

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Meeting March 22, 2016 -- Approved Minutes**

Chair Joe Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:36PM. Attending were other voting members: Glenn Bailey, Bill Bowling, Terrie Brady, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin and Robert Munsey. Non-voting members were Jesse Casillas and Charles Singer. Guests and alternates were Dana Bartholomew, Pat Bates, Tony Callas, Bill Hanway, Jim Houghton, Rose Leibowitz, Jeff Millman, Kris Ohlenkamp, Mark Osokow, Vishal Pai, Sid Patki, Miriam Preissel, Susan Schalbe, Jim Stein, Chris Trent, David Troy and Dave Weeshoff. Introductions. Quorum established. Agenda approved.

Minutes of the Meeting 1/26/16: After discussion about two motions regarding AngelFest, the minutes were approved as submitted without objection. Glenn requested that a copy be available for the public in the future.

Announcements:

- Apr 16 FoLAR river cleanup in Basin and elsewhere.
- April 16 CNPS's Native Plant Symposium at the Garden Center.
- April 9 SFVAS cleanup of Haskell Creek.

LAPD not here. Army Corps neither. AngelFest EA not available yet.

Recreation and Parks Report on Park Usage and Cleanup after the Storms: Charles Singer said that it is springtime, so there will be heavy park usage as is typical at this time of the year. We are to send Charles Singer a list of committee members who would like to receive the Valley Events Calendar when it is available.

AngelFest. Superintendent of Recreational Operations Charles Singer spoke on behalf of R&P. AngelFest came to R&P 2 ½ years ago. Needed to vet them. Notice of Preparation information was based on info submitted to RAP almost two years ago. He wants to look at the EA before we vote about A/F. He doesn't really expect 65,000 people. No electronic music like at a rave. Traditional acts. Wildlife Reserve will not be closed for 26 days unless we want that. We will determine whether it is open or closed. Only sticking point is wildlife. Mitigating will be based on what we want. Willing to make decibel level measurements before during and after. Traffic will be mitigated. Bond to ensure remediation. Funds for Basin now 85% of all moneys generated for the Parks Foundation will go to the basin, the remainder being administrative fees of the foundation. \$300 - 400,000 to basin, documentation in letter to Brad Sherman's office. \$250K from user fee, the rest from the Parks Foundation. There are plans for ranger here within next few years and Woodcrete fencing. If EA is satisfactory, leave it be. If A/F is bad, it won't happen again.

The history of amphitheater area (Woodley III) and whether it is part of Wildlife Reserve was discussed. Cricket and archery people are fine with A/F and their leases refer to special events being allowed.

Terrie asked about noise levels. Will music be at the same dB level as freeway and airplane levels for 3 days? Wait for EA. Did they move A/F away from the Reserve? That will be in the EA; sound directional. Corps said no threat to owls. Reiterated to wait until all the facts come out in the NEPA.

Steve: were alternate venues considered? None as good within city of LA. How much money to Steering Committee to go to the Reserve? Charles doesn't know yet. He will discuss our priorities with us, probably at a meeting like this. Idea to get a revenue stream to do repairs. Wants a list of priorities. What about ongoing maintenance? Should be on our priority list, possibly with part time RAP employees.

Glenn: Asked who letter was from? Letter to Sherman was written by Kevin Regan for General Manager. Parks foundation will get all the funds, keeping 12% - 15% admin. Want lists haven't been formal yet. Glenn requested that we get to see the NCs' want lists as they pertain to our interests.

Bill asked if it's unusual for a promoter to give 3% of ticket sales. Will it happen for future years? It is unusual and it will happen for future years. A/F was intended as a joint venture with RAP from the beginning. Make Good went to Parks Foundation in the beginning. General Manager involved from the start. The money from permits goes to general fund. 3% of ticket sales to Parks Foundation. Originally 50% of that was to stay in Sepulveda Basin, but that was changed so that ALL of the 3% will stay in the basin. Typical EA for a FONSI is 20 pages, whereas this EA will be around 300 pages. An EIS is never necessary for a temporary event. Tickets \$295 for three days, with single tickets available at \$125 if event not filled up with three-day ticket holders.

There will be rangers posted in the WR during the event. Also their own hired guards. Steve and Glenn requested that our knowledgeable people monitor. Charles was agreeable.

Is this a programmatic EA? It will be a long range NEPA, but there may be some adjustments depending on this year's experience. Who will decide about adjustments? Singer would be one of the assessors. Any chance of moving it next year?

Mark O: Suspicious of positive spin, of people's eyes being blinded by dollar signs. Thinks Singer is underestimating impacts on birds, amphitheater lawn, owl nest near cricket fields, etc. Mark feels a full EIS is appropriate because of the level of impact and that this will be held year after year.

