

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDFILE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes for

Tuesday, 26 February 2008; 6:30 p.m.

Held at Recreation and Parks Valley Region Headquarters

6335 Woodley Avenue; Van Nuys, California

1. Introductions; as per usual
2. Determination of Quorum; obtained. Those in attendance were Sharon Ford (chair), Glenn Bailey, Snowdy Dodson, Rosemarie White, Robert Munsey and Michael Vensky, as well as non-voting members, alternates and guests Pat Aceves, Patrick Aubuchon, Sharon Brewer, Kathleen Hanover, Joyce MacKinnon, Katie Parks, Julie Szende and Michael Tou.
3. Minutes of 22 January 2008 Meeting approved as submitted.
4. Announcements: (Chair requests in writing with copies for all)
5. Public Comments: (Comments from the public on non-agenda items with the Committee's jurisdiction. Public comments shall be limited to two minutes per speaker.
6. Special Agenda Items (Possible motion(s), discussion, and/or vote(s) on any item(s))

CONTINUING BUSINESS (Possible motion(s), discussion, and/or vote(s) on any item(s)):

1. Lake Balboa Park Advisory Board, a.k.a. PAB (Sharon F and Abel) – last appearance on agenda, we will await further reports from Abel as they come available.
 - a. Quarterly meeting shall be convened
 - b. Committee inquired as to the possibility of participation of some previously paneled organizations of similar purpose, such as "Friends of Lake Balboa" and "The Sepulveda Basin User's Group"
 - c. Discussions ensued regarding make up, purpose, agenda of participants. The desire to find workable solutions was paramount.
 - d. First meeting to occur in perhaps several months
2. Update on Bull Creek Restoration Project (Katie Parks; ACOE):
 - a. all trails to have decomposed granite (a.k.a. DG) surfaces
 - b. the four bridges shall have simulated wood (concrete/rebar) rails
 - c. the "trail to nowhere" shall be reconnected to adjoining trails
 - d. regarding interpretive signage, ACOE is working with the city
 - e. the entire project shall be completed in approximately fourteen months and constructed per specification
 - f. questions arose as to how Steering Committee's previous suggestions had informed the Army Corp of Engineer's design, no precise answer was provided so questions still remain
 - g. the ground breaking for the Bull Creek Restoration Project has occurred
3. Fishing line containers for Lake Balboa (Abel)
 - a. Risk Manager had expressed concerns regarding the construction and placement of the containers
 - b. Safety Engineering has similar concerns

- c. The city is looking into the possibility of purchasing some sort of container solution
 - d. There is some concern over the proliferation of boutique signage and/or containers
 - e. Rosemarie White would like to invite General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri to an upcoming meeting to provide some insight and/or assessment. There is a possibility of having lifeguards attempt public education regarding the proper disposition of fishing equipment, specifically lines and their attendant lures, hooks, etc
 - f. City is currently operating under severe fiduciary constraints with a %40 vacancy rate at the managerial level and a %26 vacancy rate for the rank and file. Hence, these plan's scheduling may be protracted due to financial considerations.
 - g. Robert Munsey spoke about some contacts he has enjoyed with California Fish and Game. Fish and Game had expressed some interest in participating the educational aspect of the "fishing line dilemma"
4. Russian thistle weed abatement program (Steve H)
 - a. there is a strong need to commence with this project before the thistle sets seed and hence multiplies the problem
 - b. disking is required next to the archery range as a fire control measure
 - c. Katie Parks spoke regarding the possibility of some sort of spraying campaign at Bull Creek.
 5. Signage issues update (Pat); Pat showed off the actual signs, Bravo!!
 - a. Wildlife Way Signs: two signs have been constructed; one shall be placed at the corner of what is currently referred to as "Wildlife Way" and Woodley Avenue. This intersection is the first street to the east of Woodley as one proceeds north off Burbank Boulevard. The second sign shall be placed at the fork just several hundred feet up from the previously mentioned sign. One leg of the fork goes to the Japanese Garden and the other to the reserve. The remaining Wildlife Way street sign shall be used to point the way to the reserve.
 - b. Questions regarding as to when signs shall be placed ensued.
 - c. Behavioral Signs: a work in progress.
 6. Status of proposed memorial in honor of Cesar Chavez (Abel)
 - a. committee approved placement of the memorial near entrance to model airplane area, across street from the reserve
 - b. Sharon Ford to accomplish a letter from the Basin Committee to the city documenting our approval.
 7. Status of revision of SFWA brochure (Muriel): shall follow up with Muriel on this matter as she was not in attendance
 8. Status of "Quarterly Review and Update" (Sharon F); Sharon is working on completing this project and hopes to be done by the end of March

NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Rotation of committee chair to Michael J. Vensky, Southwestern Herpetologists Society for the ensuing six months

NEW BUSINESS:

1. When would be a good time to schedule the next walking tour?

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

1. Agencies and Officials:
 - a. The Universal Access Playground has been completed
 - b. Michael Tou stated that progress is being made and that they are moving forward with the Army Corp of Engineers regarding some previously discussed issues
 - c. Regarding the Water Runoff Project, the Army Corp is looking into some innovative ways to reclaim the water
 - d. Regarding the "Orange Line" ; public meeting to occur in Chatsworth on March 19 & 26th at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Glen has more information.
 - e. No report from River Project as Melanie was not present.
 - f. On April 5th, starting around 8:00 a.m., the San Fernando Valley Audubon will be sponsoring a Sepulveda Basin trash cleanup
 - g. The San Fernando Valley Sierra Club will be having its annual Spaghetti Dinner
 - h. National Geographic BioBlitz coming up May 30-31.
2. Committee Members: California Native Plant Society (S. Hartman); Canada Goose Project (R. White); Los Angeles Audubon Society (B. Munsey); Resource Conservation District (G. Bailey); The River Project (M. Winter); San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (M. Kotin); Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group (S. Ford); Southwestern Herpetologists Society (M. Vensky).
3. Adjournment: 8:23 p.m.
4. Next Meeting: Tuesday, 25 March 2008. Deadline for April: 8 April 2008.

Submitted by

Michael J. Vensky, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee