

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee Meeting March 26, 2024 – Approved Minutes

Meeting was held at the Balboa Sports Center and called to order at 6:40pm by Dan Cooper. A quorum was established. The meeting was recorded. Introductions were made.

Attending were Voting Members Terry Brady (SC-Vly), Dan Cooper (RCD), Kevin Jauregui (FoLAR), Nurit Katz (LAAS), Muriel Kotin (SFVAS), Joe Phillips (SC-Angeles), Greg Stewart (CNPS). Non-voting Members Pat Bates (ENC). Alternates and guests Rosie Avetisyan (Deputy CD -6), Glenn Bailey (RCDSMM/ENC), Barb Heidemann (SFVAS). By zoom Brian Yamasaki (RAP), Hanna Weyland (ACOE), Jon Rishi (ACOE). Minutes of the January 2024 meeting were approved.

Governmental Agencies

Army Corps of Engineers: John Rishi reported that annual vegetative management in So Reserve is completed. Concert in the park (Woodley I) that was originally scheduled for 2019 and moved to 2020 has been applied for Oct 11-12, 2024. Send comments on EA to Jon Rishi by midnight April 2.

Council District 6: Rosie Avetisyan reported she is starting to work on new transit plans. She'll invite Metro for our next meeting. The project is farther east than her field deputy duties cover. She is working on encampments and reporting coordinates to RAP for cleanups. Interested in more information about the proposal for the concert in the park.

Recreation and Parks: Brian Yamasaki is pleased and relieved that the unfunctional port a potty has been replaced by a usable one. He'll be talking soon to the plumbing people and have a better idea about when the water will be restored to sanitary facilities. He will let us know.

Member Organizations

Encino NC: Pat Bates reported the NC is backing FoLAR 4/20 cleanups financially. Cannot do creek cleanup because of least Bell's vireo, but they will do weeding and planting. Pat is resigning from the NC in June.

FoLAR: Kevin announced FoLAR will do a very big habitat restoration and renewal on April 20 at SBWR.

SFVAS: Muriel and Pat reported on education and outreach programs at SBWR.

RCD-SMM: Dan reported on Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP) and Raptor Nest Studies. There are 3 owlets in Woodley Park.

LAAS and DWP: Nurit reported that a motion on Biodiversity was passed today by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners.

Sierra Club: Joe reported their Angeles Chapter is moving downtown.

CNPS: Greg reported CNPS is working closely with FoLAR. There have been many recent rainouts.

Lake Level: Nurit is setting up a meeting with the manager of Tillman to discuss. Dan, Nurit, maybe Muriel. She will try to set up a tour of the plant for members of this committee. Trying to increase communication with other city agencies, including Public Works, RAP upper management.

Vision Plan

Rosie said many studies are ongoing that will affect the EA. It's going to happen.

Concert in the Park

Observation was made that in the evenings the parking situation in Woodley Park is abysmal where cars can barely move at all, let alone find a parking space. A great potential safety issue. [Also see ACOE report above.] Deadline for concert comments is midnight April 2.

Current Sepulveda Basin Info: 818.756-9710 is apparently current phone number and is useless. It reaches only a message that the mailbox is full. (For traffic info, Cal Trans Quick Maps sometimes more helpful than Google Maps.) Greg will try to set up the Wildlife Reserve on Google Maps as belonging to SBWASC. He created an Instagram page, Nurit a Facebook page. Possibly update our website.

Suggestion: Could Greg and volunteers fund concrete parking barrier pylons? Brian will take it up to Wayne Neal. (An example is at east end of Reseda Park along Victory Bl.)

Ranger Station Funding: – Pat will inquire on the status of federal grant.

Subcommittees: So far only Ecological has anyone indicating interest: Melanie & Muriel. If more interest, First meeting maybe April or over the summer. Email Dan if you are interested.

Walkthrough of SBWR with council office: Dan and Nurit are planning a walkthrough. Muriel is interested in participating. A bike ride through the greater basin is possible.

Bike Path: Joe reported his conversation with Marcelino Ascensio of Bur of Engineering about it.

Next Meeting will take place Tuesday May 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm in person at 17015 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91316 - Balboa Sports Center.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, SFVAS Rep to SBWASC