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## PARKS COMMITTEE

### Proposed Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2014

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Chair Debra George. Other members present were: Glenn Bailey, Diana Crews, Pat Bates, and Sue Wilschke
- 2) The proposed minutes for the meeting of March 3rd, 2013 were approved 5-0-0.
- 3) Old Business:
  - Barn Owl Boxes – Waiting for RAP to install mounting posts.
  - Replacement of an oak tree in the 5300 block of Aldea – Project has been transferred to Transportation Committee.
  - Neighborhood Purposes Grant request from the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and the Los Encinos Docents Association. – Have been filed with EmpowerLA (DONE)
  - Funding of up to \$350 for the purchase of books related to gardening with California native plants for the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library. -- ENC Treasurer is still waiting for new PCard

Jason Ackerman arrived

- New soccer field at Hjelte Sports Center – Jason will follow up with Councilwoman Martinez's Chief of Staff
- 4) New Business:
    - **Motion to support CF 14-0356 directing the City Attorney to prepare and present the necessary Ordinances needed to prohibit certain behaviors in the City's wildlife areas. Members of the Encino community have long observed illegal fishing, harming and killing of migratory birds, taking of bird eggs from nests, bike riding through sensitive areas, allowing off-leash dogs to roam at will and chase birds, and other destructive behaviors. Community Impact Statement to be filed and communication sent to the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and River Committee. Approved as Amended 6-0-0**

- **Motion to support CF 13-1603, which instructs Recreation and Parks to include drought tolerant landscaping in City landscaping projects. We urge the Council to instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks to utilize southern California native plants in landscaping projects. California native plants provide the sought-after drought tolerance while also providing support to native insects, birds, and other wildlife. Community Impact Statement to be filed and communication sent to the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and River Committee.**  
**Approved as Amended 6-0-0**
- **Motion to support CF 14-0354, which instructs the Department of Recreation and Parks to include energy and water-saving strategies in the construction and maintenance of RAP facilities, including parking lots. Such strategies must include methods and materials to retain storm water run-off and assist in recharging our groundwater. Effort should also be made to shade parking lots or use other means to minimize heat island effects. Community Impact Statement to be filed and communication sent to the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and River Committee.**  
**Approved as Amended 6-0-0**
- **Motion to support CF 13-1236, which instructs the Recreation and Parks Department to report recommendations for signage or other appropriate location markers in order to address emergency response concerns and further instructs the Bureau of Engineering to work with the Recreation and Parks department to identify locations where Emergency Call boxes may be appropriate. Location markers should be included on signage within large regional parks or other means of identifying location should be developed. Current calls to LAPD dispatch from within the large regional parks are difficult as callers are unable to give a physical street address. Currently only recourse is to request an airship if emergency assistance is needed. Community Impact Statement to be filed and communication sent to the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and River Committee.**  
**Approved as Amended 6-0-0**
- **Motion to support CF 14-0335, which instructs the Department of General Services to report on current efforts in identifying alternative paving materials capable of reducing the Urban Heat Island effect and to provide recommendations for next possible steps. The number of “extreme heat” days is projected to quadruple in the San Fernando Valley by 2050. Community Impact Statement to be filed and communication sent to Public Works & Gang Reduction Committee**  
**Approved as Amended 6-0-0**
- **Motion to support CF 14-0518, which instructs the Planning Department to prepare and present an ordinance to create a Wildlife Corridor in the eastern area of the Santa Monica Mountains (Hillside Ordinance zone). We recommend that this ordinance be applicable to all of the Santa Monica Mountains within the City of Los Angeles. Community Impact Statement to be filed and communication sent to Planning and Land Use Management.**  
**Approved as Amended 6-0-0**

