

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE/ BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, September 9, 2015
HIDDEN LAKE CLUBHOUSE

CALL TO ORDER: Alec Uzemeck called the meeting to order

MEMBER ATTENDANCE: Steve Randall, Alec Uzemeck, Char Rothstein, Bonnie Klea, Barry Seybert, Simone Best, Reeyan Raines

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: John Luker, Mark Osokow

MINUTES: A quorum was present and the members approved the minutes for the August 12th meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: There were no comments from the co-chairs.

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mark Osokow made a presentation about the origin and status of the ecology pond in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. The pond has existed since 1974 and has had water replenished regularly by the DWP, however the DWP stopped supplying water in 2012, and the water level dropped and the silt level increased, threatening the life of the pond. In the San Fernando Valley, the number and size of the ponds have been greatly reduced over past years and the remaining ponds have invasive species and pesticides.

Mark reviewed the history of the reservoir; it was rebuilt just before the Sylmar earthquake but was not used after that event. The pond formed and became the host to migrating birds, and over 200 species have been observed at the site. Recently DWP has supplied water and stated that they would install water troughs. Mark made recommendations that the pond be maintained and that a conservation plan be put into effect, the pond to be fenced and the public access be controlled.

The subject of BFI was brought up. BFI is a waste disposal company that eliminated natural habitat at another site, and as an offset, promised to establish a pond in the Reserve, south of the existing pond. No one had any information on the status of this project.

By vote of the members, Alec was assigned to prepare a letter to be presented to the Council, which would support the maintenance and administration of the pond. Alec would take the SSMPA recommendations, which had been approved by the Committee in the August meeting, and Mark's presentation, and meld these into a Council position letter.

Simone handed out copies of "39 Ways to Save Energy" and Alec suggested that eliminating incandescent lights in a home with LED's or fluorescent lights would save lighting energy and AC energy.

Simone said that the Committee should review CIS files and she would be distributing the specific material for consideration before our next environment meeting.

Char did not have new information regarding the construction projects being planned by developers or those in progress.

The meeting was adjourned.