

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Meeting January 22, 2019 – Approved Minutes

The meeting was held at the Balboa Sports Center and called to order at 6:36PM by George Waddell, committee chair for 2019. Introductions were made and a quorum was established. Voting members attending: Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, Muriel Kotin, Joe Phillips and George Waddell. Non-voting members: Pat Bates, Jorge DeLoera and Cindy Kurland. Alternates, Visitors and Guests: Anne Abramson, Tessa Charnofsky, Steve Dunlap, Jim Hanlon, Barbara Heidemann, Will Perkin and David Troy. Minutes of November 25, 2018 were approved after changes requested by Melanie Winter.

Announcements: Haskell Creek Cleanup will be Saturday April 13. Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House Saturday April 6.

George Waddell, the new committee chair, introduced himself.

Tessa Chernofsky District Director for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl: Office of Sustainability is developing a plan. Measure W: water capture and conservation measure. Plastics. Clean Power Alliance. She requested suggestions from attendees: They included the following. Include greater, earlier engagement of the public, including this committee, in developing county bond park measures. More passive recreation space needed and space is available in Sepulveda Basin; this can be compatible with natural values. Health Department and Vector Control's policies: rodenticide usage in Sepulveda Basin is considered unacceptable by many attending this meeting. Increased coordination between county and city on rodent control was suggested. City and County should encourage greater use of the Orange Line to Sepulveda Basin events.

Steve Dunlap of the Forestry Division of Recreation and Parks (RAP) discussed the problem of ground squirrel control.

Park Rangers Needed: Linda Gravani of LBNC is looking for speakers on 2/6 about park rangers for Sepulveda Basin. Pat Bates and Jim Hanlon are available. We need city park rangers for Sep. Bas. They could also handle Reseda Park. Comment made that presence of enforcement personnel on foot is needed. The Basin is becoming unsafe. A beautiful resource that shouldn't be lost to people feeling unsafe. Suggest to encourage LAPD to attend these meetings occasional. George will contact Rosa Smith and Evelyn Solano.

Canada Goose Foraging Area: Is this area, which is immediately east of the Wildlife Lake, being managed in the most beneficial area? Yes, RAP still mows the area and plants forage there in the fall. Suggested checking Master Plan. Maybe visit the area as our Walkthrough in May. Discuss at a later meeting after walkthrough and research.

RAP: Jorge De Loera reported that RAP is trying to assign a crew to clean up homeless camps throughout the SFV. County passed Measure H and City HHH. Bridge housing is coming up

throughout the city, with progress for temporary and permanent housing. There is a Hotline to call for outreach. Tessa will provide the phone number. Problems with graffiti in the Wildlife Reserve are worsening. You can't even read many of the behavior signs because of it.

Use of Native Plants: Steve Dunlap Principal Forester for Forestry Division of RAP manages 350,000 trees in Sepulveda Basin. Drought and insect impacts include the Shot Hole Borer, which he described as devastating all the Calif native plants especially the sycamores. Live oak a vector but not often killed. Another species of shot hole borer is in San Diego Co. Other insects impact palms and ficus. A lot of upgrading of park landscaping is going on in LA. California native trees are being integrated. More natives are likely to be used in the future. Managers are mandated to use more natives. They're trying. RAP has grants to plant trees in Basin and other areas. They will be a mix of natives and non-natives.

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Consortium: Members explained what the Consortium is and what it does. Muriel to get from SFVAS treasurer how much in its account and where it's held.

Public Comment: Muriel should send the emergency contact lists, including CALTIP, with minutes. Suggestions were made to use the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife.com website more effectively and maybe have photographers send photos — and how do we keep the website current and not just on Steve's shoulders. Use 311 for non-emergency. The website for service requests, such as requests for graffiti removal, is **myla311.lacity.org**.

Reports: Shredding event this Saturday. SFVAS's awards luncheon will be the first Saturday of March. Sierra Club's awards banquet May 5.

Meeting was adjourned by 8:45PM, exact time not noted. Next meeting will be Tuesday Mar 26, same location.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, San Fernando Valley Audubon's Representative to the  
Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee