

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes January 22, 2008

The meeting, held at the Sepulveda Garden Center, started at 6:30 PM. Sharon Ford chaired. Other committee members attending were Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Dexter Kelly, Muriel Kotin, Mike Venksy, and Rosemarie White. Guests, non-voting members, and alternates were Ranger Pat Aceves, Patrick Aubuchon, Tom Boyd, Sharon Brewer, John Dietz, Ron Fagan, Konstantine W. Harris, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, Michelle Nosco, Mark Osokow, Abel Perez, Ray Sauvajot, Julie and Gabe Szende, and Safety Officer Gil Vizcarra.

Minutes of the November 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

- Michelle Nosco submitted a draft flyer for the festival Arts for Earth is planning for 4/26/08.
- Sharon Brewer gave an update of birds injured by fishing lines and hooks at Lake Balboa.

Santa Monica Mts. BioBlitz presentation by Dr. Ray Sauvajot of National Parks Service: It will be held noon Friday May 30 to noon Saturday May 31. This "biodiversity extravaganza," will be primarily an educational and outreach event. Participants will document as many species as possible in the 24 hour period, to publicize the amazing diversity in our own area. Paramount Ranch will be Base Camp. Field stations: Gillette Ranch, Leo Carrillo SP, Will Rogers State HSP, Griffith Park, California Science Center.

They need help: Scientists and Experts, Teachers, Docents and Participants, General Event Volunteers, and Explorers who join an inventory team. Website is just getting on line now. Signups will be made through that. People will sign up by taxonomic group and by 4 hour time block. There will be a session for scientists and experts at Pepperdine U's Malibu campus.

It may be a good opportunity to publicize Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, but there will not be activities in the Basin.

Receptacles for Used Fishing Line: Ron Fagan brought 3 sample receptacles. Although most committee members were positively impressed, Abel was concerned with the aesthetics. Abel did not like the camouflage color option and was uncertain about the design as he has not heard yet from the city engineer. Several

committee members spoke of their frustration at the continuing serious problems caused by fishing line and hooks. Michelle Nosco took some digital pictures to e-mail to Abel for him to show to his bosses.

US Army Corps of Engineers was not here to give an update on Bull Creek. Feb 20 at 9 AM will probably be groundbreaking. Glenn suggested that the USACE give us a monthly written on the project, so that we will know what is happening even if they are unable to be present.

Update on Lake Balboa Park Advisory Board (PAB): This committee will table the subject, deferring to the Encino Neighborhood Council. Abel will set up a meeting between Ron Berkowitz and Sharon Ford.

Vehicle Use of Casual Paths in WR: The most northerly path was closed off by boulders, but the second is still being driven on according to Sharon F.

Woodcrete Fences: R&P has replaced some of the broken and missing rails. Ron Fagan suggested caulking the cracks in the rails to prevent further deterioration. Abel does not have the wherewithal.

Park Rangers: Gil Vizcarra will be senior lead officer from office of public safety in Sepulveda Basin. (gilardo.vizcarra@lacity.org)

Russian Thistle: Steve H said it's too late to treat the tumbleweed with herbicide as they've gone to seed. But he will work at accomplishing removal of the huge biomass that is blowing around.

R&P removed the Russian thistle outliers from the area west of Woodley Ave. Steve suggested that at the next meeting the Consortium consider funding additional weed control by Bill Neill. There is a holdup in getting Bill Neill's work for the City authorized.

Clifford's Unauthorized Cricket Area: Pat Aceves reported Clifford's car got kicked off the grass today. Pat told Clifford he cannot maintain the area with tools, etc. unless he gets written authorization. Pat will remove the ropes tomorrow.

Office of Councilman Tony Cardenas: Lynda Levitan reported that truck parking on Woodley is greatly reduced because of tickets from the park rangers. It is park land once you leave the pavement. Some signs may be put up by R&P. DOT is concerned about the liability of boulders. They are operating on the basis of no one on park land sundown to sunrise. Gil Vizcarra of OPS is doing a great job.

Signage Update: Pat Aceves reported that Chief Ranger Albert Torres will be at the Police Academy for the next 10 months. Pat will be much more available than Albert. The wildlife behavior signs were all set to go, but there was controversy about "no dogs" or "dogs must be on leash." The dog signs will restrict to dogs on leash, not forbid dogs, for the Wildlife Reserve to be consistent with Hansen Dam. Hopefully the signs will be made and installed soon. They are working on Wildlife Way street signs, pushing through city bureaucracy. Tomorrow Pat and Gil will remove homeless people from the encampments south of Burbank and the encampments will be removed next week. In the goose forage area, the no trespassing will rule. Pat works Monday - Saturday. On Sundays, let Chief Torres know.

Wildlife Reserve Brochure Update: Muriel will scan and e-mail brochure and suggested updates to contact info.

Please review recommendations, requests and pending items from Sharon F. Michelle has reserved the amphitheater for 4/26 for a festival of Arts for Earth Foundation at the Wildlife Reserve.

Recreation and Parks: Abel said he is going to recommend against using Woodcrete fencing for the Bull Creek project.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel made a plea for greater communication among this committee in situations like the White Pelican that was shot with an arrow. Glenn mentioned that we could have used the bulletin board at Lake Balboa to advise the public what was going on.

Submitted by

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