

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes April 24, 2001

David Ecklund chaired. Also attending were Glenn Bailey, Senior Park Ranger Tom Cotter, Gene Greene, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, Joyce MacKinnon, Steve Moe, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth. Rosemarie requested that committee members give agenda items to the Chair to forward to Patty Stutz, and not have Patty make a generic agenda each month. Glenn commented that members tend to do so if they have anything beyond the routine, that surprises are usually items from Rec and Parks. Minutes of the March meeting were approved without change.

Volunteer Patrol: Senior Park Ranger Tom Cotter spoke about a volunteer patrol. All volunteers must be fingerprinted on Wednesday, May 2. Make appointments for fingerprinting through Steve Moe. Committee members said the biggest problems are dogs, poachers, bicycles, vandalism, graffiti, model airplanes crossing Woodley. Tom showed us the WA Volunteer medallion on a string that James Ward had made up. James has also ordered us hats with the oak leaf logo. Tom warned that dog lovers may be very emotional about their dogs: we may need to back off. We will need to discriminate between problems that need immediate attention and trends he should know about, including when and where. Then the rangers can check on the problem when possible. If there's a man with a gun or other dangerous situation, try to get a good look to describe who and where. Then phone the rangers' dispatch (323/913-7390) or 911. Back away but go where the police/rangers can find you to show them where the problem is. We can review with Tom how things are going at these meetings. His hours are 10 am to 8 pm Sun-Wed, tel 818/756-9246, e-mail tcotter@rap.lacity.org. He'll write up a memo for his lead officer to let them know about us. Keep track of how many hours we spend out there and let Steve M know from time to time. All animals plants, trees, etc in the park are protected.

Recreation & Parks (Steve M): We are almost out of flyers. Rosemarie wants the flyers to acknowledge people who contribute photographs for the flyers. Muriel felt this is inappropriate. Glenn suggested we have a large printing made of the flyers, and look for a sponsor to pay who would be acknowledged. Rosemarie will check with Abacus Printing on Parthenia who has the masters on the cost. Steve M can have a 1 page handout like the middle panel of our flyer made up for the WA volunteers to give out. Eric will draft a letter to send out to potential sponsors.

Japanese Gardens (Gene Greene): Large events in the parks are getting much larger. The Gardens have cancelled events for this Sunday because of the Israeli-American event scheduled. Gene is working with Sandy Kievman of Cindy Miscikowski's office about this. Rosemarie suggested that we invite Ellen Oppenheim to a meeting to apprise her of what is going on here. Muriel will bring up the problem at an Encino Community Council meeting. The next big event in the garden will be in October.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (Muriel): The LAUSD Environmental Education Program is complete, although several less formal field trips are planned for a variety of schools. Two summer Flashlight Walks are being planned. Muriel is very concerned that the RCD has not yet found a qualified education director.

Canada Goose Project (Rosemarie): There have been 3 recent "blessed (goose) events" on the Woodley Golf Course with more to come. She is working on a goose video. Earthday went very well. She is concerned about the impact of David Freeman's leaving as General Manager of DWP. With the upcoming changes in elected officials, she would like to see elected officials invited to this meeting. A copy of Steve Hartman's letter on including the Basin as an SEA was e-mailed to committee members for their organizations to use in sending letters.

Resource Conservation District -Sta. Monica Mtns. (Glenn): Ed director candidates have been interviewed. The position is being worked on actively. The opening has been published on the internet

and sent to various environmental organizations.

Sierra Club (Eric): There will be a runoff for Laura Chick's City Council position between Dennis Zine and Judith Hershberg. Francine Oschin plans to endorse Hershberg. What is going on about plans for the corn maze? Steve M. did not know. Muriel commented that the maze seemed to be OK environmentally, but that the appearance was too gaudy. Rosemarie would like to see a protective barrier around the corn maze oval after the corn is plowed under next fall, to keep out dogs from nearby areas. Perhaps we could buy a permanent chain-link fence or split the cost with Stu Miller.

[Gene commented that Sanitation has their eye on the corn maze area for a future wetland. Muriel added that she would be happy also to see the part of the WA west of Woodley become a wetland also, but she is concerned that the rest of the WA not be messed with.] Eric went to SOKA University's botanical research facility and was impressed with the materials he found.

City of Los Angeles Conservation Plan (Glenn): The city is revising its conservation plan after 30 years. The Planning Commission will be considering the issue on 5/10/01. Glenn will e-mail us information.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee