

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Minutes May 22, 2001**

The meeting was chaired by Glenn Bailey. Members attending were Glenn Bailey, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward, Rosemarie White, Sandy Wohlgenuth.

James Ward passed out WA caps — nifty! He had them made up for the citizen patrol. Minutes of April 24, 2001 were corrected to spell the city council candidate Judith Hirshberg. They were approved with that change. New agenda items: Neighborhood Matching Grand Funds (Sandy Kievman will attend our June meeting on that and huge events in Woodley Park.) MTA project.

Recreation & Parks (James Ward): Only about 5 members have been fingerprinted and processed for the citizen patrol. To get the badge, take the paper from fingerprinter to Steve Moe. WA MRP account paid for the caps and badges.

The Israeli Festival was close to 30,000 people! Irish Festival (June 17) and Valley Pride (Oct.) events are scheduled. Van Nuys Airport Air Show is coming up in late June. The tunnel under Woodley Avenue was opened for the Israeli Festival. Joyce MacKinnon (with R & P's concurrence) suggested off-site parking in the future. Muriel commented that she does not think major events should be held in Woodley Park, and that she told Sandy Kievman we should discuss this with her at the June meeting. James suggests that pre-distributed tickets should be required for major events announced on radio stations. Then a rough number of attendees would be available. Rosemarie suggested we should all appear at an R & P commission meeting, along with community members who feel the same. Glenn commented that the Israeli and Irish events used to be held at sites with major amounts of parking. Their histories should give a picture of how many can be expected, and whether there is enough parking. Steve Hartman suggested that the Users' Committee should discuss this. Glenn asked for us to be notified of dates of these events.

James hopes the bike path rebuilding should be completed by July 4<sup>th</sup>. DWP will be using the old baseball park on Victory as a storage yard for their Burbank Blvd Trunk Line project. Eucalyptus on Burbank are dying because of the lerp psyllid and other insects. Many will be cut down before they fall and will be replaced with California natives. It does not look like we will have a Corn Maze this year; James has not heard anything lately on it.

Glenn suggested we send a thank you to Tom Cotter for attending our meeting. He or David Ecklund will send a letter.

Brochures (Rosemarie): She paid \$803 for 5,000 brochures. James will check with Steve Moe to see if there is enough money left in our MRP account to pay. (Otherwise, the Consortium might pay.) Rosemarie suggested getting a donation in future to sponsor printings. The consensus was in favor of this.

Japanese Gardens (Gene Greene): The DWP pumping station at the southeast corner of the Tillman property is complete. Landscaping is now under Sanitation's control. Any

organization that wants to have an event at the DWP facility is welcome for free. It can accommodate about 300 people. Sanitation plans to begin tours of the berm. The Israeli event was a disaster for the Tillman Plant. MoPar car show, about 3 weeks before the Israeli event, also caused the Japanese Garden to close.

**The Marsh Project:** Glenn will forward copies of the Concept Report to all committee members with e-mails as soon as he gets it. The Bureau of Sanitation will attend this meeting next meeting or in July. Glenn suggested it be June, when Sandy Kievman is here. Gene will try to arrange that.

Los Angeles Audubon Society (Sandy): The MTA is proposing to use the old railroad right of way along Topham, for a 14-mile-long rapid transit bus from the N. Hollywood Metro Red Line Station to Warner Center. DEIR has been released. Public input is requested. It will go along the RR tracks next to Victory, going through the Basin starting around Louise. There will be public hearings 6/21 at Pierce College 5-8 and Valley College 6/26. Glenn suggested we discuss the project with our groups from an environmental point of view.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (Muriel): The Cleanup was very successful, with about 45 participants. Three dumpsters of trash were collected. She suggested various ideas for using Neighborhood matching grants adjacent to the WA. Medians. Gene can probably plant median of Woodley down to turnaround. Muriel is to discuss plantings with Steve H. SFVAS and the Park Rangers are sponsoring Flashlight Walks on June 30 (7:15pm) and August 11 (7pm).

Canada Goose Project (Rosemarie): She won't invite the Corn Maze person unless that is going to happen this year. We have about 65 adult geese and 21 goslings in the Basin. Steve Moe stopped traffic on Woodley Avenue one day in May to allow a family of geese to walk their goslings, going from the W.A. to Woodley Golf Course.

California Native Plant Society (Steve H): He said the many "gravestones" are inappropriate for a W.A. Studies have been done showing where Argentine ants forage. They decimate the other crawling insects and the soil becomes sterile. Their favorite place to build their nests is under rocks. Solid surfaces, like the viewing areas, decorative circles, and "gravestones," should not be within 600 feet of a W.A.. He would like us to keep an eye open for ants and what kind they are, including when we lead kids' nature walks. James thinks the periodic floods would kill the ants in the W.A.

Resource Conservation District - SMM (Glenn): Jennifer Shelstead, has been appointed education coordinator for the RCD. She has extensive experiences relevant to the job. She should do an excellent job and will be writing grant applications.

Submitted by

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