

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes of Meeting November 27, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by chair by Sharon Ford at 6:45 PM. Other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey, and Rosemarie White. Alternates, non-voting members and guests were Sharon Brewer, Ron Fegan, Kathleen Hanover, Joyce MacKinnon, Michelle Nosco, (Katie Parks), (Abel Perez), and Roy Wells. (Names of attendees who did not sign in are in parentheses.)

Self introductions: Kathleen Hanover has taken over from Janet LaFrance as Park Maintenance Supervisor (PMS) for Sepulveda Basins.

Minutes of the October 23, 2007 meeting were approved without change.

Announcements: Glenn announced scheduled Recreation and Parks (R & P) needs-assessment meetings. Joyce will attend one for CD6 next Tuesday.

Public Comment: Ron Fegan spoke regarding the fishing line problem at Lake Balboa. He is concerned that the PVC containers for discarded fishing line are an inappropriate material. He brought a sample of a sheet metal container that he developed for Heal the Bay. For L Balboa he recommends having at least 4.

Joyce spoke about R&P employees Bud and Rudy's lack of an electric cart and power tools. Abel has no jurisdiction: they work under Steve Moe.

Sharon Brewer showed a fishing line and hook that she removed from a grebe, and another from a dead western grebe. She described a hooked osprey which did escape. She feels something must be done.

Michelle Nosco said she and her organization Arts for Earth want to film the Wildlife Reserve - this will be on the January agenda.

The groundbreaking for Bull Creek was to be today, but the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has postponed it to an unknown date. The committee had not heard anything about this. Sharon Ford will contact the ACOE to

request the committee be invited to the groundbreaking. (Nothing has happened there other than removal of wood chips.)

Glenn requested that Sharon also inquire of the ACOE about our suggestions that we made last month.

Update on Creating Lake Balboa Park Advisory Board (PAB): Sharon tried unsuccessfully to contact Ron Berkowitz. Abel said Ron Berkowitz is waiting to hear from us. Sharon will try again to contact him.

Rosemarie feels it is crucial that the Sepulveda Basin Users Group be re-instituted. She spoke with Ron Berkowitz about this as Encino Neighborhood Council's Parks, Open Space and Recreation Representative and will discuss it with General Manager Mukri.

Glenn concurred about the importance of the Users Committee and also spoke of the popularity of the former Friends of L Balboa.

Abel said he has not heard from anyone outside of the Steering Committee meetings about wanting to re-constitute a Users Group or start a L. Balboa PAB. Someone who wants to be part of these groups needs to contact him.

Sharon will talk with Abel about posting a notice asking for interest. Rosemarie will continue speaking with the upper management of R&P.

Army Corps of Engineers: Katie Parks said all but 6 of the 50 dead palm trees along LAR have been removed. This committee will be part of the Groundbreaking of the Bull Creek project. Glenn requested that the committee be invited with as much advance notice as possibility. It will probably be in early January 2008.

The Bull Creek contract has been awarded, but they are waiting for permits. Work will actually start around January, she estimated. Katie will check for status of our requests and will e-mail this to us. We should e-mail any comments we have on what she e-mails to us. Edward Louie, Katie or Nedenia Kennedy are the contacts.

Steve Hartman PowerPoint Presentation on the Russian thistle Infestation and Non Native Trees in the WR: Kathleen will move the 6 recently planted Brazilian pepper trees near the LA River close to L Balboa. Steve pointed out the operations area close to the dam gates and asked Katie if she could arrange to have weed control in that area as it is the spot from which invasive weeds spread. Steve also pointed out the area of the WR north of the parking area where a retired park employee named Clifford has established a cricket area. Abel will check it out. Steve showed some social trails including one that was turned into a dirt road by public vehicles. Kathleen will work with Steve on this.

Steve is pushing a zero tolerance of shammel ash in the north reserve. He showed pictures of the Russian thistle (tumbleweed) in the reserve and the Russian thistle field north of the access road to the WR. Abel asked for advice on how to avoid having a Russian thistle field. Steve's advice: stop discing! Steve and Kathleen will look at a short term solution and Steve will work on a long term one.

He showed the deteriorated "woodcrete" rails of the 9 year old fence and recommended the ACOE use a different material for the Bull Cr project. Abel asked Kathleen to look at the extent of the deteriorated fencing.

Maintenance Issues will be updated further next meeting. Muriel observed that pruning of overgrown willows and other plants has restored good views from the viewing areas.

Memorial to Cesar Chavez: Abel plans that this will be a native plant grove near Woodley Ave., the exact location not determined. It may be near the picnic table, or near the start of the road to the flight fields to permit nearby parking.

Truck Parking on Woodley Ave.: Abel was told recently that DOT cannot enforce parking limits there because where the shoulder is dirt it is considered park property.

Revision of Wildlife Reserve Brochure: Muriel will e-mail contact page for each organization to update their information.