

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting January 28, 2020 – APPROVED MINUTES

Joe Phillips, committee chair for 2020, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Introductions were made and a quorum established. Attending were voting members Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, Muriel Kotin, Joe Phillips and George Waddell. Non-voting members were Shelly Backlar, Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee and Paola Jaramillo. Alternates not voting were Barb Heidemann. Guests were Anne Abramson, Tessa Charnofsky (for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl), Gio Gomez, Denise Kniter (for State Senator Henry Stern) and Richard Rachman. The next meeting will be in March.

Minutes of the November 2019 meeting were approved with the addition of “unanimously” to the vote on the glyphosate letter.

Announcements:

- FoLAR will lead a habitat enhancement to remove mustard in the Wildlife Reserve west of Haskell Creek on Sat. Feb. 22 from 9:00 – noon. There will be a bird walk at 8:00 AM.
- SFVAS’s monthly bird walk will be Sun. Feb 2.
- Lake Balboa NC (with Arleta NC) holds a LAUSD candidate forum (District 3) on Sat. Feb. 15 and a City Council District 6 candidate forum on Sat. Feb. 22.
- SFVAS’s awards luncheon is Sat. Mar. 14.
- FoLAR and SFVAS will lead a cleanup of Haskell Creek on Sat. Apr. 11, 9:00 – noon.
- Federal Park Rangers may do a project with volunteers in the South Reserve in March. Joe will follow up with them for information.

Elected Officials:

- Denise Kniter of Senator Stern’s office introduced herself.
- Tessa Charnofsky of Supervisor Kuehl’s office said our letter commenting on herbicide use missed the deadline but may be helpful anyway.
 - There will be a meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 at the Topanga Library on a rent stabilization ordinance.
 - Supervisor Kuehl’s office gave the RCD \$8,000 for training people on the shothole borer and money to CNPS for printing their fire recovery booklets. Possibly there will be money available for SBWR through an NGO with a physical address.
 - The county sustainability plan is being developed; it will probably pertain only to unincorporated parts of LA County. Plastics are included in the plan.

Recreation and Parks: Paola reported that RAP has maintained the decomposed granite paths in the amphitheater area. Trimming within the reserve continues. The city isn’t purchasing Woodcrete anymore and is looking for a different material to use in the future.

Projects Committee Report:

- Since boulders are not feasible for keeping vehicles off the amphitheater lawn, would large logs or old phone poles be possible? Paola will discuss this with Jorge.
- RAP will remove concrete trashcans and replace with regular metal ones in the reserve.
- A grant to help fund fencing might be available through a neighborhood council community improvement project. Muriel to send Paola a map of where fencing most urgently needs to be replaced for RAP to get a quote. If SFVAS handles the replacing, Woodcrete could be used.
- As no member of the SBWASC is enthusiastic about reviving the possibility of a memorial grove, it was suggested that the location (the slope up to the older cricket fields) be considered for making a simple California native plant garden. Would this be a potential place to involve TreePeople? What would be involved is RAP trimming up the existing trees (mainly oaks). Volunteers would remove weeds and plant perhaps three small fruiting native trees or shrubs (holly leaf cherry, toyon or similar). Over time volunteers would plant flowering perennials sparsely and scatter wildflower seeds. Volunteers would maintain the area, including pruning the plants for a more finished landscaping appearance. The fencing repair would leave only two or three openings where casual paths would be encouraged.

Upcoming Events Later this Year:

- April 18 will be Earth Day at the Tarzana Cultural Center, openings for Audubon and the SBWASC.
- April 4 will be Chatsworth Nature Preserve Earth Day from 9:00-2:00.
- May 9 is Bird LA Day. SFVAS will do a “Big Sit” Birdathon at the Wildlife Reserve.

Oak Planting West of Haskell Creek: Richard Rachman asked whether the CNPS volunteer weeding crew could help water the tiny trees in April and May. He will coordinate with George Waddell. TreePeople promised to replace oak seedlings that die.

Renaming of Wildlife Reserve Opposed: The committee is concerned that the motion to rename the reserve for Park Ranger Captain Albert Torres (which would cause confusion) is still live in City Council Committee, despite other facilities having been renamed for him. Therefore: **MOTION:** To oppose the City Council motion to rename the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve in honor of the late Park Ranger Captain Albert Torres because of the confusion that would result. However, we recommend renaming the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Amphitheater in his memory. The motion was **seconded and passed unanimously.**

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, SFVAS’s Representative for Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee