

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting March 28, 2017 -- Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Preston Bowling at 6:39PM at the Balboa Sports Center. A quorum was established. Introductions. Voting members attending: Glenn Bailey, Bill Bowling, Theresa Brady, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey, Joe Phillip and George Waddell. Non-voting members and alternates: Ruth Doxsee, Cesar Lunel and David Troy. Guests: Jim Houghton, Sean McCarthy, Phil Serpa and Walt Young.

Minutes of Jan 2017 were approved as submitted.

Upcoming Announcements: FoLAR cleanup of LA River in Basin April 15. SFVAS cleanup of Haskell Creek April 8. Chatsworth Nature Preserve open house April 2 with more involvement by DWP than in recent years.

Bird Fest Tabling Nov. 4: A table for the SBWASC? At King Gillette Ranch. Spend a little for a display? And a banner or tablecloth? We can vote at our next meeting. Bill would be willing to table.

US Army Corps of Engineers: -- Phil Serpa reported that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Vegetative Management Plan for the South Reserve is still being worked on. Ken Wong is lead. Homeless encampments south of Burbank: work is being done, with the Corps' maintenance area soon to be worked on.

Walt Young said MRCA is going to do a LAR homeless survey. Working with CD6. The homeless are more visible now and might be more easily reached for services. City is trying to manage this better. The homeless moved to left bank of river when right side was cleared. Just happened in last 14 days. Corps is still trying to hire 2 rangers, but not until around the end of the fiscal year. They will be working throughout much of So Cal, perhaps in partnership with MRCA. There is a comment period ending April 26 for the Water Board decision.

LAPD: Officer Solano wasn't available.

Recreation and Parks: Caesar had no updates, including on fencing. They're trying to cleanup Hjelte Park where there has been a homeless encampment, with the season opening April 1.

Fencing: Glenn. SFVAS is offering to pay if necessary for replacement fencing parts. Chuck Singer, Therman Calloway and Jim Houghton have met. Glenn would like to facilitate. He is concerned at the short life of the Woodcrete fencing. Bob Munsey considers Woodcrete a losing proposition, as not durable and is expensive: look at alternatives. David Troy thinks epoxied rebar might be a better choice. Or a different design considering the 2 pieces of rebar running through. Glenn suggested that this be on the next agenda and asked to chair to encourage the city to be here to discuss. Bob mentioned ways we can specify qualities of what the fencing should be.

Lack of "No Fishing" Rules Enforcement. Kory Collins does visit for Cal Fish and Wildlife. There is not enough enforcement. Signage is needed -- signs that are still there are graffitied. Muriel will remind officer Solano that afternoon enforcement is needed. Bill will look at what signage is needed and communicate to Paola. Ranger presence might help. Cesar will clean up badly graffitied signs tomorrow. Maybe signs from local college art departments with materials from the local businesses -- although city's sign shop may need to be involved. Design contest for signs?

There will be fishing and kayaking in the LAR from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day in the recreational zone.

Encino Creek Homeless Removal: Bill, George and Glenn attended the public meeting prior to the work. Bill distributed summary reports of this huge effort along the south side of Burbank Blvd between Balboa Blvd and Hjelte sports fields. Glenn is concerned that there was no resource survey of trees, etc. beforehand.

A homeless services event for homeless people will be held at the Wildlife Amphitheater on Thurs April 20. They expect 100 homeless people. Includes breakfast and lunch for the homeless. Glenn is concerned about attracting homeless people to the amphitheater, so far as those who don't accept the services. Mayor's office would be the place to contact about this. Supposedly they're getting a permit from RAP. Brian Gavidia or Kevin Taylor? SBWASC not notified. Nor the NC.

Wildlife Preservation in the Basin: Muriel described the unpermitted Raves with extremely loud amplified music that have been occurring just north of the Wildlife Reserve fence near Haskell Creek on almost all Sundays and many Saturdays. 2nd Wednesdays are police advisory boards. Bill will invite Lead Officer Parra to our next meeting.

Neighborhood Councils: Committee members received an email from Linda Gravani asking us to reconsider our decision to not allow NC's to be voting members. Bob

Munsey moved to reconsider and seconded by Bill. 4 yes (Joe, Glenn, Bill, Bob.) 3 no (George, Muriel and Terrie).

Special Events in Sepulveda Basin: Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair has been evicted from the firehouse where it used to be held. They are looking for a place to hold it. They're looking at Sepulveda Basin, possibly Woodley I. Vegan Fest in Woodley Park I on April 30.

Public Comment: On behalf of NPS Justin Yee is looking for NGO's to adopt a wildlife camera in the LAR. Involves monitoring and changing batteries and taking memory cards from them periodically.

Sean McCarthy has been painting the Balboa Bridge: There's a huge amount of junk in the river. He's knocked stuff down. The homeless camp ¼ mile upstream of the bridge needs trash cans. And under the bridge at each end. Sanitation or RAP needs to maintain them. Any signs need to be made of material impervious to paint.

Bob: Ticks are an increasingly big problem: Lyme disease, homeless veterans.

May meeting is a walkthrough day. 4PM. Location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46.

Submitted by

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