

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes -- Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Sharon Ford chaired. Other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Dexter Kelly, Muriel Kotin and Michael Vensky. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Sharon Brewer, Janet La France, Joyce MacKinnon, Robert Munsey, Michelle Nosco, Katie Parks, and Roy Wells. After self-introductions, minutes of the 9/25/07 meeting were approved without change.

US Army Corps of Engineers: Katie Parks reported for Carvel Bass that they are about to begin removing 50 dead palm trees north of Balboa Blvd. from the soft-bottom section of the LA River.

Bull Creek Project: Nov. 1 is the pre-construction meeting with the contractor. Construction will start very soon, perhaps 2 weeks after the Nov. 1 preconstruction meeting.

Katie distributed a map showing the 4 bridges which will be included in the project, along with the other option items. The funds available should be adequate to build them.

There will be a fence on both sides of the walking path. The committee would like to see a fence along the pathways only on the island. The committee pointed out that they noted the 8 or 9 year concrete fence crossbars are falling apart in the Wildlife Reserve. There may not be an appropriate substitute, however.

Concern was expressed that the walking path ends into an all-purpose/bike path. Perhaps we could have a circular walking path with DG throughout and less fencing. Glenn suggested a raised walkway on the island if there are enough savings from less fencing.

Steve H asked Katie to tell Carvel that there is a major infestation of Russian thistle (tumbleweed) in the north side of the Wildlife Reserve and at the top of the dam. Steve also asked Janet LaFrance to have the city remove the tumbleweeds quickly before the seeds are broadcast further.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer complained about the large trucks parked along Woodley Ave. Janet said that if we observe people repairing their vehicles or changing oil, we can call R&P Public Safety (she will e-mail the phone number).

Arts for Earth Foundation Presentation: Michelle Nosco made a PowerPoint presentation describing their project. One of their goals is to have artists adopt local wildlife sanctuaries. Michelle is trying to develop something for scouts to do at the SBWR. Sharon Ford and Michelle will get together about developing supporters of the Wildlife Reserve, including a fair or other event to publicize the reserve.

Walkthrough this Afternoon: Tumbleweed problem, see above. Ranger Pat Aceves showed us photos of some Hansen Dam signs. He has submitted the wording as adapted for our signs to Ron Berkowitz but has not received a response yet.

The group observed an area groomed for lawn bowling in the northern reaches of the Wildlife Reserve. Janet said it is actually cricket for youth. She said Clifford, a retired R & P employee, has been doing this for years. The committee is concerned that this use is established within an area designated as Wildlife Reserve, that it should not be fenced off and "designated" for a special other use. We wish Janet and the city to get back to us on this.

There are two casual footpaths in the WR that have been driven on repeatedly by vehicles. We consider casual footpaths to be inevitable, but wish to halt their being made permanent and wider by city vehicles or other agency vehicles driving along them. Joyce saw county Vector Control driving on these casual trails. Janet will talk to Steve Moe.

A lot of graffiti was seen, at every viewing station, on the second bridge and other places, even though graffiti had been removed Sunday night. Many of the fences were missing horizontal elements.

Muriel complained that the viewing areas are blocked by overgrown vegetation, that the workers are handicapped by lack of power tools.

The committee is very grateful to Ranger Pat Aceves for accompanying the walkthrough and being very helpful.

Lake Balboa Park Advisory Board: Sharon will follow up with Ron Berkowitz regarding our support for forming the PAB. The committee requested that Janet also follow up with him.

Updated Member List: Glenn will e-mail this.

California Native Plant Society: Steve H requested to give a presentation on state of the vegetation of Sepulveda Basin next month.

Los Angeles Audubon Society: Robert (Bob) Munsey will become the representative next month, Dexter Kelly becoming an alternate.

Southwestern Herpetologists Society: Mike Vensky is now the representative. Glenn requested a letter or e-mail appointing him, as well as one appointing Bob for LAAS).

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society: Muriel reported field trips for LAUSD have started. Teacher workshop will be 11/3. The booklet "Birds of the Sepulveda Basin" is updated and at the printer and will be given to students participating in the field trip program.

Glenn submitted a Prop K listing including what funds are recommended for 2008-09 to Sep Bas projects . The basin projects should be included in the minutes. The items included are

Years 12-16:

- Rec & Parks Sep Bas Community Gardens: New restroom facility, total Prop K funds \$550K
- Sep Bas: Bikepath, parking, picnic & restroom, soccer field development, total Prop K funds \$5M
- Hjelte Field: New athletic fields, lighting, parking, total funds \$1M
- Lake Balboa: Upgrade irrigation system to water conservation standards, total Prop K funds \$2M.

Submitted by

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