

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee 4/25/00

Rosemarie White chaired the meeting which was also attended by Glenn Bailey, Dave Ecklund, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, Jarron Lucas, Francine Oschin, James Ward, and Sandy Wohlgemuth.

Introductions and Announcements: Francine Oschin (deputy to City Councilman Hal Bernson and planning to run for City Council District 3 now held by Laura Chick) asked the committee members to keep her informed about issues and concerns she should know about. She would like a tour of the Wildlife Area after Mother's Day. A private bicycle motocross (BMX) dirt pedal bike facility is being built on MTA land at the southeast corner of Balboa and Victory. The meeting of the Public Safety Committee on police taking over the public safety role now handled by the rangers was canceled. General Manager Ellen Oppenheim is handling the issue without referring it to City Council. Minutes of the March meeting were approved as sent.

Recreation and Parks Report: James Ward reported that the electric cart is coming Thursday. Vendor has received the check. Glenn suggested some publicity on the Consortium buying the cart. Steve H will call Our Times and James will put the publicity department to work on it.

The 2 feral dogs that have been living in the WA will be captured soon by an animal rescue group that has been feeding them. The restrooms in Woodley Park are being locked around 1:30 on weekday afternoons. They are open on weekends and mornings. There are portable restrooms. The WA restrooms are not being locked.

The corn maze area has been ploughed. Corn will be planted within 2 weeks. The parks including our amphitheater area were trashed by overuse over the Easter weekend. R & P will put out more trash cans. Restrooms will be cleaned on weekends soon, in the early evening. Trash cans will be emptied to some extent on weekends. Rosemarie suggested training the public to take out their trash if the receptacle are overflowing.

The Septage facility needs a T-gate along its access road to eliminate illegal dumping after hours. Otherwise it is not impacting the Basin. The Garden Center expansion on the south side of Magnolia is proceeding.

Gene has ordered six metal WA signs to go below the Japanese Garden signs. ←

Victor M. Osugi, Division Engineer Bureau of Street Services, has responded to Steve H. about a policy that would require all street trees and median strip plantings in the Basin be California native plants whenever possible. He would like to have a meeting with Steering Committee members. Steve will try to set up a morning walk through on a Thursday or Friday. Steve H and Gene complained that cars are crossing the median strip near the new access road into southbound Woodley Avenue. James also complained of the need for a barrier along the curve on northbound Woodley. Steve Moe recently supervised volunteers from a church group that planted trees, weeded and cleaned up the creek, but it is messy again from the rains 2 days later.

Japanese Gardens: Gene Greene announced that the committee will be invited to a walk around when the Tillman Berm repairs are complete. Northeast Valley Project will be complete soon. The system has been tested and is ready to go. The Kawana

Pavilion is moving along. Rosemarie and Gene Greene will coordinate our sending a letter of support for the Kawana Pavilion.

Los Angeles Audubon Society: Sandy verified the electric utility vehicle will arrive Thursday.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society: Muriel reported the LAUSD program had its last walk of the season today. SFVAS walks for smaller school groups continue. SFVAS and the Park Rangers will lead a Family Flashlight Walk June 24 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the WA.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie announced that a pair of Canada Geese is nesting on the island in the Wildlife Lake. The Garden Fair will be May 20 and 21. Groups are welcome to give Rosemarie materials they want put out at the fair or to help staff the table.

Public Safety Ranger/Police issue. Rosemarie did not write a letter or attend a meeting as the meeting was canceled (see above). James explained the history of our park rangers. The Department of R & P will not have rangers that carry guns. Glenn suggested posting the **ranger dispatch telephone number 323/913-7390**. Rosemarie would like to invite Ellen Oppenheim in conjunction with a tour of the WA.

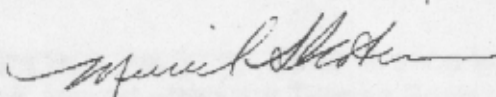
California Native Plant Society: Steve H recently led a ranger training tour and has a second one coming up. Riparian Repair has completed about 5 ½ days of weed eradication so far. Steve's four native gardening workshops are complete. He will resume them in the fall. Hummingbird Hill looks great. Riparian Repair is working on horehound east of the lake. A lot of problem weeds have been eliminated. The arundo seems to be eliminated for the moment. The ACOE's shoal removal project seems to be complete along the LA River. James will ask the ACOE to keep arundo controlled along the river, and Steve will talk to Carvel about it. James said that the ACOE is removing arundo and castor bean along the river upstream of the Burbank Blvd. bridge.

Resource Conservation District: Glenn suggested that perhaps members here have projects that Hal Bernson's office might help fund in addition to SFVAS's Sepulveda Basin Education Program. The RCD is going through the strategic planning process. Committee members or their organizations might want to communicate their concerns to Margo Murman, the executive officer.

Sierra Club: Eric announced the March for Parks Banjo & Fiddle Contest May 21 at Paramount Ranch.

Special Walk Through: There will be a walk through the WA on May 23, before the next meeting, possibly with any invited guests. Meet at 4:00 at amphitheater. We will have dinner out before the meeting.

Submitted by



Muriel S. Kotin, Steering Committee Member