

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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**Minutes of the Public Meeting
of the
Baldwin Hills Conservancy
Thursday, August 5, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chair Russ Guiney. The meeting was held at the Yvonne B. Burke Senior and Community Center, 4750 West 62nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90056.

I. Roll Call

Members Present:

Allan Boodnick, Vice Chair Lloyd Dixon, Chair Russ Guiney, Allan Kingston, Bobbie Parks, Starlett Quarles, Ron Schafer, Robert Jones (arrived after roll) Sara Amir, Greg Scott, Pam Robinson (arrived after roll) and Barbara Romero (arrived after roll).

Members Absent:

Bryan Cash, Mike Chrisman, Ruth Coleman, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Lester Snow, Joe Edmiston, Patricia O'Toole, and Mary Small.

Staff Present:

David McNeill, Gail Krippner, and Gloria Dangerfield.

Staff Absent:

Rosana Miramontes, Deputy Attorney General

II. Approval of Minutes (April and June)

Motion: Minutes of April and June be approved as written. Moved by Member Boodnick to approve. Motion seconded and carries. Member Schafer abstained, but rescinded.

III. Presentation of Special Recognition Awards to Board Members Mary Ann Greene and William LaPointe – Russ Guiney, Chairman

The Chair presented outgoing member Mary Ann Greene with a special award of recognition for her ten years of service as one of the founding members, first Chair, and for her leadership, dedication, and contribution as a member.

IV. Consideration of a Joint Resolution Authorizing a Disbursement of Up to \$15,000 From The Authority Account (SBC/27950) Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority – David McNeill, Executive Officer

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

V. Consideration of a Resolution Supporting the 2010 Prop 84 Nature Education Facilities Program Applications Submitted for Projects Within the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Territory – David McNeill, Executive Officer

Mr. McNeill reported that this resolution would approve support letters for a grant to either build a new nature education center on a future acquisition site or improvements an existing facility (Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook). He would speak more but, first asked Member Schafer to speak on behalf of California State Parks. Member Schafer introduced Stephanie Campbell (Parks and Recreation Specialist) to

speak briefly about the grant details. Ms. Campbell reported that they applied for the Tier 3 Level for improvements to the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, which would basically complete the natural habitat restoration, trail heads and signage. Ms. Campbell also stated that a major portion of the grant could be used for lower parking construction on Jefferson.

Mr. McNeill reported that the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) and representatives from Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy have put together a Tier 4 level grant application to fund improvements to the school site targeted for acquisition. **Motion:** Member Schafer moved to approve the resolution. **Vote:** All ayes. Motion carries.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding California State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Fund Act of 2010 (Prop 21) - David McNeill, Executive Officer

Mr. McNeill reported that this State initiative would charge registered licensed drivers eighteen dollars additional in annual fees (this fee will allow drivers free parking pass to all California State Parks). Funds from this initiative would be placed into a trust and distributed to California State Parks and could therefore be used for ongoing operations, maintenance, improvements and acquisition. .” **Motion:** To put Resolution 10-04 before the board for consideration. Member Kingston moved to have the resolution brought forward for discussion. Motion seconded. Following board’s discussion of the initiative, the Chair requested the following amendment be added to the resolution; “Whereas local agencies operating a number of state parks in highly urbanized areas, which lack parks and open space;” “therefore, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy urges the State Parks Department and the Legislature, when considering appropriation of funds from this initiative, to apply equal funding formulas to these parks operated by local agencies.” **Motion:** the Chair moved that the amendment be approved. Motion seconded. **Vote:** all ayes; Members Schafer abstained. **Motion:** To approve the original motion of Resolution 10-04 to include the amendment. All ayes, Members Boodnick and Schafer abstained. Member Boodnick brought to the Chair’s attention that he {the Chair} could not make the motion to move on an item, it has to be done by someone else. The Chair restated the motion; he proposed an amendment to Resolution 10-04. **Motion:** Member Jones moved to adopt the resolution. Motion seconded. **Vote:** all ayes with two abstentions. Motion carries.

VII. Executive Officer Report – David McNeill

Before giving his report, Mr. McNeill asked Gail Krippner from his staff to give a status report on the Capital Outlay projects:

- Construction on La Brea and Don Lorenzo (Northeast Trees)
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative - La Cienega/Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area entrance
- Signage
- Department of Toxic Substances Control agreement extension
- MRCA Milton Street Planning Grant
- County of Los Angeles CEO Office (Eastern Ridgeline)
- Audubon Project (Greenhouse)

Mr. McNeill gave his report on the following:

- Last fiscal year/current fiscal year reconciliation
- 2010-11 Budget update
- Bond funds and projects

Mr. McNeill also reported Southern California Association of Government is running a program to improve the volume of traffic on La Cienega Blvd. Member Boodnick would like the board to be more actively engaged in this project; suggested forming an ad hoc subcommittee. Designee Romero thought it would be a good idea if consultants from the project attend an upcoming Conservancy meeting and give a report. **Action:** An ad hoc subcommittee was established with Member Boodnick and Member Dixon.

VIII. Deputy Attorney General's Report – Rosana Miramontes

None.

IX. Board Announcements

Member Amir announced that her department (Department of Toxic Substances Control) has a very good article on the Baldwin Hills Conservancy in their newsletter, which she and David McNeill were interviewed. She has copies for anyone who is interested. She's also interviewed in their next issue.

Member Boodnick expressed more compliments to Mary Ann Greene for her service as a board member.

Member Jones commented that it was a happy and somber time, as Ms. Greene was a jewel on the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and thanked her for her leadership and contributions.

Member Schafer thanked Ms. Greene for all her work.

Member Kingston expressed his thanks to Ms. Greene. He also added that something needs to be done regarding the large amount of cars parking on Jefferson Blvd. by people crossing the street to get to the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

Member Dixon thanked Ms. Greene for her service.

Mr. McNeill announced the grant agreement with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority for two million dollars for acquisition of the Ohr Eliyahu school site has been executed. He's been informed by Karly Katona of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas office that the purchase sale agreement is valid until the end of September. The requirements include the Department of Public Works' investigation of three abandoned wells. Once a final report of their findings is completed, BHRCA will vote contingent upon these findings and expenses.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Approved:

Russ Guiney
Chair