

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Minutes July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

The Meeting was called to order at 0715 PM by Chair Muriel Kotin. The meeting was attended by Glenn Bailey, Rosemarie White, Manuel Mollinedo Sandy Wohlgemoth, Steve Hartman, Jim Dantona, David Avshalomov, Theresa Baer, Tom Persons, Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward, Melanie Winter, Dave Kukla, and also attending but not signed in Patrick Rigney, Sharon Brewer, and Judith McCurdy.

**Corrections to Minutes and Approval:** Steve wanted the last sentence in his report struck from the record. The second n needs to be added to Glenn's name. The correction to spelling in Manuel Mollinedo's name. The minutes were then approved.

**New Business:** Glen announced that the Encino Community Council had elected new members. Sharon Brewer was the new Park and Environmental Rep. He wanted to add this new member to the Committee.

**Public Comment:** Judith stated that fishing continues to be a problem at Lake Balboa. The boat that services the lake goes fast and they do not retrieve the trash.

**General Manager of Rec. and Parks:** Rosemarie introduced Manuel Mollinedo The General Manager of Rec. and Parks for LA. He then stated that he had been in this position for one year. There are 386 parks in the city. He is an environmental sensitive manager and is looking for a better system for regional parks. He came from the LA Zoo and also worked in Austin Texas with Lady Bird Johnson. He established a native plant garden in the parking lot at the Zoo. He was born in East LA. He would like to establish a habitat standard for plants in the parks. He feels that the LA. River is the spine for the park system. He is also interested in a wildlife ecology system for parks. There are 37 Park Rangers who work 7days x 16hr per day. He would like to have Rangers assigned to certain parks and have them create a greater educational role. Now many drive from one problem to another in the park system. He is interested in educating all the park staff. The Woodley entrance native planting project is also designed to educate the public to the advantages of using native plants.

Sharon asked if the Ranger loss was because other city departments offer more money. He said this was true. Now Park Rangers are required to have a four year education. He favors a two year education requirement. All Park Rangers are peace officers.

Glenn remarked that it seemed that parks spend more money on physical structures than purchasing additional lands. Mr Mollinedo stated that the city needs to develop an open space plan.

Melanie Asked about the P.A.B. in Hansen Dam. She felt that Hansen Dam needed a environmental user group like the S.B.W.A.S.C. These partners would do a better job of protecting the resources.

Muriel remarked that this group had a long term relationship with Rec. and Parks. She did not feel that a PAB would be an advantage to the S.B.W.A.S.C. She felt that this group should talk directly to Rec. and Parks.

James reported that the user group PAB at the Balboa Rec. Center was working well. He suggested that it may be a good idea to form one with the Flight Field, Archery Range, Cricket fields, and Friends of Lake Balboa.

Manuel said he was interested in reducing impact to environment in the Park System.

Melanie stated that we need to support, grow, preserve, and protect natural areas. We do not want to lose what we have achieved. She also encouraged Manuel to retrain his staff to work with native plants.

Steve stated that we have a world class urban wildlife refuge here in this city. The Japanese Garden has the largest native plant landscape in the city. He then asked about large scale events in the parks. Manuel stated that they may have to revise the policies on large scale events. They also needed the City Councils Offices to help control specific groups waivers. Some events may cost Rec. and Parks money. Rec. and Parks needs a four million dollar increase in revenue in the next year. Glenn suggested that the event sponsors post a bond for events. James stated that event sponsors can not control the crowds. They advertise in the papers and on radio about the event. There needs to be better guidelines to man the events. Patrick stated that the Japanese Garden had to close on the days of these large events because people do not have access to their gates.

Rosemarie stated that there is a prototype for working with a city agency and fighting for what we believe in. "Rim of Valley Corridor" is concerned with migratory birds in this area.

Jim Dantona is available to listen to our concerns and also Field Deputy Yolanda Fuentes from Tony Cardenas office District 6.

Manuel had an early morning meeting and had to leave. He promised to make coming to some future meetings a priority. He reported that they were trying synthetic grass in the cricket fields. He suggested that planning, Rec. and parks, DWP, and Sanitation work together to create cleaner bodies of water. He added that there are Quimby Funds to acquire additional parkland. Melanie stated that there are prop 12 funds and 40% are to go to river space. Manuel added that Bond Oversight Committee makes the final decision.

