature center a little south to the edge of the existing higher parking area. Many committee members did not like the birdcage design of the viewing portals. Murial suggested a minimalistic approach, simple and natural. Other committee members concurred. Dan expressed a need for children to have fun utilizing interactive interpretation. Murial pointed out that the children needed to touch, smell, feel live things, to experience the real thing not artificial structures. Murial also stated that we don't need to hide the tall buildings, in reality the wildlife park is a bit of heaven in an urban area.

Dan restated these suggestions as making the plan more authentic not artificial.

Dan said more discussion was needed on buffering the freeway noise. We will to find the noise "point" as we move north on our walk.

VIEWING BIRDS The best time to view birds is in the A.M., Steve said, and you need to be on the east side of the creek, if you are on the west side, you're looking into the sun.

Dan proposed to remove the first viewing area on the lake, the one across from the island will remain.

ARCHERY PARKING Six to ten spaces are needed for weekdays. Pending discussion with involved groups, possibly seventy-five spaces for major events.

ALLUVIAL SAGE SCRUB by definition is actively disturbed, Steve said. Strike alluvial, use Coastal Sage Scrub.

GOOSE FORAGE Steve said the grassland should be stated as Goose Forage Habitat. Debbie Lamb said we need to consider maintenance/cost of forage areas. It was noted there is no documentation of proposed planting in (3) of area D. A proposal was made to actively maintain it as goose forage and to request budgeting.

SEASONAL POOL in south area A. Ted suggested planting with willows and sycamores.

NATIVE GRASSES Reference was suggested to the Stipa Revegetation Report and its success with controlled burns. Ted said native grasses can't handle instant flooding. Debbie pointed out that native grassland was an erroneous term from the Chamber's report.

THE REFINED PLAN including a topo map will be presented to the public on the 17th of June. At that time we will be able to see a sample of the plastic and pictures of the raised trails. After the public hearing, the plan goes back to the steering committee. The final plan and specs should be ready for the contractor by spring.

FIELD TRIP GOALS

- (1) site locations for structures, staging area and parking lot
- (2) find point where noise lessons in north Area D

BULL CREEK proposition A, section 1135 project is still in limbo according to Ted. Debbie says no one is claiming it yet and we need to keep bugging Ruth on it.

CITY BUDGET The mayor has rejected the budget for the wildlife area but the city can put it back in. A motion was made to have our chairman send a letter to city council representatives requesting reinstatement of the wildlife area budget including part-time employment of two maintenance positions. Motion seconded and passed. James Ward said the letter should include a statement on the wildlife area as an existing facility and for the last three years the city has not had a maintenance budget for it, please support Park and Rec. budget.

Steve would like the maintenance staff to eradicate the horehound on the east side of the lake before they are terminated. James later said the city will take care of it.

NEW GRANT At the ECO-EXPO, Glen found a contact who informed him of a Geo car grant available to nonprofits. For each car sold Geo sets aside dollars for trees. Perhaps Geo could adopt a section of the wildlife area. Glen will invite the contact to a steering committee meeting.

California Dept. of Transportation has applied for a grant for the overlook from a environmental enhancement project initiated by Richard Katz. Tree People has used it to plant trees.

FORAGE MAINTENANCE The \$4000 left in the budget should be enough for one person's salary to plant and maintain the geese forage. James said the city would plant in the fall. He said the city can get the seed.

It's time to till or spray the forage area. James suggested spraying roundup as there is no manpower to disc the forage area.

FLOODING LIGHTS One is on top of the hill and another will be on Sepulveda. Sandy noticed that it should be placed on Balboa before you get to Sepulveda Blvd. Peter suggested contacting Brady's office on placement of light.

SIGNAGE Sandy said the signs should face north so they don't bleach out.

Ted recommends closing the outlook. There is no longer a dam tender and no control cleanup. Glen said if it remains then parking should be restricted.

At the next meeting Glen will present the annual education program report by T.C.L.V.R.C.D.

Meeting Adjourned

minutes recorded by Judy Garris