

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes of March 25, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by rotating chairperson Muriel Kotin. Other committee members and alternates in attendance were Glenn Bailey, Carvel Bass, Gene Greene, Jarron Lucas, Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward, Rosemarie White, and Melanie Winter; guest agency attendees were Wendell Bowers, Troy Boswall, and Ann Waisgerber; public attendees were Mike Aubrey and Sharon Brewer. After self-introductions, the minutes of the February 25, 2003 meeting were accepted with the clarification that Galpin Ford donated the electric cart to the Goose Project which then donated it to the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer stated that the problems affecting wildlife at Lake Balboa were continuing.

Councilmember Galanter (Trevor Daley): Muriel reported that Trevor is very concerned about the impact on wildlife from fishing, etc. at Lake Balboa. Wendell Bowers, Wildlife Coordinator with the Department of Animal Services, said there is a special animal law enforcement task force that has a zero tolerance. Troy Boswall, also with the Department of Animal Services, advised that birds brought to animal shelters are immediately killed due to concern with Newcastle's disease. They will coordinate their efforts with Recreation and Park staff to improve matters. In response to a question, Wendell said confining fishing to one area of Lake Balboa would help the situation. Carvel stated that the ACOE has committed to getting Corps ranger presence at Sepulveda Basin and/or Hansen Dam but this is not yet funded. Their rangers have less authority than the city's.

There was extensive discussion about restricting or banning fishing at Lake Balboa due to its substantial negative impact to wildlife. A motion was made by Rosemarie, seconded by Muriel, as amended, to recommend that the City establish a specific area around Lake Balboa where fishing would be allowed and that a pilot educational program be implemented by agencies and the community. Motion passed.

ACOE (Carvel Bass): The Air National Guard wants to tear down some buildings, renovate/upgrade others, and close off underground missile silos; he will be writing a brief administrative Environmental Assessment (EA). The February 24th Haskell Creek clean out will be rescheduled to future date due to rain. (Muriel reported pines trees cut down on the east side Haskell Creek; James will find out the reason.) The MTA busway project is causing the Bull Creek project to have a different access route from the Balboa park and ride lot; it will now be from Balboa Boulevard south of the busway.

Recreation and Parks Department (James Ward): A sinkhole on Woodley Avenue is being repaired. The planting along Woodley Avenue is being done in cooperation with the California Conservation Corps; the dedication will be March 31. The electric cart donation be featured in a photo op with the Goose Project, Councilmember-elect Tony Cardenas, and Galpin Ford. The Bull Creek environmental document will be forthcoming; the project will get \$5 million funding.

Upcoming events include the Israeli and Irish festivals and the Boy Scout Jamboree just before Thanksgiving.

Department of Sanitation/Japanese Gardens (Gene Greene): Gene distributed "Native Landscape of the Levee" brochure. He reported 220 visitors to the garden last Sunday with no advertisement. The model jets are an ongoing problem as they fly over the facility at up to 200 miles per hour; the rangers have logged 50 complaint calls during one week; one jet crashed in the golf course.

Mission Statement: Muriel feels it would be a good idea to have in writing what WAAC does; also, that the wording may need to be updated. Following discussion, this matter will be considered at the next meeting without major presentations on the agenda.

Committee Reports:

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (Muriel Kotin): There will be one more tour for LAUSD, everything has gone smoothly. Use of the amphitheater is being shared with young mother exercise class. The reserve cleanup will be held Saturday, April 12.

Canada Goose Project (Rosemarie White): The migrant geese are gone and the resident ones remain. There were approximately 50 on the golf course last year. Earth Day event will be held at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, April 6.

RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains (Glenn Bailey): The RCD is conducting a search for a new District Manager. The RCD Board voted to support the inclusion of the north Haskell Creek riparian corridor into the wildlife area.

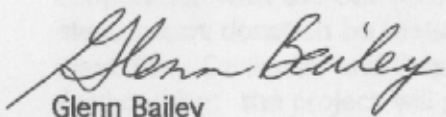
Sierra Club (Rosemarie White): A conference entitled "Re-Enchanting the City" will be held May 17th at the L.A. Zoo; it will focus on urban wildlife.

Other Business:

James said that the future of a Basin Park Advisory Board is up in the air as the department is being reorganized.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Glenn Bailey