

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting October 27, /2020 -- Approved Minutes

Meeting by Zoom was called to order by Joe Phillips at 6:38.

Voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, Muriel Kotin, Joe Phillips, and George Waddell. Non-voting members attending were Shelly Backlar, Pat Bates, Robert Buenrostro, Ruth Doxsee, and Nurit Katz. Guests and non-voting alternates were Anne Abramson, Wendy Barsh, Tessa Charnofsky, Jonah Glickman, Barb Heidemann, Robert Moreno, Bill Neill, Mark Osokow, Clark Stevens, Dave Weeshoff, and Melanie Winter.

Introductions followed establishment of a quorum..

Minutes of the meeting September 2020 were approved with correction of a typo.

Martinez Motion for Updated Masterplan: It's currently in Ryu's HELPAR committee. it will probably be heard on November 12. [****Recording started****] When will the So Cal Gas staging area stop being leased? Will there be any report (e.g. by RAP) before it's heard by committee? Not that Jonah knows of, but he'll share with us if there is a report. Meetings and discussions with relevant agencies will be needed first. He has been relaying our concerns to his colleagues, including CD-6 Planning Director Max Podemski (Max.Podemski@lacity.org).

A lot of park projects are on hold by mayor's order because of budget problems. Planning process for 2028 Olympics — Jonah needs permission to release info publicly and even to get information from the committee. Master planning process should coordinate between different agencies and their responsibilities — and improve them. How does this relate to the mayor's office's Olympics Committee?

The motion is to initiate the process of a masterplan. Focusing in the few 100 acres only.

The ACOE is in the process of updating a masterplan, not yet at the stage of releasing to the public for comments. It isn't yet clear how that and the city's masterplan will relate. Will there be a CEQA or NEPA review needed for Olympics plans? Jonah will find out — and what the timeline is.

Recovery Planning from the Sept 6 fire: George Waddell spoke for CNPS. Opportunity to prevent return of invasive plant species. They hope to use goats for selective weed control. They have contacted a company that specializes in selective weed control for restoration, with goats that prefer exotic vegetation, i.e. weeds. Mid-April to end of May, mainly on West Field and also a strip of the east end of the West Field that didn't burn. Would need right of entry permit from the city. Shelly will work with the group to find the balance of funding for goats. SFVAS would be a source of some funding. Other potential sources too. Start with unburned mustard in SE corner of East Field? Neighborhood Councils have money now — good time to ask for funds. Ruth will put in request to LBNC for \$7500. Pat to Encino NC. She suggests a

Friends of Sepulveda Wildlife Areas. Do fundraising. Concerns were expressed about goats during flood season, e.g., this fall. Robert B said goats in another RAP park weren't too successful. Decision would be up to higher up — director of maintenance? Concern about herbicide — Terrie. Can it be avoided? Herbicides that would be used are listed in an email Bill sent today: Transline on thistle & prickly lettuce (composites); Post (specific to grasses) for Harding Grass; and Garlon 4 (Triclopyr).

Robert Moreno said that ACOE uses goats in various places, including Sacramento area, very successfully. Thinks it would benefit SBWR. City would have to permit and then it would go to ACOE, their real-estate division. Springtime. In the Sacramento area a huge flock of goats and sheep is used for weed control for a very large property. Perhaps Reseda NC might also be a source of funds for goats. Other NCs too. Confident we can raise funding for goats in spring 2021. Post Fire Comm should put together plan for \$\$\$.

CNPS about plants for planting. Northeast Trees has sources: Tree of Life in OC, El Nativo and another. Payne Foundation. NE Trees might help, but for a fee. Plea was made for a considered landscape plan in West Field and rethinking East Field with landscape plan and making the path along east side of lake an official and slightly improved path. Planned irrigation of trees to be planted will be needed.

RAP Update on Post Fire Recovery: Damaged trees? Forestry has Identified pines to be removed on a weekend in-house. He'll email the trees and numbers (Torrey and Aleppo pines). Also 2 sycamore and 24 shrubs will be removed, others trimmed. Safety considerations. Committee wants to discuss species of replacement trees. They should use native species. Don't remove trees infested with shot hole borer. Planks on south bridge will be replaced as soon as the replacement planks arrive. Resilience of native sycamores and oaks seems to be significant. Betty Davis section of Griffith Park lost a lot of sycamores to the borers. Robert B reported on possible hazardous trees: 8-9 torrey pines, 3 are sick, may need to be removed said would be done in house also some trimming. There was discussion of there not being any Torrey pines in reserve; perhaps this is 8 Aleppo pines? Robert B said maybe 8 Torrey pines, 2 Sycamores, 24 shrubs, which would be only 2 native trees.

Water Lettuce: Over 30 RAP employees out today with boats and skimmers. This will repeat tomorrow and Thursday. RAP filled an entire 10 cubic yard dump truck with water lettuce. Removing mechanically, discussing what chemical they will spray. It will be a year-long process at minimum. Netting is over the outlet to keep the WL from getting into Haskell Creek. They will have to change it out periodically. Is anything being put up at the river end of the creek? Not so far. No signs of any WL in Lake Balboa. Any testing of DO in lake water? It's being tested. Nothing significant noted so far. If it is, Robert will share with us. No evidence of dead fish. Any spread to golf course ponds? Volunteer efforts will continue on weekends.

Public Comments: A cement truck was driven onto the grass north of the SBWR parking lot to make a youth practice cricket field Saturday a week ago. Robert had not been aware of it.

Irrigation lines were broken. Suggestion that he ask permitting section of RAP to notify him of anything in Woodley II and that we be notified of proposed projects. The River Project will organize a charrette for River plans the weekend of Nov 21 or 28.

Submitted by

Muriel S Kotin

San Fernando Valley Audubon's Representative to SBWASC