- Motion to support CF 14-0465, which instructs the Planning Department to prepare and process an Interim Control Ordinance. This Ordinance will prohibit the issuance of any permit for properties fronting or abutting Sepulveda Blvd, from Oxnard Street to Rayen Street, preventing any future adult entertainment or adult oriented uses. We recommend extending the ICO further south along Sepulveda Blvd to Burbank Blvd. Spillover from the topless bars, massage parlors, liquor stores, etc. affects the public's safety and enjoyment of Encino parks and the Sepulveda Basin. Community Impact Statement to be filed and communication sent to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee. This action to be communicated to the Van Nuys Neighborhood council**  
**Approved as Amended 5-0-1 abstention**
- Motion to support guided and unguided non-motorized boating access from Memorial Day to mid September within the Los Angeles River in Encino as outlined in the Public Notice of Proposed Activity and Preparation of Environmental Assessment. Further support is given to the issuance of a five-year lease to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to operate and manage any part of the LA River within Encino and the Sepulveda Basin for passive activities. Notice of support to be sent to Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Lisa Sandoval**  
**Approved 6-0-0**
- Committee member assignments – Glenn to follow up on bike path maintenance through the Sepulveda Basin, Jason will continue to work on Prop K proposed soccer field, Sue will follow up on dog park comments and maintenance, Diana will follow up on Sepulveda Garden Center weed control request and other maintenance issues.
- Big Draw LA – Have received contact from organization. They are looking for a workshop site and interest in their annual October event. Will follow up with Encino Community Center and Los Encino Docents Association.
- Shakespeare in the Park – Presentation by Jeff Cozad, board member of the Shakespeare by the Sea organization. They will be presenting Hamlet on August 6<sup>th</sup> at Los Encinos and A Midsummer Night's Dream at Encino Park on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be free to the public. A request for support funds was made to the Committee. The Parks Committee has agreed to hold a special meeting prior to the full Council to discuss and vote on providing funds to the events.
- LA River Cooperation Committee – Request was made and granted for a site visit by the LA River Cooperation Committee to the LA River within the Sepulveda Basin. To be scheduled.
- Agencies responsible for clearing homeless camps and other trash within the Sepulveda Basin: Recreation and Parks is responsible for areas covered by their lease agreement with ACOE, CalTrans is responsible for areas under (bridges) and next to the Orange Line per Kevin James, Board of Public Works Commissioner, and Army Corp of Engineers is responsible for the River and its banks. Brief discussion with Colonel Colloton occurred at the LA River cleanup regarding the need for a quick response to cleanup requests. Sites that are not cleared out promptly are quickly reoccupied.

- LA River Clean Up – 300 people signed up to participate in the event and approximately 500 showed up. Mayor Garcetti took part in the cleanup activities at the Sepulveda Basin in Encino. Colonel Colloton and members of her staff also participated in this year’s event. Lewis MacAdams, founder of Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) was also on hand for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary cleanup. Enough trash to fill a 40-yard container was pulled from the River at the Encino site. Trash included City signage (salvaged), shopping carts, and a large assortment of plastic with the small snack packages being especially prevalent.
- 5) Reports from Reports from LA City Officials and Departments: Recreation and Parks, Council Districts 5 and 6, Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council, other City departments. None noted.
  - 6) Reports from Environmental and Park Groups: SFV Audubon, CA Native Plant Society, Friends of the LA River, Friends of Los Encinos, etc. Updated event information below:

SFV Audubon will host a young birders walk on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. For time and location please email Rose at [sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com)

Blacksmith and Jake the Storyteller will be at Los Encino State Historic Park on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Park will be open from 10am – 5pm.

- 7) Public Forum – Roxie Esterle, past president of the LA Cactus and Succulent Society introduced her group, which has been in existence since 1937. Flyers for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival to be held June 14 and 15 at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino were made available. Roxie requested information on applying for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant. The Society would like to purchase plant identification markers for the public demonstration garden they maintain at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

Miriam Preissel commented on the continuing need for better grounds maintenance at the Off-Leash Dog Park.

- 8) Next committee meeting may be held on Monday, July 7th @ 7:00pm.

Adjournment by 9:17pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debra George, Chair