

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
August 24, 2004

The meeting was chaired by Gene Arias and attended by other voting members John McInnes, Muriel Kotin, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgrumuth. Non-voting members Sharon Brewer, Gene Greene, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, and Ken Novak, as well as guest Harold Sullivan. We began with self introductions.

Announcements: Lynda Levitan distributed information for Councilmember Cardenas' office about various community special events. They will have an information meeting on West Nile Virus 7/13. Tom Persons' tree planting in the Basin has been moved from 10/9 to 10/16. The planting will probably focus on replanting dead young trees near Haskell Creek. He will send the committee e-mails on these and other events. Gene Arias will have a Condor picture published in Audubon Magazine.

Minutes of the July 27, 2004 meeting were approved after the clarification to the TreePeople report on page 3 that Valley Oaks and Mexican Elderberries were planted as well as California Bay Laurels. There were no additions to the agenda.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer asked whether there is spraying for West Nile Virus at Lake Balboa and the Japanese Garden. Gene Greene said they carefully control mosquitos daily. Thus far vector control has not found any need for spraying there. Ken Novak said that Recreation and Parks (R&P) does not specifically treat for mosquitos. They check both Lake Balboa and Wildlife Lake for midges daily and treat weekly, with a bacillus product. Vector Control also sprays with the same product. The treatment is why Lake Balboa is often closed on Fridays. Sharon asked about setting aside a fishing area. Ken says a small area has been closed to fishing. R&P will put in trash cans where most of the fishing takes place. Rosemarie suggested that fishing at all may have been inappropriate. Ken said the spike in dead fish is due to a drop in the oxygen level.

Business Cards for Steering Committee were suggested by Gene Arias. Gene G said we could have cards, but not with the city seal nor our names printed. We could write our own name and phone number on the back. There was discussion as to whether the card would be needed or appropriate. It might be useful when we ask people to behave properly. We should design a card and then submit it to R&P.

Homeless Problem: They're doing sweeps of various areas since the homeless were dispersed by CHP from under the Burbank Blvd. bridge. Every fall R&P warns the homeless of the flood danger.

Office of Councilmember Cardenas: Lynda Levitan said their office hopes to publicize the activities and resources of Sepulveda Basin, collaborating with this and other groups. The bus project is still stopped. Rosemarie asked about the effects on the river and creeks where the incomplete construction crosses them.

Recreation and Parks: — Ken Novak reported that R&P is co-sponsoring the Deaf Festival with Cardenas' Council Office, waiving fees. Some of the native plants planted in their parking area are not doing well. Ken is requiring that September 30, preferably October 1 be the earliest dead plants be replaced. They will do dead plant removal soon. R&P will talk to us later about additional planting in that area, including south of the bike path. They will be dropping the Wildlife Lake level and preparing to disk, readying the goose forage area for planting. The flight field people would like to see a path west of Woodley Avenue, as they're having major problems finding their crashed airplanes. Muriel would like to see low growing natives that aren't too flammable and with high wildlife area. The path would have to be reasonably far from the hazard of crashing model airplanes. Tom suggested native grasses. Gene G. commented that there are 15 model plane crashes at the Tillman Plant each year. Ken said management of the flight field will change in the next year, possibly with jet planes being eliminated. Giant scale planes are also a problem. Rosemarie requested a monthly report of Tillman crashes from Gene G. There was one between last month's meeting and tonight.

Japanese Garden - Gene Greene: Twilight tours will end Labor Day. Patrick Rigney will be happy to help R&P with their choice of native plants for use in the basin and can use their fancy camera to take pictures for R&P. Their construction projects are ramping up. The trucks are using the Haskell entrance. If we see the trucks on Woodley, let Gene G know. Planting the Woodley median has to wait for irrigation for the total planting plan. Let Gene G know if we want any of the existing trees on the median removed right away.

San Fernando Valley Audubon - Muriel Kotin: Bird walks for beginners and Families will be on 2nd Saturdays October - March. Muriel will e-mail a flyer to Lynda Levitan for her office. The field trip program for LAUSD will resume in late October. The teacher workshop will be Saturday 10/30, meeting in the Tillman Trade room in the morning and the Wildlife Area in the afternoon. Muriel wants to use the electric cart to take microscopes between the store room and the first viewing area for Audubon's field trip programs. She will have to coordinate with Ken Novak and also with Gene A who has been using it to survey geese and do volunteer work in the WA.

Canada Goose Project — Gene Arias: There are only about 15 Canada Geese and one

front of Woodley Lakes Golf Course. He got some video of unusual goose behavior: diving, etc. Following the recent removal of the homeless encampment at Burbank bridge, the homeless are returning to that location and trashing the place while having a dispute between two groups of them.

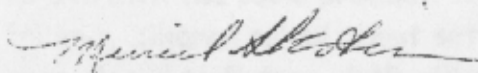
Electric Club — Rosemarie White: She's working on developing a volunteer corps to welcome people and hand out information. It won't be a police force. She is concerned about the liability of using the electric cart. Ken said the city can cover volunteers who have been registered and fingerprinted. We need to develop a scheduling method for the cart.

TreePeople — Tom Persons: They are discussing propagating locally native plants for planting along the LA River in the SF Valley. There will be planting along Haskell Creek in the WA on October 16. His new non-profit Habitat Works of Southern California, www.habitatwork.org, will probably want to be represented on this committee.

Southwestern Herpetologists Society — John Holmes: The herpetology survey of the basin will begin in November.

Fishing at Lake Balboa -- Visitor Harold Sullivan asked if we have taken a stand. Muriel will look at old minutes for what we passed and when. E-mail it to everyone, incl Harold Sullivan: halsul@aol.com.

Submitted by



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