

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting January 28, 2014 - Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Chair Terrie Brady. Attending were other voting members Glenn Bailey, Glen Dake, Snowdy Dodson, Joe Phillips, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey and Rosemarie White, as well as non-voting members, alternates and guests Andrea Alba, Deborah Deets, Debra George, Sandy Hart, Hiddo D. Netto, Kris Ohlenkamp, Alison Simard, Chris Trent BS and Juan Villasenor. Introductions were made and a quorum was established.

Request for Membership by the Canada Goose Project: They have submitted a letter to Recreation and Parks (RAP) requesting membership, including an alternate for Rosemarie White. They are again a voting member of this committee.

Announcements:

- SFVAS plans a small cleanup along the main path and Wildlife Lake on Sunday April 6 by volunteers from Temple Aliyah from 9:30/10AM - noon.
- SFVAS plans a cleanup of Haskell Creek north of Burbank Blvd. on Saturday April 12, 8:00 - noon, volunteers from the public invited.
- FoLAR is holding its Great LA River CleanUp Saturday, April 26, 9AM - noon. They plan to clean the LA River at Balboa Blvd.
- 2/15 Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) is going to hold the first of three community workshops at the National Guard Armory regarding a proposal for a LA River Veteran Tribute Park between the Armory and LAR, that will honor veterans and involve young people in science and environmental stewardship. Glen encouraged broad participation in the workshops.

Microbead Presentation: Hiddo Netto, manager of the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (TWRP), discussed microbeads. The TWRP was not built to remove these tiny beads. They have never seen microbeads and have not looked for them. They will study the problem in response to the recent LA Times article.

Glenn asked about odors he has noticed recently, possibly from Tillman. Hiddo said they may be from the cesspool area (septage or "truck toilet") next to the plant. They may need to add an odor scrubber there. The underground ponds for holding water during storms are about 2 years old, and are intended to hold water for about 12 hours. The EIR for additional water treatment discussed last year will be out in 2 or 3 months.

US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE): Glenn reported that Jay Fields sent an email this afternoon, advising that their contractor is ready to present what they have developed for the Vegetative Management Plan in the South Reserve. The recipients of the email are encouraged to reply with their availability to Jay Field.

Minutes of the Meeting November 2013: These should be corrected to show that Terrie will be chair for all of 2014. The minutes were approved with this correction.

City Council Motion CF 13-0024: Debra Deets advised that Sanitation is waiting to hear the alternatives and preferred alternative from the ACOE before they report to City Council.

Recreation and Parks Dept.: Juan Villasenor is now the Park Maintenance Supervisor for Sepulveda Basin. He is not familiar with the Commemorative Grove. Muriel is to email him the most recent plan and description.

Muriel pleaded for a Keep Out sign at the south end of the apparent road/trail leading from near the tunnel under Burbank Blvd. and continuing along the east side of the Wildlife Lake. Rosemarie expanded that there should be nobody on that road because of the Canada Geese.

Chris Trent asked about the plowed area east of the Wildlife Lake. Rosemarie explained that it is for goose forage. She is very upset to learn that they are not irrigating that area, hence it is brown and not providing forage.

Juan will have graffiti removed at Bull Creek.

Use of Rodenticides: It is unclear whether RAP is using anticoagulant rodenticides in Sepulveda Basin parks. Fumatoxin, a poison gas that does not bio-accumulate is used. City council is considering banning anticoagulants in city parks; Councilmember Paul Koretz has introduced Council motion #13-1580. Alison Simard of CLAWonline.org discussed the impacts anticoagulants cause. There was considerable adamant opposition among the committee members to any anticoagulant rodenticide use in Sepulveda Basin, and in O'Melveny Park where Muriel recently saw an anticoagulant bait box near the beginning of the natural area there. Integrated pest management is preferred.

A motion was made and seconded to support Council Motion #13-1580. As this was not agendaized, the motion was withdrawn. The motion will be made at our next meeting. Organizations will encourage their members to write their council members.

Chris Trent reported that fishing continues at the Wildlife Lake and along Haskell Creek, sometimes by large numbers of people. There was discussion of getting park rangers here.

Glenn said Tom Rice was working on replacing broken Woodcrete fencing. Juan's bosses are Barbara Pleasant and Jeremy Thomas. Juan will talk to Jeremy.

Debra George said there is still no MOU between LAPD and RAP. Andy Schrader of CM Koretz's office replied regarding the LAMC [slightly shortened]:

I met last week with Councilmember Huizar's office to discuss your specific issue. CM Huizar is the head of Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee and addresses such things. I also met with our Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to discuss ways forward. Councilmember Koretz has asked the CLA to draft a motion asking the City Attorney to amend the City Code according to your notes.

Amending the City Code is a lengthy process:

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1) This motion will be introduced when it is ready (probably in the next week or two), it will be assigned to PLUM committee and will likely take a month or two to get scheduled there. Then a couple weeks to come to full Council.

2) Then it will be developed with the Planning Commission, back to PLUM Committee for approval and then to the City Attorney to draft the legal language. Possibly five months for this part.

You might also be interested to know about three other items we are working on:

- as there is currently no wildlife refuge in the middle of the city (i.e., close enough to be useful), we are working with a group called CLAW (<http://www.clawonline.org/>) to locate one in the hills. We are also working with them on developing a City-wide wildlife corridor system, so that animals can move from Griffith Park and the hills and out to the Santa Monica Mountains unobstructed. We believe this can be a simple process.

- We're also looking into rodenticide use by the

City: <http://www.kcet.org/news/define/rewild/mammals/rat-poison-may-be-increasing-deadly-disease-in-california-bobcats.html>

Also, if you want to send me the info about your meeting, I can pass it along to CLAW, in case you all might want to work together on these issues.

Andy Shrader

Deputy of Environmental Affairs & Sustainability

Glenn suggested having the head of Animal Services, Brenda Barnett attend a committee meeting. Alison spoke about the understaffing of Animal Services.

Juan does not recall the date of the Persian New Year event to be held by Lake Balboa. Glenn spoke of the difficulties caused if it is held on Easter. Juan went to a recent meeting about it and will let us know the date. Glenn suggested that Juan see that Terrie as committee chair or Debra be invited to future planning meetings.

Public Comments:

Andrea Alba expressed concerns about people feeding huge amounts of foods to birds at Lake Balboa despite signs and fishing there (allowed). There's no one there to help injured animals.

Alison Simard attended to talk about scientifically mapping wildlife corridors in the city. Her group, CLAW, is working with SMM Conservancy. She wants support for the effort and distributed a sample support letter.

Reports:

- Audubon California: Glen Dake described the proposal for LA River Veteran Tribute Park.
- California Native Plant Society: Snowdy said Gardening for Wildlife will be the theme of their spring symposium. The plant show will be April 14.
- Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie said they are still counting the geese.
- Los Angeles Audubon: Bob Munsey considers this room inappropriate for these meetings and wants to return to the conference room in the main building. He wants to review the standing rules. (Muriel is to Email them to all members.)
- Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mts.: Glenn announced a public safety town hall will be held tomorrow evening in Van Nuys.
- San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel said the bird walks at the SBWR continue, as does the field trip program for school children and special groups
- Sierra Club: Joe announced they will be celebrating 50th anniversary of Wilderness Act. They plan to do more walks at SBWR.
- Encino Neighborhood Council Parks Committee: Debra announced they will hold a minor meeting Sunday Feb, 2 and a regular meeting Mar. 3.

Submitted by

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