Dave Kukula reported that high school students are trained to protect the area in Hansen Dam. He hoped this could be continued in other parks.

**Recreation and Parks Report:** James reported that The Garden Center will be closed for one year. The building will be torn down and then reconstructed. Steve asked if the lawn area would be available for CNPS plant sale in Oct. James stated he thought it would be available, but there would be no room for storage. They are working on the Design Review for east Woodley Project which will include 75,000 native plants for Tillman entrance and Woodley entrance to the park. The fishing issue is still in discussion. Signs will be made and fishing restricted areas established probably in the fall when park attendance slows down. There will be no additional personal to enforce these rules. Park Service employees are trained in protection when picking up trash. Some personnel do not wear gloves as required.

Joyce asked if the large Carp kill at the Wildlife Lake was contained. James reported that it was resolved, and that there was no problem with the water. Fish do not live forever. These fish were so large that no bird could ever eat them.

**Japanese Garden:** Patrick had no report. Gene Greene is out ill. Glenn recommended that Muriel send him a get well card from this group.

**Sierra Club Report:** Sandy said he would pass as he had not been to meetings for six months. Welcome back Sandy! It was nice to see you at this meeting.

**S.F.V Audubon Report:** Muriel thanked L.A. Audubon for their check supporting school trips in the Sepulveda Basin. She had a call for school community service projects involving 50-60 students. She asked who should she call? Rec. and Parks said they would be happy to coordinate these projects. Tree People would be willing to help along with Steve.

**Canada Goose Project Report:** Rosemarie reported that the migration count would start Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. The Sierra Wildlife Conference will occur in Oct. 2003. She will be asking Manuel Mollinedo to be a feature speaker.

**California Native Plant Society Report:** Bill Neil worked over his \$1,400.00 limit by \$82.00 dollars. He presented a cost sheet and Steve will invite Bill to come to the next meeting.

**Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains Report:** Glenn reported that they are looking for a site for new headquarters. The county wants to build a library on the current site.

**The River Project:** Melanie reported that they want to take out the concrete on the river between Havenhurst and Balboa Blvds. She has contacted a bio-engineering company to restart the project .who has a manual established with the state. This will create less red tape. Restoring the river in the Valley is her passion. There are signs which go on concrete to say "Do not dump; Drains into River". These are to be placed on storm drains.

James stated that Bee Canyon plan is working with native plants.

**Tree People Report:** Tom reported that 9 people showed up for the July 12<sup>th</sup> workshop. They identified 36 sites where the 80 trees were planted in the fall. 33 of these sites had live trees which they weeded around and watered. Some had weeds up to 10 feet tall shading them. The next workshop will be Sept.6<sup>th</sup>. There was no success on the female Cottonwood plantings. He has scheduled Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> as a native grass planting workshop. He is more than willing to work with community groups who would like to do service projects.

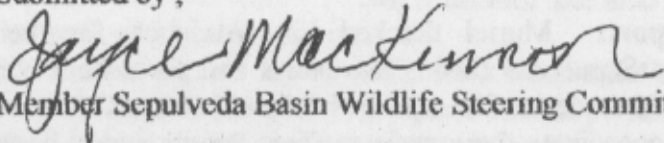
Muriel and Rosemarie suggested the Mission Statement and voting rules be delayed until the August meeting. Steve suggested we have an E-mail discussion on these topics before the meeting.



Tom Persons was identified as the next Chair for six months and accepted the assignment.

The meeting was adjourned at 940 PM.

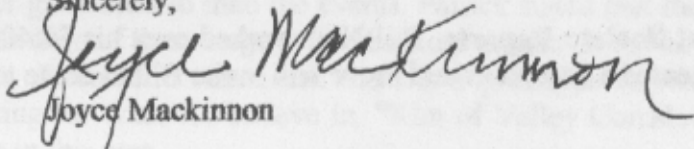
Submitted by ,



Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee

I want to thank every member who sits around this table for the information that you submit. I have learned so much in the last two years that I have attended these meetings and look forward to learning more. Please keep up the good work. You will have many more new converts with your excellent information.

Sincerely,



Joyce Mackinnon