

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes November 24, 2009

Bob Munsey chaired the meeting. Other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Sharon Ford, Muriel Kotin and Steve Hartman. Non voting members, alternates and guests were Kerri Barton, Sharon Brewer, Tim Johnson, Kris Ohlenkamp and Kenny Ortega. Quorum was established.

Minutes of the October 27, 2009 Meeting: They were approved as distributed at the meeting.

Consortium Meeting: Steve H requested the reimbursement from the Consortium of \$29.04 for renewing the Domain Name of SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org for 3 years. **It was Moved, Seconded and Passed that the Consortium reimburse Steve Hartman for expenses for domain name and hosting for Sepulvedabasinwildlife.org on a continuing basis. 5 yes, 0 no.** The meeting of the Steering Committee then resumed.

Announcements: Glenn announced the next meeting of Friends of Lake Balboa. Their new website is www.friendsoflakebalboa.org.

Public Comments:

Kris Ohlenkamp described the SFV Audubon College Conservation Committee project he is planning for Saturday 12/12/09 10:00 - 2:00. It will include some planting in the burn area, on Hummingbird Hill, and possibly barrier plantings near the lake. So far 6 students have signed up for the project.

Kenny Ortega spoke regarding the graffiti on the Orange Line bridge near Lake Balboa. The graffiti was removed from the bridge within a few days of his contacting Michael Tou of Congressman Sherman's office and the Mayor's office.

The Cricket Field, Legal or Illegal: Tim announced that he evicted Clifford today after Abel Perez told Tim to take care of it. He told Clifford to take his stuff away immediately and to stop using the irrigation system. Glenn requested that we receive a written reply from Abel to this committee's letter to him about Clifford's Cricket Field in case we have further problems from Clifford. Sharon Ford echoed the importance of our getting something in writing from Abel or Ramon Barajas.

Is the area north of the Wildlife Reserve Parking Wildlife Reserve or regular Woodley Park? Sharon hopes the ACOE master plan update will clarify that. Muriel suggested we contact the ACOE at this point, encouraging them to clarify

that. Steve suggested raising the point at the ACOE's public meeting 12/5/09 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM. Glenn recommended being proactive. He remembers Rec & Parks telling us that would be part of the Reserve. Glenn recalls, as does Muriel, being surprised and delighted to learn that. Coast Live Oaks were planted there at that time, when the Wildlife Reserve was expanded west of Haskell Creek and the Reserve's storeroom-amphitheater-toilets-Stonehenge-parking area was built. Glenn requested that this be on our next agenda after we see what we learn at the meeting on 12/5.

Muriel will send a follow up email to Katie Parks asking for a flyer for the meeting. Glenn suggested that we get out word about the 12/5 public meeting to supporters of the WR.

Dog Policy: Glenn found a document on our website that he emailed us from the Recreational Use Plan of 1987. It includes in #14: "Pets, including dogs, cats and horses are prohibited from entering the Wildlife Area." The City of LA signed the document. This should be the basis of eliminating dogs and fishing in the Reserve. Sharon feels we must have municipal code. She suggests that we visit Tony Cardenas's office as a committee after the public meeting 12/5. We are all agreed the 1987 Rec Use Plan makes it clear dogs are not allowed in the WR.

Wildlife & Habitat: Muriel described the removal of native plantings along the bike path along Hummingbird Hill. She has no objections to the clearing along DG roadways/pathways, but this was in the wrong place - along the bike path instead of the road/path. **It was moved, seconded and passed 5-0 to send a letter to the city asking for replanting of the plants destroyed by the city at Hummingbird Hill.** Muriel will draft a letter and forward to Steve who will edit it and add documentation.

Sharon F mentioned the Do Not Feed Coyotes signs being installed at Griffith Park. The committee does not think we need such signs at the Wildlife Reserve so far.

Muriel broached the issue of whether the South Reserve is leased to the City and whether the Operations area extends throughout rather than only the 30 feet in from the dam face and just above the banks of the LA River. Steve H thinks the Master Plan update should be a great opportunity to get this clarified.

Bird/aircraft Strike Mitigation: Bob had emailed a relevant document. Bird strikes seem to increase every year. The problem is serious and international. He is not aware of any threat to planes at Van Nuys Airport impacting management within the Sepulveda Basin. Glenn said the Constructed Wetlands that were earlier considered for the Basin would have been impacted. Glenn will send a relevant document for our information. Muriel suggested dropping the topic from our agendas.

December Meeting: We will meet 12/22 as would normally be scheduled. Glenn wants Sepulveda Basin Master Plan, Required Annual Review and Area Enforcement on our December agenda.

Trucks on Woodley Ave.: The problem continues at a lesser level. We will remove it from the agenda for a while.

Memorials for Jill Swift and Sandy Wohlgemuth: The committee is strongly in favor of memorial projects for them. Glenn suggested an oak grove for Jill who founded the Quercus fund. He would defer to Audubon for ideas for Sandy. Steve pointed out that the area NE of the tunnel was originally intended as an oak grove by the ACOE, but they ran out of \$\$, so they only planted the Burbank Blvd. berm. We will put this on our January 2010 agenda as a major item. Glenn will speak to one of Jill's daughters and Bob will try to reach Sandy's family for their ideas.

Special Events: Glenn complained about Rec & Parks allowing major events, partially in the WR, without notifying this committee in advance. The running coach agreed to attend our January meeting. Muriel feels allowing any huge run or anything on this scale is entirely inappropriate. Sharon expressed concern about where the 1,000 spectators would stand, presumably on the vegetation. We will hear the coach and then discuss after he leaves.

Department of Recreation & Parks: No Fishing signs have been installed and 2 No Dog signs. There are no municipal codes on the signs. A **huge** Music Fest, will be held in Woodley Park, Balboa Park, throughout the Sepulveda Basin. Louie Loomis is working on it, probably for some time in 2010.

Tim Johnson's Retirement: Tim is retiring effective 12/5/09. The committee thanked Tim for his excellent work. Jeremy Thomas will take over Tim's position. Jeremy will represent Recreation and Parks starting at our next meeting.

Piper Tech has the electric cart that the Audubon/RCD field trip program uses. Muriel should phone Tim re following up about when it will be returned from being serviced.

Resource Conservation District - Sta. Monica Mts: Glenn said Greg Randall with Animal Services is the only person in the city who is responsible for wildlife. Glenn suggested that we might want to ask him to one of our upcoming meetings.

Sierra Club: Sharon F requested to be notified of events our groups are doing.

Submitted by

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