

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting January 24, 2017 – Approved Minutes**

William Preston Bowling chaired the meeting, calling it to order at 6:40 PM at the Balboa Sports Center. Quorum established. Voting members attending: Glenn Bailey, Bill Bowling, Theresa Brady, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey, Joe Phillips, and George Waddell. Non-voting members and alternates: Steve Hartman, Paola Jaramillo, Cindy Kurland, and David Troy. Guests: Sharon Ford, Patricia Gleason, Nur Malhis, and Evelyn Solano. Introductions. New representative for CNPS is George Waddell, Steve Hartman becoming an alternate. Minutes of the meeting 11/22/16 were approved with corrections to the first paragraph.

LAPD, Officer Solano: Her role is to focus on park issues, coordinating with several LAPD divisions. Coordination of agencies: She's trying to coordinate and get more dedicated services, including on bikes. (Rangers, Cal F&W, LAPD, Animal Services). She will especially try to get more for weekends and in summer. South of Burbank Blvd. is less under control. Camps there have grown and grown, entrenched. LAPD HOPE (Homeless Outreach Partnership Endeavor) is involved. We should phone 911 for anything involving a firearm, whether we think an air gun or not. Senior Lead Officer for SB is now Sel Parra. [Please note contact information Officer Solano provided later: Senior Lead Officer, Sel Parra # 34488, City Cell # 818 731-2574, Office # 818 374-7631]. Evelyn will be working with her to update her and coordinate and will have her visit one of these meetings. W Valley has their own bike patrol, separate from the park LAPD bike patrol. Officer Parra will be at the next Lake Balboa NC meeting.

Cindy asked if she should carry pepper spray because of threats to her life at Lake Balboa. A man threatened her life when she spoke to someone flying a drone. Lifeguards did not protect her. Reply: a citizen can take any measures that are legal to protect themselves.

Officer Solano encouraged us to get away from aggressive people, get to somewhere safe, call 911 or have lifeguard for you, give good descriptions, etc.

Is the Corps taking any responsibility for problems on their side of Burbank -- summary is no. What about impact of human wastes from the homeless condominiums south of Burbank on water quality?

Steve H requested that the LAPD mounted patrol (volunteers) visit the WR. The Metro Division official Mounties are probably not available.

David Troy suggested portable toilets for homeless to use without causing pollution.

LA River Valley Bikeways and Greenways Design Completion Project, Nur Malhis, City Bureau of Engineering: This project to fill the gaps in a total distance of 51 miles. The new areas are more difficult where there's no trapezoidal river structure to cut into to make a lip that can go under bridges. Feasibility studies. Goal is for bikeway on south side of river, pedestrian paths and greenways on north. Feasibility is relevant. Gathering opinions. Measure M will only cover a small part of the project. They have only \$40M. How do you cross the 405? A very long bridge? Sepulveda Basin is the most difficult section. There was concern that the SBWR not be impacted -- nor the South Reserve. For now they're planning to stay along the street. Joe said it's important not to have any destinations within the SBWR if the path goes through any

part of it. Comments can still be sent in. Concern that flooding will harm facilities. Lighting 24-7: What is impact on Dark Sky Initiative? Bike path along east side of LAR thru So Reserve. No fence now. ACOE won't allow fencing in areas that flood (no mesh or chain link). Pave that stretch? A problem. Some things will not be feasible. A beauty of the Reserve is its dark skies. Nur thinks that environmental issues will preclude many things that have been proposed. An EIR and EIS will be prepared. Just feasibility stage now. Scoping expected to be completed in April in the easy segments, e.g. around Van Alden. Suggestion by Joe that SB be like west end of LAR, as natural as possible with no lights, DG and no pavement, possibly closing off the stretch at night. But Glenn pointed out the need for a connection of bike paths from one end of SB to another, with lights -- so maybe keep away from the river within the SB. If Corps says no path over the dam, then re-route. He also suggested going along the south side of the agricultural fields as Corps will possibly permit a crossing there. In short, he suggested they discuss routes with Corps now. Nur said that they did meet with the Corps, who indicated wildlife is a major concern in SB.

Announcements: Sat 2/25 LA River Rover will be at soccer fields at Balboa and LAR. SFVAS will lead a Haskell Creek Cleanup on 4/8, 8:30 - noon. Ribbon cutting Saturday morning of river beautification project. Bureau of Sanitation Earth day event at Exposition Park and various recycling pen houses in April – June. Sierra Club events.

Committee Representatives: CNPS: George Waddell will be their rep, Steve H and Snowdy alternates. FoLAR: Stephen Mejia will be alternate, not Shawn Warren any longer.

Committee Voting Members: **The vote at our last meeting on a motion about voting membership was premature, as it was not introduced at the preceding meeting.** Glenn again made a motion to expand voting membership to include Certified Neighborhood Councils with boundaries that include the Wildlife Reserve and a majority of the Sepulveda Basin. Terry seconded. Muriel spoke against. Joe spoke in favor on the assumption their reps have some sort of environmental background. Bob Munsey is hesitant, although he agrees that that the reps should have environmental interests -- but can they split their dedication? Glenn mentioned the continued interest the NC's have shown and the size of their constituencies, and that the NC's are 15 years old and he believes their inclusion would enhance the credibility of this committee. He thinks A/F tainted this issue. He advises approval. George Waddell thinks NC's don't have the expertise and already have a voice with the city. Terrie spoke to the strengths of NC reps but that their priorities are different. Cindy pointed out that she and Ruth ran to be representatives on this committee because of their interest in the environment and they want to better inform their NC's. The NC applauded when Cindy and Ruth reported (as it turns out, prematurely) that they now have a vote. Steve sees the proposal as a slippery slope, that adding a vote for the NC's will dilute our purpose, that they already advise the city. Sharon Ford pointed out that the reps on the committee vote the stance of their organization/group, not necessarily their own opinion. Cindy said she will vote her own beliefs, not that of her organization where she disagrees with them. David Troy said that's a conflict of interest. Muriel pointed out that many reps on this committee couldn't vote on A/F because their organization

hadn't taken a position, despite their personal opinions. Glenn suggested thinking in current realities. **The motion failed: 3 ayes, 4 opposed.**

Army Corps of Engineers: Not here. Bill spoke to Phil Serpa. FoLAR noticed scraping of riverbed when doing a fish survey last Nov. Water Board issued a notice of violation for vegetation removal south of Burbank Blvd to the dam. Corps is consulting their legal staff. Steve spoke about shoal removal.

Recreation and Parks: Paola said no major damage from recent rains. Joe saw that water went up to bridge over Balboa Blvd. City needs to clean tree limbs, etc. RAP's Alex is working hard on the WR. SFVAS is looking into repairing the Woodcrete fence. Cindy asked about an area near one of the golf courses with lots of trash.

Management of Area East of Wildlife Lake: Muriel found no better management ideas. Please remove item from agendas.

Agenda: Please add Sheila Kuehl's office to agendas.

Adjourned 9PM.

Submitted by

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