

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting 11/22/16 - Approved

The meeting was called to order by Joe Phillips at 6:47 at the Balboa Sports Center. A quorum was established and introductions made. Voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, William Bowling, Theresa Brady (with David Troy sitting in for her until 8:30), Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey and Joe Phillips. Non-voting members: Ruth Doxsee and Paola Jaramillo. Guests and Alternates: David Troy and Walt Young.

Minutes of the Sept 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

Law Enforcement: LAPD not present. Walt Young reported for MRCA. Their footprint is limited to the banks of the LAR where water pools near Balboa Blvd to just south of Burbank Blvd. The homeless situation is becoming very bad. He got homeless out during the current rains for their safety. MRCA is trying to expand their lease in the Basin to cover more areas of the river. There are housing vouchers available, but people are not availing themselves. Does this committee wish to get involved?

Will there be Army Corps rangers in Sepulveda Basin? They are apparently in the process of hiring. They would not be armed, not able to enforce California law, just federal. MRCA can enforce laws along parts of the area where Corps has flood maintenance responsibilities.

Bill reported that the Corps bulldozed the shoals in the river this morning -- south of Burbank Blvd.

Muriel described an air gun incident reported to us via email from Marc Millstein: Yesterday (Sunday, Nov. 20) at 3:40PM, I heard and spotted two individuals shooting at birds with an air rifle on the southwest side of the lake at the brand new bench that has been installed. I was on the opposite side of the lake. I immediately called 911 to report the incident and explained to the operator the approximate location. The operator took my call back number and I then waited for the police. To my knowledge the police never showed, though a park visitor noted that a white Suburban drove out to the lake. There were tire tracks as far as the boat launch. I don't know if this was related to my call. The shooters apparently left before I could spot them again.

On October 6 Abel Perez, Paola Jaramillo and Muriel observed a pair of men shooting air guns on the east side of the lake, near the south end. 911 was called, three law enforcement vehicles arrived, and the shooters were arrested.

Army Corps: not here. No report on selection of vegetative management alternative plan for South Reserve.

Upcoming Events: Chatsworth NP Open House will be April 2. SFVAS is conducting ongoing public walks on first Sundays and second Saturdays and school field trips on weekdays.

AngelFest: Sierra Clubs Angeles Chapter's George Watland wrote a letter recommending A/F be moved. Terrie Brady wrote a letter for the Valley Group making a statement for Angeles Chapter opposing A/F in Sepulveda Basin. It has not been signed yet.

Is A/F on the table? No, but not necessarily off permanently. SFVAS hopes to make it clear to RAP AND elected officials that Reserve is a gem and needs to be protected. There should not ever be any monster events in Woodley Park. David Troy agreed and is unhappy with the public meeting held last May.

Fields East of Wildlife Lake: Muriel asked whether managing for Canada Geese still the best now. Glenn suggested consulting the Master Plan and then the bird experts as to what is the higher and best use.

Maintenance and Trimming: Being done very nicely. RAP replaced the broken Boy Scout benches with a new bench. Woodcrete fence may be replaced or hidden by shrubs. A student project by Los Encinos School will plant low shrubs along part of the turf grass (north) side of the fence. Girl Scouts will plant 4 larger shrubs south of the fence, north of the lake.

Possible Avian Botulism: The County Dept. of Public Health, Veterinary Division is investigating whether the rash of dead cormorants at the Wildlife Lake and Lake Balboa is due to botulism.

Designation of Official Posting Location for SBWASC Agenda: Used to be Valley Regional Office display case. Legal requirement. In past RAP staff member was assigned to see to it. Paola posted it here last week on a tennis court bulletin

board and elsewhere. Paola will have it posted at the Wildlife Reserve bulletin board. The park director Katy will be emailed a copy for posting at Balboa Sports Center.

Modification of Standing Rules to Include the Neighborhood Council

Representatives as Voting Members: Glenn presented the idea. NC's are a part of city government. Much discussion. Glenn pointed out that each NC represents 40-50K people. It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed change as submitted. Approved 4 - 1, SFVAS opposed. [Glenn noted later that the vote was invalid as the standing rules say: "The Committee Standing Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the member organizations at the next regular meeting following the introduction of the proposed amendment." The motion will be taken up at the January 2017 meeting.]

The text of the proposal:

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE STANDING RULES -
AMENDMENTS ADOPTED NOVEMBER 22, 2016

(additions underlined; deletions strikethrough)

2. MEMBERSHIP AND QUORUM

2.1 The membership of the Committee shall be comprised of organizations with a demonstrated interest in flora, fauna, and other natural resources within the Sepulveda Basin. In addition, any Certified Neighborhood Council which includes the existing wildlife areas and a majority of the Sepulveda Basin within its boundaries may vote to become a member.

2.2 An organization desiring to become a new member of the Committee shall make its request in writing. Upon the affirmative vote of a majority of Committee members, the organization shall be considered a member.

2.3 Each member organization and Neighborhood Council shall designate in writing on its official letterhead the name of its representative and alternate(s).

2.4 At any given meeting, a person shall only serve as the voting representative or alternate of one member organization or Neighborhood Council.

2.5 Each organization or Neighborhood Council shall have one vote, which shall be cast by its representative or alternate. No proxy voting shall be allowed.

2.6 A majority of the number of member organizations and Neighborhood Councils in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

2.7 Organizations and Neighborhood Councils shall be in good standing provided they attend a minimum of four meetings during the immediately preceding eight-month period.

2.8 Any organization or Neighborhood Council not in good standing shall be designated as a non-voting member until the attendance requirement has been met.

2.9 Organizations with a general or peripheral interest, such as park user groups; ~~neighborhood councils~~, and homeowner associations, may be ex-officio (non-voting) members.

Next Rotating Chair: Bill Bowling FoLAR approved by consensus. For the Jan 2017 meeting. Prior chair is the fallback.

Next scheduled meeting is in January.

Submitted by

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