

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

APRIL 22, 1997 --- MINUTES OF MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE: Glenn Bailey, Ted Carr, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, Steven Moe, Rosemarie White, Sandy Wohlgemuth.

MEETING was called to order by Chairperson Rosemarie White (RW) at 7:09 p.m. Minutes of 3-25-97 meeting were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. RW circulated the now completed and handsome commemorative album for the retiring Dick Ginevan. Two letters need signatures. RW has receipts of all expenses and suggests donations from each group of \$ 15-\$20.
2. Muriel Kotin (MK) announced the Sat. May 10 spring cleanup of the Wildlife Area, 8 a.m. - noon. Flyers available. 10 a.m. - noon will be Audubon-sponsored nature walks. Committee to help get word out.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

'HUMMINGBIRD HILL' - Steve Moe (SM) reported on large leak found in buried 25-year-old 4" galv. water line serving that area. Once discovered, water was shut off for a month to dry out the area. Then repair (steel clamps) was made to the pipe. Entire feeder pipe should eventually be replaced (no money now). Also the solar panel on the irrigation controller was stolen. SM operating valves manually until panel is replaced (incl. protective wire covering).

Steve Hartman (SH) visited the area last Saturday w/ Clyde Ade (CNPS) and found it "looking great" after the 1.5 years of establishment. Evident which plants are working and which are not. Gave the White Sage plantings high marks (re-create 'White Sage Scrub Community'). SH questioned SM whether possible to spray or 'weed whack' the mustard east of the tunnel. Horehound is out of control north of HH--may need to get a crew in for physical removal.

UPDATE & DISCUSSION ON WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION PLANS:

There was extensive discussion on the status of the NUVIS plans. SH & others in process of piecing together reduced grid panels of the new plans for ease of seeing context and review. RW asked Ted Carr (TC) to bring committee up to date re: stage of plans. TC reported that plans are not yet at 100% stage and that portions are being redone including that relating to Haskell Channel (bank & bridges redesign) as wrong info on channel design was submitted by City. Expect 100% completion by around June 1 (we will have 10-14 days for 'final' review at that time). Regarding creek profile, it has been redesigned to allow for vegetation while permitting the same amount of water to pass through.

TC recommended the committee continue to review the plans now in hand (yes, there are items and pages missing and an awkward format) and come up w/ written comments. MK expressed concern as to the 7' width of the bridges (too wide) but TC & SM indicated many reasons for the vehicle-accomodating width (patrols, safety, law enforcement visibility, maint. access). TC: Our comments should include that 'bollards' are missing on the bridges.

SH & others questioned why trees are shown only on one side of Haskell Creek (not natural-looking) and why black willows (*Salix goodingii*) planting interval is so regular and close (every 2')? Discussion by SH & TC on locations shown for 120V controllers (too spread out & in more-flood-prone areas); should be clustered in higher ground area (ie. nr. staging area) w/ wire size upgraded 2 or 3 sizes (more cost effective to use larger wire now than to have to replace controllers later). Control wires should be run inside conduit for ease of locating and protection purposes (not shown that way now).

Discussion on committee comment periods & review hierarchy. A frustration was expressed by several committee members re: shortness of past review periods with plans at less than purported completion percentage & now not being able to forward anymore comments until the final 100% review opportunity when it may be more difficult to influence changes. RW stated that perhaps the committee is not getting information decided at meetings between the designer, Rec & Parks, & C.O.E. TC reminded the committee that we are advisory to City Rec & Parks in our reviews and not directly to the Corps.

Discussion on whether or not all existing native plant material is shown on the plans and if there are sufficient notes re: not to disturb existing plants. SM said there are notes on plans for existing trees "to be protected in place". MK: "What about existing mulefat stands?" Committee questioned why so much elderberry is shown to be planted in west area (ie. little diversity -- 459 elderberries & 0 oaks). MK, TC and others expressed support for a more diverse plant palette and it was reiterated that a certain amount of plant loss is to be expected.

Glenn Bailey (GB) expressed concerns regarding the coordination and dissemination of committee's comments to other review entities and designer and the coordination of the plan w/ existing Basin elements (bike trails, etc.). Eric Lesser (EL) stated that field checks are in need by the designer and reviewers--not simply rely on aerial photos and past maps. Gene Greene (GG) pointed out that the committee should not be dwelling on communication of comments to the Corps (Andy Lopez) but to City Rec & Parks (James Ward first, then Bob Fawcett). Rec & Parks then in turn comments to the Corps. Gene's statement was backed up by TC. GB requested that a session be initiated between the committee and Rec & Parks (SM, James Ward, & Bob Fawcett). RW will contact Ward ASAP for scheduling a special meeting. In the meantime, RW, SH, & EL will meet to paste together more of the plan grid panels and do field checks.

SH brought up locations for new signage and interpretive panels were not indicated on plans. Should show on 100% plans. Also Arundo eradication not noted on plan.

TC acknowledged the tight time frame for this project design and implementation and short review turn-around periods. Project funds need to be expended in a certain time period, necessitating that plans be out to bid by October. GB & SH: large single composite plans (planting, irrigation, etc.) of the 100% stage and multiple sets of 1/4 size 100% plans would be desirable for committee review. TC will see what can be done.

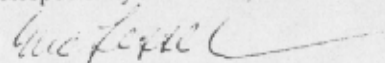
GG emphasized need for detailed specific comments on the plans from the committee. TC stated that the committee should not be afraid to repeat comments.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA (continued):

- GB announced that on April 9, the Los Angeles City Council voted to approve the appeal of various community groups to address the Tillman septage facility access road issue (access from Woodley Ave. had been approved by Planning Commission), thus effectively overturning the Commission's decision.
- SH tabled his topic to recommend funding of a work crew to remove horehound/other weeds north of Hummingbird Hill.
- TC announced Sepulveda Basin User's Group Mtg. for Thurs Apr. 24 to discuss Prop. 'A' plans for Hjelte Field and a new park & ride facility @ SE corner Victory Blvd & Balboa Blvd.
- GG reported on recent Swallow Day @ Japanese Garden (Tillman). Attendance: 740. Now planning a June 8 event: 'Springtime in the Garden'.
- MK brought up need for 'master plan' for signage for Sepulveda Basin. GG suggested to talk to Rec & Parks; discuss at next mtg?

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



ERIC LESSER, Acting Sec'y