

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee Minutes May 27, 2004

Melanie Winter chaired the meeting. Members present were: Muriel Kotin, Gene Arias, Glenn Bailey, Tom Persons, and Rosemarie White. Alternates and Non-Voting members were: Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward, , Sharon Brewer, and Gene Greene. Visitors present were Michael Stevenson, Elaine Trogman, and Rodger Best.

The meeting opened by Muriel Kotin at 0715 pm. She went over the history of this group for the visitors present for the first time. The original Guidelines for the committee were established 11 years ago. Melanie arrived and asked for approval of last months minutes. They were approved with out correction. Glenn asked about the missing letters in the minutes and James stated that the problem was with the copier and the problem had been corrected.

Public Comment: Sharon stated that on May 16th dogs at the park were let loose to chase the geese. She also stated that the leashes should be no more than 6ft. long and that many people broke this rule. Tom asked if people here could identify the South Coast Willow Flycatcher. He believes that the creek willows should be attractive to this species. This will be added to the agenda.

Additions to Agenda: Muriel asked that the question of S.F.V. Audubon managing the Consortium money be put on hold until the next meeting. The Audubon Board would meet next week and the Board should vote on this matter. Glenn will make up a list of Action Items to be discussed at the next meeting. He will fax this list to the Members. Some of which are:

1. Street sign for Wildlife Way
2. Fishing regulations at Wildlife Lake.
3. Limited fishing areas at Lake Balboa.
4. Size limits and impacts of large events in the basin.
5. Regular communication and calendar of events.

Muriel called Louie Loomis and requested the calendar be sent to all members of the Wildlife Committee Louie said he could not do this, but would send her a calendar every 2-3 months. Muriel will E-mail the rest of the committee.

James stated that he will work on getting The Rec. and Parks Web Site updated. There was no meeting of the Volunteer Corps subcommittee. This may be put on the agenda for next month. The Herpetologist Study Report will also be post poned.

Melanie stated that our web-site has been updated. RCD of Santa Monica Mountains and S.F.V. Audubon has been added. Gene Green said he would send an electronic file to Melanie to up date the Wild Life Brochure. Whether the Consortium will pay for Web posting will be taken up at the next meeting.

Tom stated that the So. Coast Willow Flycatcher liked standing water and willows. If they nest here when they migrate, would we consider closing sections of the Wildlife Area. James stated that there is no way to enforce the closing of areas. Muriel suggested that he post the question of any Willow Flycatchers on the web-site Yahoobirdwatch.com.

Bull Creek Project: Melanie reported that Lois could not be here tonight but that the Bull Creek Project had been pushed ahead. Ground breaking ceremonies will take place on May 27th at 10 AM. for restrooms and benches. Congressman Sherman and the Col. Richard Thompson will be there. The COL. will be going to Baghdad soon. There will be a press release soon regarding the Core and Rec. & Parks general plan. Rec. & Parks supports this plan.

Rec. & Parks: James announced that the project to improve the entrance to Woodley Golf Course and Lake Balboa is going fast. The native trees have been planted and more native plants will be going in this fall. The irrigation system has been installed and it is using recycled water. He is proposing to add clusters of oak for the parking field area. This would be 300-500 trees. Glenn made a motion to plant only natives. Muriel seconded and the committee approved. Glenn suggested that we get Steve Hartman involved with the plants and plan. Tom stated that he had 60 oaks which would be 6 ft. tall by fall and 50-60 Ca Bay Laurel. B.O.E. is running the project. The Irish Festival will be the next large events fair on June 15-16th. The store room for the electric vehicle will be ready soon in about one month. There will be a storage container for other equipment in place. This vehicle will be available to Northridge Parks on June 4-6th. It was suggested that a sign up list should be made for using the vehicle. Muriel asked about the airplane fire and if the new air field was built. James stated that one fire was caused by the homeless and another fire caused by an airplane jet. Muriel suggested that plant projects should include Arundo removal and mustard removal. Tom stated that native bunch grasses burn at a lower and cooler rate, but this is no overnight project. He has 1000 plants of native grass. It was suggested that we might get Boy Scouts to pull mustard before bloom. We have a great seed bank in the basin. Maybe we should look for grant funding.

The River Project: Melanie reported that the project used sustainable B.M.P. and supported I.R.P.'s. She suggested we do this for future areas in the Sepulveda Basin. Glenn suggested that Melanie make a list for the committee. James stated that steel was up 100% in cost, Concrete was up 20%, and art design by professionals was up 10%. This issue will be taken up at the next meeting. June 12th at 10AM The Gospel Choir will sing at Valleyhart Green Way. There will be a ribbon cutting on the walking path and the Great Toad Gate. She will be a speaker in the City Science and Biology of L.A. River conference tomorrow.

Japanese Garden Report: A red jet was flying over the parking lot at 630 PM. Canoga Park Parade next Mon. and the Garden will be placing a float in the parade. Evening tours of the Garden will take place Tues. and Thurs. at 6 PM. A free week at the garden will take place at no cost on their 20th anniversary. The Garden will have a small event once a month rather than a large event two times a year. Sharon also reported that jets were flying over the gates of the garden at the Israeli Festival.

S.F.V. Audubon Report: Muriel announced that the Cub Scout Day Camp is scheduled the week of July 12th. The Children's and Family walks are over until the second week in Oct.

The Canada Goose Project: Gene reported that he saw people releasing a couple of gopher snakes in the Wildlife area. He stated that the Ford Thinkmobile schedule should be posted near where the machine is stored. He said that motorized scooters are being run on the grass near the wildlife area. There are 12 pair of Canada Geese with babies in this area.

R.C.D. Santa Monica Mountains: He will give an update next month on the budget. It is expected that they may have as much as a 25% cut from the state. Becka Barkin the district general manager will be leaving next week. An interim manager will be announced.

Sierra Club Report: Rosemarie is on the committee for art work on The Orange Line Busway. Art work for stations at Balboa- Canada Goose, Woodley-geology of San Fernando Valley. Glenn asked that the birds be moved to Woodley Ave. and Geology be moved to Winneka. She asked for storage space in the storage room for Sierra Club and Canada Goose Project. Four members of the Encino Community Council asked her to run for Environmental and Parks Representative.

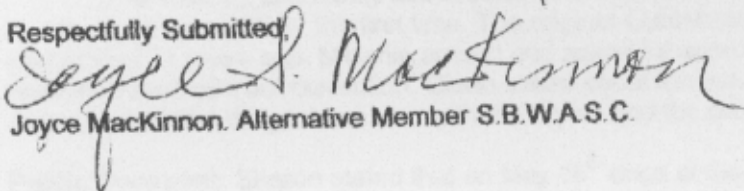
Tree People: Tom announced that there will be no more tree watering at Limekiln Canyon

Bell Creek: Rodger announced that Bell Creek and Dayton Creek are a habitat for the Canada Goose flyway for around 55 Yrs. The neighborhood grew around this area. Pine Grove Hospital

owned the property and went broke. They wanted to sell it to a group who would build 20 large homes and a 500 student school. An affiliation group wants to protect this area. Glenn stated that if the property was rezoned the acquisition cost would go up. The Mountains Conservatory has offered to buy a small tip of the property.

Gene Greene stated that he had been at a meeting where a new machine for cutting and spraying Arundo was introduced. It can cut stocks up to 3 in. in diameter and the spray injection is protected by the machine. James said this machine might have lease rights. This may be an effective way to eliminate Arundo in the LA. River and creek areas.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joyce MacKinnon, Alternative Member S.B.W.A.S.C.