

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee  
Minutes of the meeting  
June 24, 1997

Present: Glenn Bailly, Sandy Wolgemuth, Eric Lesser, Rosemarie White, James Ward, Ted Carr, Bob Krivak, Gene Greene, Terrie Brady

Rosemarie called the meeting to order about 7:07 pm.

No additions were made to the agenda.

Minutes of 5-27 were only corrected as to the date.

The first order of business was the June 5 walk through of the wildlife area. Glenn, Eric, Sandy, Steve, and Muriel had identified projects. An area near the entrance needs clean-up and planting. The streambed needs stabilization from erosion and testing for oil runoff from the parking lot. Hummingbird hill is a continuing project which has improved thanks to Sandy and Muriel. An idea of "adopting" a 10 foot area by a class, scout troop or individual was discussed. The fact that plants are dying and weeds are hard to pull for lack of water was also discussed.

Item 2, Hummingbird Hill had been discussed, with item 1.

Rosemarie will contact Dave Kookla of North Hollywood High regarding including work in the wildlife area in his curriculum. Rosemarie will telephone tree when a meeting is set to invite others to meet with him. Also mentioned was Birmingham High's grant for natural sciences for which teachers may be interested in completing wildlife area projects. James reminded us that city personnel will not be able to supervise so environmentalists with plant knowledge will have to be present to assure that only weeds are pulled. Also volunteers will have to be informed of what to bring and wear. Will we provide lunch, water, tools, gloves? Remind them to wear long pants, hats and maybe boots, depending on the project. Methods of informing volunteers of projects were discussed, including a catalog, a brief description page, and including projects in Cindy Miscicowski's newsletter. A recommendation to ask city staff for their project ideas was made. Also, City staff would like a copy of our list of projects once identified. CSUN professor Maureen Ruben was mentioned as another source of possible volunteers, possibly in the creation of a project catalog. Also James and Gene mentioned Scout Troops as possible volunteers.

Water quality problems in Lake Balboa resulting in Fish and Game's refusal to stock it with fish was the next item. James presented 4 of the possible plans. The main choices were closed vs open and potable vs reclaimed. The park employees prefer closed and potable. Another possibility is to improve the quality of the water from Tillman to remove

more nitrogen. Nitrogen is the problem for the fish. The water will still have high levels of sodium and boron which kills some trees. The reclaimed water will still be used on the golf course and they expect that in 25 years, people will be using reclaimed water in their homes. No plans are now being made to improve the water treatment process to make it drinkable. Although two such treatment plants exist, one at the Truckee River and one in Newport. Title 22 does not require that level of treatment. The current state of the lake is killing all fish 6 inches and above. The expected treatment improvement would consist of a lily pad holding area, which would remove 70% of the nitrogen. Two of the expenses with an open system are chemicals (\$60-65,000) and permits from Regional water Quality Control Board for emitting water into a waterway. Won't they still have to emit it into a waterway without the lake?

The wildlife area plans were the next item on the agenda. They must be completed in red ink and a list of recommendations by July 7 and delivered to James Ward's office. The cover of the final comments should say "wildlife committee comments". All of the previous comments should be included. This will be checked at Hartman's office with his printout. Times to meet to go over this were discussed. Gene stated that by July there will be a good water system. He also recommended making planting comments or the current plant recommendations will go ahead. Trying to retain all existing oaks, and Elderberry was commented by Eric.

The meeting ended at about 9:30 pm.

The next meeting is July 22, 1997, 7:00 pm.