

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes November 25, 2003

Minutes of the October 2003 meeting were approved as submitted

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer said there have still been no meetings of other park committees.

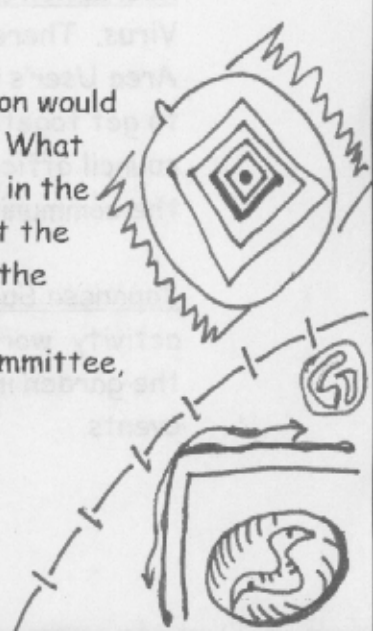
Mission Statement: It was unanimously Moved, Seconded and Passed that we accept the revised mission statement which will now read:

The mission of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee shall be to oversee, in its advisory capacity, the wildlife refuge areas and other areas of present or potential natural value within the Sepulveda Basin, as well as to support policies and programs that ensure their long term preservation, protection and enhancement.

environmental
preserving & enhancing
Voting Rules: A great deal of discussion was generated in response to the proposal, "Voting Members of the Committee shall consist of one representative from any active organization interested in the wildlife, habitat, natural and open-space values of the Sepulveda Basin, or an alternate representative from such organization. An organization will be considered active if a representative has attended at least four of the immediately preceding eight meetings. Organizations interested in the above values in a general or peripheral way, such as park user organizations, community councils and homeowners associations may be ex-officio (non-voting) members."
vs resources
neighborhood

No action was taken on this discussion, which was positively received by all. Some points discussed follow. It was generally agreed that a person can represent only one organization with a limit of one vote per organization. "During any meeting a person can vote for only one organization. One organization, one vote."

Steve H is concerned about how a record of attendance for an organization would be kept. It was felt that non environmental groups should be ex-officio. What about a new group? They would wait until they have attended 4 meetings in the last 8 before getting voting rights. Steve suggests a physical record that the chair bring to each meeting. What about proxies? Steve H recommends the committee list have one page with formal members and another page with alternates and ex-officio members. (Muriel is to send an e-mail to the committee, including John Holmes in e-mailing, starting a new version of voting rules.)



South Reserve Action Plan: Tom Persons was upset by the number of people he saw having their morning coffee there one recent morning. Lynda has insisted that Burbank be posted with no stopping, tow away signs. Melanie requested a key to the gate for road above dam to South Reserve for access for volunteer studies and work. Steve H suggested trimming the trees up in south reserve. James doesn't have the staff and it would be unnatural looking. Lynda suggested that she might be able to get outside help to clean up. Melanie said work-release people could benefit to learn about how to work with brush - or CCC. TreePeople might be able to lead in teaching them. Maybe CalTrans work crews. Maybe the Council office can help. The understorey should be reduced, perhaps incrementally, a couple of acres at a time. To stop the activities right away, something drastic needs to be done soon. Perhaps even flood it very 3 months. Lois asked if you could physically take away the parking. Lynda said the tow-away policy should work. Vegetation management will be necessary in the long run. Long-range cameras? Are the wide spots in Burbank for emergency parking necessary?

Haskell Creek: Sanitation had fenced off northern portion of creek, but the fence was torn out by the MTA project which will eventually eliminate the homeless from that area. The north portion has had trash removed. The canopy has not been raised: it is ACOE property. Lois will ask Carvel about raising the canopy. Tom should ask MTA's project manager Mark Van Gessel to get the fence put up during construction. Lynda will phone him too.

Bull Creek: Lois Goodman reported for the ACOE that the plan is still being reviewed internally, hopefully to be released for review soon. There will be a public meeting. We will get notices. Each organization will receive a copy of the report.

Recreation & Parks: James said that the dead ducks found did not have West Nile Virus. There has been a shakeup in local R&P offices. Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area User's Group will begin meeting quarterly, starting 1/13/04. They are trying to get together a calendar of wildlife, etc in Sepulveda Basin for next year. (The council office is trying to come up with a workbook for kids on the positive things in the community and the basin.)

Japanese Garden: Gene said they have developed "Wally Waterdrop," a pre-site activity workbook on reclaimed water. There will be construction/maintenance in the garden in December. They are getting better coordination w/ R & P on special events.

DWP Project: James said the notice we got recently this is part of completing the project to use reclaimed water for irrigation within the Basin.

LA Audubon: Sandy said that although most of their members do not live in SFV, he keeps them up to date and many of them do visit the WA for birdwatching and have very positive feeling about it.

SFV Audubon: Muriel said the Environmental Education program is up & running.

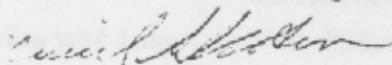
Calif. Native Plant Society: Steve H gave out a handout on weed management. There is a ~~plant~~^{small} infestation of Pampas grass in west reserve near model airplane field. Steve requested that R&P or TreePeople cut it down. TreePeople will.

The River Project: Melanie reported the final plan for Taylor has been agreed on by all concerned. City is applying for funds and will be using sustainable methods.

Southwest Herpetologists: John Holmes said that Jarron Lucas can't make these meetings, so John will be the representative. How can they help the WA? He will write up information about their organization to help us.

The next meeting will be January 27. That will be Tom's last meeting as chair.

Submitted by



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