

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee
Minutes for July 27, 1999**

Attending: Glenn Bailey, Gene Greene, Eric Lesser, Muriel Kotin, Mike Spiker of the Bureau of Sanitation, James Ward, Rosemarie White and Sandy Wohlgemuth. Eric Lesser chaired the meeting. After introductions, the minutes of the June meeting were approved with one change: add Steve Hartman's name to those attending.

Muriel is to send in a copy of the L.A. Times article on Bull Creek by Holly Edwards.

Youth Activities: Eagle Scout projects are still in the works. Jeffrey Kubasak has submitted a sample blue bird box to Steve Moe. Patton Stang's bat boxes and Robert Parsons' bench should be installed later this summer. Paige and Jocelyn Ryder's Silver Award project weeded and planted native trees and shrubs along the west bank of Haskell Creek; they will water and care for the plants through the summer although they were disappointed that 2 of their cottonwoods were vandalized. Plant-identification labels are still missing from many posts. James Ward will have Steve Moe get together with Gene Greene who volunteered to help make plastic labels. Trini Rodriguez on R & P staff can work with a Committee member to make certificates with the City seal for the major volunteer projects.

A Cub Scout Day Camp used the amphitheater and archery areas all of last week. SFV Audubon led all 150 youngsters on nature walks. There will be a Family Flashlight Walk on 8/15.

Recreation and Parks Report: James reported that a crew is scheduled to add fencing near the gate to the model airplane field. A pedestrian entrance on Woodley near the intersection with Burbank will happen later. Steve Moe is working on a design for a Wildlife Area sign to go below the Japanese Garden sign. Committee members urged that the access road get an appropriate name and a street sign.

Amphitheater scheduling will be made through the normal R & P reservation process. Joggers are using the Wildlife Area paths, especially west of Haskell Creek. They do not seem to be causing any problems.

A full time maintenance position for the Wildlife Area paid by Proposition A funds is being filled. Days and hours of work have not been established.

Rosemarie would like to see statistics on the costs for repairing vandalism and graffiti. Would a ranger be justified economically? James said budgeting considerations would make this approach futile. He suggested our frequent presence and that of other nature lovers will be the best deterrent to inappropriate behavior.

Bull Creek Restoration: Steves Moe and Hartman sent in comments on the draft plan. Recently new General Manager Ellen Oppenheim, Susan Little of Congressman Sherman's office, R & P staff and the ACOE toured Bull Cr., Beilenson Park and the Wildlife Area. Only \$700,000 of federal funds are available for Beilenson Park. The city will pay up to \$500,000 for restrooms and other non-stream-related items. For the 1135 Bull Cr. Project \$5 million is the limit available, 25% of it to come from the city. Design which is on a fast track has cost \$200,000 already. R & P is working with MTA to make the DOT lot available for park parking on weekends.

The total cost of the Wildlife Area expansion was \$3.5 million. It is unknown whether administrative costs are included in that figure. Muriel expressed concern about trees planted both by the contractor and by volunteers that have died and others highly stressed, apparently due to lack of water. James will discuss with Steve Moe whether anything can be done about this before the new position is filled.

Sandy asked whether the new employee will be able to help with weed control on Hummingbird Hill. The drip irrigation there has leaks. Eric will arrange with Steve Moe to run the irrigation. Glenn asked if a portable pump with hose would be feasible. James said they're noisy but might work. R & P has a tanker. Gene suggested spaghetti tubing with a quick coupler on a day-night timer. Perhaps we could plant only where there is irrigation.

At the Users' Committee meeting, proposals were presented for concessions in the Basin. James said the city will not accept any of the proposals except maybe bike rentals at Lake Balboa.

Encino Community Council: Glen gave a short report. He is Park and Environmental Alternate, Muriel the Representative.

Education Programs: The Goose Project plans to lead Goose Walks along the top of the dam and through the Wildlife Area on Sunday mornings starting in October.

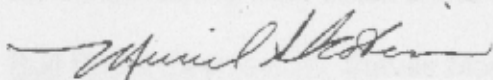
Consortium: It was MSP unanimously to authorize up to \$400 for Rosemarie to print 5 - 6,000 more copies of the brochure.

Miscellaneous: Rosemarie is taking Ellen Oppenheim and Jan Zatorski to tour Chatsworth Nature Preserve /Reservoir on 8/7. At the DWP meeting this morning, R & P, the SMM Conservancy, the Zoo, and the RCD-SMM all indicated interest in managing Chatsworth NP/R.

Glenn suggested a generic lesson plan and pre-site packet for the wildlife area. Muriel is to bring a copy of the Naturalist's Handbook to the next meeting.

Japanese Garden: Gene reported that the Japanese Garden is constructing a WEB site (thejapanesegarden.com) and offered to let us have a page on it. Their board meets at 4:00 on third Thursdays. DWP has released a bid request for repairing the southern portion of the Tillman Plant berm and planting its southeast corner. There will be an educational display.

Submitted by



Muriel Kotin