Jim Houghton: Even double fencing doesn't protect the entire important habitat; the entire eastern two-thirds of the park are important habitat. Complained of the lack of consulting with us, not giving time for us to shape the event.

Kris: We have confidence in Make Good but still feel this is an inappropriate use of the area. Is it true that if they don't make enough money in the first year, are the funds curtailed? No. The

idea is that they don't expect to make money in the first year, that it will take 3 years to recoup their costs. The 3% goes to Parks Foundation regardless. Also the \$250 K fee to RAP.

Dave W: what organizations and people were contacted way back? Council District, Lake Balboa and Encino neighborhood councils, and a few individuals. Got preliminary buy in. They were contacting groups affected by neighborhood sovereignty issues before users.

Mark asked for copy of permit. As soon as the EA is done and approved. Mark thinks there should have been a CEQA process. Singer said CEQA not needed as NEPA applies.

Dave W: only one reference in the public record. Tonight is the first time that any public official has presented anything about A/F, 6 months before the event. Encino NC and this committee had meetings in November 2016. No reason to start a giant public process. New territory for all of us.

Muriel complained of lack of notice to us and the general community.

Susan Schalbe asked how long ago the decision to suggest this location was made. 2 ½ years ago.

Miriam P commented that this group should have been consulted earlier. When will the EA be out? The Corps will post it on their website, following their procedures.

Joe cut off discussion. The EA will be out around mid-April. May 24 will be our next meeting. He hopes Make Good will attend. Singer said yes, they'll be happy to be here.

Comment period may be 45 days. Glenn **Moved** on behalf of RCD **that we request comment period of not less than 45 days. Motion was Seconded and Passed unanimously.**

Bill B commented that Make Good offered tables for the enviros.

Olympics 2024: Jeff Millman spoke. He has been in this business for six months. Olympics 2024 is endorsed by the mayor and unanimously by city council, governor, state government, etc. 88% of the residents of the City of LA support. 87% of San Fernando Valley. Over next 18 months they will determine where sports events will be, develop venue plan and narrative, then woo the International Olympics Committee (IOC). City selection will be in September 2017. Everything they're proposing in Sepulveda Basin is west of Woodley Ave.

Bill Hanway, planner for AECOM who worked nine years on London Olympics. Olympics 2024 is at the very beginning of the process.

Event locations proposed are

- Shooting at SB Sports Complex, western end of turf sports field.
- Equestrian cross country at Woodley Lakes Golf Course, with dressage on its parking lot.
- Modern pentathlon on same golf course.

- Whitewater rafting (Canoe/slalom) north of Lake Balboa. The only permanent venue that will be built in the Basin.

Total seats will be around 40,000, but there will never be 40K spectators at one time. Paralympics will be held in the same locations ten days after closing ceremony.

They hope to leave a legacy of positive change.

Glenn and Steve raised the issue of the importance of protecting the Bull Creek Restoration Area.

Glenn mentioned that the area west of SB Sports Center was considered by VNOG as appropriate for passive recreation, not sports.

Maybe the Olympics committee can restore the erosion damage in Bull Creek. The shooting facility will be returned to its current dirt state. Glenn mentioned possibility of planting trees, picnic tables, and irrigation. Jeff said their first obligation is to not spend more than they take in. Glenn mentioned that the community fought proposals for the 1984 Olympics to develop sports in the LA River and to put a swim stadium where the shooting facility is proposed -- that's why there were no Olympics facilities in the SFV from 1984.

Bill: There will be no bait and switch, no big venues in SB.

Joe: Pentathlon consists of shooting with lasers, equestrian, swimming and fencing. Equestrian part is cross country on the golf course. Just south of Lake Balboa. Swimming location unknown. Perhaps Lake Balboa, otherwise temporary structure.

Terrie: any permanent structures? Only the whitewater facility. There will be fewer seats than spectators. Never 45K spectators in a single day.

Mark: What kind of bullets for trap shooting? Lead are used at the moment, will all be trapped. What plans to protect from terrorism? Lake Balboa water may have too many organisms for use for swimming event.

Rose L: Commented about the Leeds Valley experience. Temporary housing? UCLA will serve as Olympics Village. Probably some tents in Basin for day use by athletes.

Kris: The Wildlife Reserve was because of the 1984 Olympics -- mitigation. There are endangered birds near Woodley Lakes Golf; a buffer will be needed.

Jeff: Paris, Budapest, Rome also in the contention. [jmillman@la24.org](mailto:jmillman@la24.org). Jocelyn: [community@la24.org](mailto:community@la24.org). They want to be good partners.

Joe wants everyone to be prepared to suggest goals for next meeting, including wish lists.

The meeting was adjourned 8:59.

Submitted by

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