

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes July 24, 2007

Glenn Bailey chaired the meeting. The other voting members attending were Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Bob Munsey, and Melanie Winter. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Pat Aceves, Sharon Brewer, Laura Davidson, Nedenia Kennedy, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, Katie Parks, Hal Sullivan.

After introductions, minutes of the 6/25/07 committee were approved as distributed. New to these meetings was Laura Davidson, Field Representative for Councilmember Wendy Gruel, Council District 2. She should be the person on the mailing list for CD 2. E-mail Laura.Davidson@lacity.org Tel. 818.755-7676, 6350 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Ste. 201, North Hollywood 91606.

Public Comments: None.

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Consortium: San Fernando Valley Audubon (SFVAS) received \$1045 in memory of Terry Flowers, via LA Audubon. SFVAS will send thank yous to the donors. It was requested that SFVAS provide an update on the amount of Consortium funds and if possible a copy of the separate bank account holding those funds.

Bull Creek Restoration Project: Nedenia (Denie) Kennedy reported for the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), along with Katie Parks.

Funds must be committed (i.e., a contract must be signed) by the end of September! The project ends at the park road north of the LA River, and does not include Bull Creek's confluence with the LAR. Tetra Tech is making the engineering plans.

Maintenance: Steve H suggested 5 years of maintenance - 3 years at the minimum - be included in the contract. Denie indicated Recreation and Parks (R&P) may have to take over maintenance, such as arundo removal sooner.

Several plants were removed from the list of plants that might be used. The palette looks good to the committee, except that box elder might be restored to the list. It does well in the south Wildlife Reserve.

The committee agreed unanimously to recommend having no fencing along trails, having it only on the island and bridges. The committee was disappointed that there will be bridges to the island, but the City requires the bridges for maintenance and safety reasons.

The water source will be Tillman effluent pumped from Lake Balboa. Will there still be a flow from Lake Balboa to the LAR where there is an outlet now?

Design should be completed within the next few weeks. Any comments should be e-mailed to Abel Perez with copies to Nedenia.C.Kennedy@usace.army.mil, Katie Parks, and Carvel Bass.

The committee was concerned that the east-west bridges across Bull Creek connect with paths, so that they aren't dead ends. Some connections will be in future projects, but it is hoped there will be at least DG or dirt path connections. **The committee consensus was to extend trails from the bridges to the greatest extent**

The committee hopes the bridges will be similar in appearance to those in the Wildlife Reserve. Denie said that has been looked at but she does not know the decision.

The committee recommends that interpretive signage be included if possible.

The committee suggested that a full irrigation system may not be needed, that drip irrigation would be much more appropriate.

Melanie was concerned that the plans seem to call for concrete boxes; willows would be the best bank stabilization Possibly the boxes are intended only for the bridges.

Denie and Katie will attend our August meeting for an update.

This fall the ACOE's maintenance crew will remove palm trees from the LAR between Balboa and the busway bridge.

Continuing Items:

Park Rangers:

Signage: Ranger Pat said that he and Chief Ranger Albert Torres have decided to have all of the "NO ..." signs suggested except they will leave out "No Horses." The committee would like to have 6 big "NO ..." signs. Pat will follow up tomorrow with Albert about getting us Wildlife Way street signs.

Homeless: The rangers and other agencies are continually removing homeless encampments from the south reserve. They have largely cleared up the west reserve. They continue to work on the south reserve and will soon work on the area between the archery range and cricket fields.

Possible Closure of the Burbank Blvd. Overlook: Lynda is researching the overlook's jurisdiction. She will keep us posted.

It was moved, seconded and passed to hold periodic walkthroughs in the Wildlife Reserve every October and May.

Trees and/or No Parking on East Side of Woodley: Lynda said parking is likely to be banned from both sides of Woodley to discourage illegal behavior.

Revised Committee Roster: Glen said he will prepare an updated roster, contacting committee members for information as needed, since the City's version is very out of date.

Reports:

Councilmember Cardenas: Lynda announced they are sponsoring a Senior Health Fair 10/13 at the Japanese Garden. This committee could have a booth there.

Los Angeles Audubon: Bob Munsey just received a reply from Fish and Game saying they will help us with the fishing problems at Lake Balboa.

Recreation & Parks: Abel said R&P has placed a work order for a screen to protect waterfowl from getting trapped at the outflow.

Barbara Taylor is the new person in charge of the Basin Events Calendar.

The next committee chair will be Sharon Ford. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by

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