

SLNC Reservoirs Complex Advisory Committee Draft Minutes: April 23, 2019

Meeting called to order 7:35 pm

Quorum is met. 9 people at start; 4 additional arrived while the meeting was in progress.

Item 1:

Janis: Thanks to Terry Jackson for his years of service on the SLNC board and as co-chair of the SLNC RAC.

Self-Introduction of attendees: Janis Purins, Terry Jackson, Paul Emmons, Dulce Stein, Douglas Reed, Barbara Ringuette, Caren Singer, Robert Wolin, Elaine Koffman, Sarah Ullman, Freda Shen, Matthew Rasenik, Jeremy Black

Minutes: Copies of the January 15, 2019 meeting minutes were passed around; minutes approved Without Objection.

Item 2 (Public Comment):

Janis: Per request from Eileen Marcussen who could not attend in person, read a statement she had emailed to the co-chairs: "I am a dog owner and I live on Ivanhoe Drive in Silver Lake. I walk my dog ON A LEASH around the reservoir. The 'Grassy Knoll' is a problem spot for my walks. Easily half of the dogs that visit that patch of grass are OFF LEASH. My dog is pure love TO ME but is timid and, if frightened and agitated, will bull she an I into the street. It's dangerous. There is a dog park in the reservoir complex. That is where dogs can run free. Signs need to be posted directing the dog lovers to the dog park. Pretty simple. Now, how are we going to fet locals and visitors to follow the rules? Signs and maybe some enforcement? This space doesn't work if people flagrantly disregard the safety of other users (and their pets). Courteousness is not on display here. Should I not be allowed to enjoy the reservoir complex?"

Freda: Need more directional signage in the Meadow and at the Grassy Knoll (Restrooms□; Dog Park□ etc.), educational & informational signage about local wildlife; telescopes at key viewing locations. Please include in a future RCAC agenda. Signage could be humorous or friendlier; less "don't" and more "where and how."

Elaine: Re Grassy Knoll, frequent and ongoing violations of "no dogs" policy. The problem has worsened since the fence was erected near the dumpster. The fence is causing trucks to damage the leaning tree – the gate is located whereby the truck has to drive over the tree roots and lawn on the far side of the tree, whereas previously the truck could access the dumpster from the near side, closer to the buildings and farther from the tree. Need more signs along WSL Drive: "No Off-leash" and "Pick up after your dog."

Karen: There are now off-leash problems as never before. The new fence is the problem because it closed the "shortcut" behind the playground. The Grassy Knoll is problematic – dog urine and feces are burning the grass, and off-leash dogs are digging holes. Need more, and more visible, signage. Increase enforcement – randomly issue citations. Item

3A: No presentation.

Item 3B: Walkway was opened on January 26, 2019. Many community members attended, and opening ceremony featured speeches by CD4 (David Ryu) and community group representatives including SLNC. Janis: have noticed that many walkers & joggers still prefer to use the sidewalk instead of the new path.

Item 3C: Janis & Barbara gave an overview of local groups that were invited to form a Master Plan advisory committee. A series of public meetings will be held, and the target for completing the Master Plan is June, 2020.

Item 4: Copies of the 1/15/2019 draft minutes were passed around and minutes were approved WO.

Item 5A (discussion & possible action about “No Dogs Allowed” areas):

Robert: Need more signs and enforcement.

Elaine: Signs already exist and just need to be posted; no need to wait for new designs. Just need to get them posted quickly.

Karen: The dog park needs to be improved. Dog walkers are a problem, because they don't always pick up after multiple dogs. Don't let the Grassy Knoll “go to the dogs.”

Freda: Can we help with enforcement? Document offenders by using photos and videos.

Janis: Perhaps adjacent residents could form a Neighborhood Watch to improve the responsiveness and working relationship with LAPD.

Sarah: Dog Park improvements should naturally solve the problem by making it a more appealing place and naturally attract those who are violating the rules. Are Park Rangers available? Need to foster better relationships between dog owners and non-dog owners.

Freda & Barbara: Engage & connect with LAPD Senior Lead Officer Lanny Davis. He needs to know where the major problems and issues are. Need to consider police presence vs. enforcement.

Terry: Rec Center staff has issues with off-leash. They can't be out there continuously to monitor, and they can't pick and choose who to approach – safety concern re irate people.

Janis: If not enforced consistently, then the few who are reprimanded may infer that they were singled out because of cultural bias or other reasons.

Paul: Neighborhood patrols work, with LAPD.

Item 5B (Address enforcement of “No Dogs Allowed” policy):

Janis: What motion should we propose at the Grassy Knoll? No dogs, or dogs OK but on-leash only? Need to address dog violations the Meadow too?

Douglas: Meadow is a special spot – easier to patrol. Just need to add better signs; already has a fence.

Karen: Grassy Knoll should be “NO DOGS” and remove the fence.

Elaine: The deal was made when the Dog Park was opened – no dogs off-leash in any other park areas.

Barbara: Inform dog owners about other nearby places where they can properly go with their dogs. Elaine: Laurel Canyon has a huge dog park, with parking. Victory in the Valley is large and has parking. SL Dog Park is small and has no parking.

Sarah: The new Master Plan could propose moving the Dog Park to a different place altogether.

Paul: Moved three motions for a vote re Grassy Knoll; withdrew 1 motion. Committee considered two motions: A: Allow dogs on leash (No) B: No dogs allowed (Passed, WO).

Barbara: Should invite SLO Davis and a Park Ranger to a RCAC meeting.

Dulce: Hire someone to clean up the Grassy Knoll. Have a design competition for signs.

Barbara: Funding will require a large amount of money. Janis: Need to evaluate costs, how many signs, design standards, and locations; explore possible grant from City of LA? For the Meadow, “No dogs” sign should be on a post at the path inside the Meadow for prominent visibility.

Robert: Solicit stakeholder comments and ideas.

Item 5C: Janis: Inquired with LADWP, responded that the smell is temporary and normal for this time of year.

Item 6: N/A

Item 7 (future agenda):

Barbara: Invite SLO Davis and a Park Ranger

Sarah: Bulletin board improvements at SL Rec Center and at the Dog Park - LADWP utility building walls and/or new sign board(s)?

Dulce: Signage standards design competition guidelines.